

REMEMBER

It's Their Choice

Agency applies to everyone, including those you invite to learn about the Church.



INVITE OFTEN, AND INVITE EVERYONE.

Since it's impossible to know in advance who will or won't be interested in the gospel, share your invitations regularly and share them with as many as you can, paying particular attention to promptings of the Spirit. We succeed as missionaries when we invite people to learn and accept the truth.

As you invite others to learn about the gospel, it's important to realize that they have agency to choose whether or not to accept your invitation. Your success is not measured by their response; it is measured by your commitment to share.

So if success isn't measured by who said yes or who got baptized, what *should* you focus on as you create goals for missionary work? Set your sights on what *you* can do rather than on how others respond. Remember, you have agency too. You can choose to:



REMAIN FRIENDLY.

If someone declines an invitation to learn more, continue to be courteous and kind. Maintain friendships as long as standards are high. Extend Christlike love to everyone you can, even if they don't understand everything you believe and do.

STAY FAITHFUL.

The Savior said it best: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Love the gospel and live the gospel, and sooner or later you *will* find people who want to know why and who are prepared to accept the gospel.



FAITH TO SHARE

“We respect each person’s choice and timing. The Lord said, ‘Let every man choose for himself’ (D&C 37:4). A person’s lack of interest need not diminish our bonds of friendship and love. Whether or not the invitation is accepted as you invite others to ‘come and see,’ you will feel the approval of the Lord and, with that approval, an added measure of faith to share your beliefs again and again.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “It’s a Miracle,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May, 2013, 79.

How to Be a Successful Missionary

Looking for other tips on how to be a more successful missionary? Check out 10 great ideas on pages 10–11 of *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004).

BE PATIENTLY PERSISTENT.

As shown in the story at the right, sometimes it takes many invitations before the timing is right. Continue to open the door, continue to be friendly, and don’t become discouraged. The Lord is aware of your efforts and He will bless you. (See D&C 98:2.) ■

I ASKED AGAIN AND AGAIN

By Meiry Susana da Silva Rosa

I knew we are all supposed to share the gospel, but I had never had any success. Then, during a Spanish course I was taking, I met a young man named Tiago. We became friends and often walked home from school together. One day we passed an LDS chapel that had recently been built.

“I have been a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for several years,” I said. I shared with him some of the things that we believe, and told him how much my family and I have been blessed because of the gospel. I invited him to attend meetings that coming Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday arrived and I anxiously waited, but he did not come. During the week, I invited him again. This continued every week for two or three months. He always gave me a reason why he hadn’t shown up: “I slept late,” “I was tired,” “There were problems.” But I kept asking him anyway, and he didn’t seem to mind.

One Sunday morning I sat down on one of the benches toward the back of the chapel. There were still a few minutes to go before the meeting began when someone quietly called my name. I looked toward the door, and there was Tiago!

“Didn’t I promise you I would come one day?” he said. He attended sacrament meeting, and to my surprise, stayed for the rest of the meetings and seemed pleased when I introduced him to the missionaries. He began meeting with them regularly. Tiago and I continued to talk as we walked home from school, but our conversations were about the truths he was learning. I was able to answer questions and bear my testimony. Finally, he gained a testimony of his own and joined the Church.

Today I am a full-time missionary in the Brazil Santa Maria Mission. Before I left for the mission field, Tiago also submitted his application to be a full-time missionary, and he is now serving in the Brazil Manaus Mission.

I recently received a letter from him. “Thank you for inviting me again and again to come to church,” he wrote. “I will be eternally grateful.” I am happy not only to share the gospel each day but also to know that Tiago is doing the same.

The author is from São Paulo, Brazil.