

Fishers of Men

Missionary Methods to Share the Gospel



By Nate Richardson

RichardsonStudies.com

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Introduction

Missionary work is hard, but can also be fun and rewarding. Joseph Smith declared it to be the greatest work we can be engaged in. Let's investigate ways to do this effectively, from perspectives, to scripture mastery.

The restored gospel is the single greatest opportunity for peace on Earth. The good news that Jesus Christ is our Savior needs to be spread through all the Earth. This work will be in mid-swing when He, Jesus Christ, comes again to rule on Earth for 1,000 years.

As this day approaches, the need is ever greater to proclaim not only that Christ the Lord lives, but that He still speaks to his people through modern authorized priesthood holding prophets who will guide us through these last days. Without that guidance, even the elect may be lost.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's kingdom of the earth today. The tool we use to gather scattered Israel is The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

Who will hear it? The pure in heart.

Who will declare it? The saviors on mount Zion.

The world looks to you for answers. Do you have them? Will you share them?

Key Quotes on Missionary Work

“A man filled with the love of God, is not content with blessing his family alone, but ranges through the whole world, anxious to bless the whole human race” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 426)

"I promise you that as you consistently give the Lord a generous portion of your time, He will multiply the remainder." President Russel M Nelson

"For though argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief. What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish." -C. S. Lewis

"While it is true that we should not cast pearls before swine...this does not mean that we should not share them with people who will appreciate their value." (Elder L. Tom Perry)

– “It has always been important not only to teach but to defend truth, and in our time that need seems to be growing,” ([The Need to Defend Truth by Elder Christofferson to Religious Educators](#))

“Every member a missionary” President David O. McKay

“If you’re not a full-time missionary with a missionary badge pinned on your coat, now is the time to paint one on your heart” (Elder Anderson [Apr. ’13 Conf. Report “It’s A Miracle”](#))

“I invite all members... to obtain a copy of Preach My Gospel... It is a guidebook for missionary work—which means it is a guide book for all of us.” (Elder Ballard [Conf. Report “Following Up”, May ’14 p. 80](#))

-“If we are to build that Zion of which the prophets have spoken and of which the Lord has given mighty promise, we must set aside our consuming selfishness. We must rise above our love for comfort and ease, and in the very process of effort and struggle, even in our extremity, we shall become better acquainted with our God.” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, [Conf. Report Oct. 1991 Our Mission of Saving](#))

- “Acquire the language of the Spirit. . . . The language of the Spirit comes to him who seeks with all his heart to know God and keep His divine commandments. Proficiency in this “language” permits one to breach barriers, overcome obstacles, and touch the human heart.” - Thomas S. Monson, “To the Rescue,” Ensign, May 2001, 50

-“O Cromwell, Cromwell! Had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my king, he would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies. “ – Shakespeare, King Henry the VIII

-“When I think of you and what you are going to do in God’s kingdom, I think of that marvelous experience in 3 Nephi 17, when the Savior gathered the children around Him. I want you to picture that scene in your minds because you are in that scene. The parents bring their precious children to the Savior. He gathers them around Him; He is at the center. He prays for them and their parents in a miraculous way, and He blesses the children one by one. Then angels descend from Heaven “as it were in the midst of fire”¹⁶and minister to the children, and that holy fire encircles the children. In a powerful sense, this is what we do in seminary and in institute. Indeed, this is the Church Educational System. Parents bring their children to us. The Savior is at the center, the heart of everything that happens to the children. He prays for them and for us; He is our Advocate with the Father. We are the angels—you are the angels—who come to minister to those children in holy fire. That, my dear brothers and sisters, is who we need to be.” (“Encircled About With Fire by Elder Kim B Clark of The Seventy; Seminaries and Institutes of Religion Satellite Broadcast • August 4, 2015; <https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/article/satellite-training-broadcast/2015/08/encircled-about-with-fire?lang=eng#note13>)

-Elder David A Bednar’s address “To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood” where he encourages us to use social media to flood the earth with the gospel, rather than just a trickle.
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/to-sweep-the-earth-as-with-a-flood?lang=eng>

Appreciating Other Faiths

principally excerpts/highlights from

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>
-for official church doctrine see lds.org or ldsnewsroom.org or mormon.org

–Current church leaders words trump former church leaders’ words

-When we come across something potentially offensive from what an LDS church leader has said, it’s helpful to get a background knowledge about why they are saying what they are, and to get a general understanding of LDS doctrine and beliefs.

–“We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may” (Articles of Faith 1:11).

-“We can and should demonstrate respect toward those whose beliefs differ from ours.” Latter-day Saints accept all sincere believers as equals in the pursuit of faith and in the great work of serving humanity.” TSM current LDS church president see

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

– President Dieter F. Uchtdorf of the First Presidency, the highest governing body of the Church, declared: “We honor and respect sincere souls from all religions, no matter where or when they lived, who have loved God, even without having the fullness of the gospel. We lift our voices in gratitude for their selflessness and courage. We embrace them as brothers and sisters, children of our Heavenly Father. ... He hears the prayers of the humble and sincere of every nation, tongue, and people. He grants light to those who seek and honor Him and are willing to obey His commandments.” see

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-Krister Stendahl, emeritus Lutheran Bishop of Stockholm and professor emeritus of Harvard Divinity School, established three rules for religious understanding: (1) When you are trying to understand another religion, you should ask the adherents of that religion and not its enemies; (2) don’t compare your best to their worst; and (3) leave room for “holy envy” by finding elements in other faiths to emulate. see

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-early Church apostle Orson F. Whitney, “God is using more than one people for the accomplishment of his great and marvelous work. The Latter-day Saints cannot do it all. It is too vast, too arduous, for any one

people.” see <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>

-“[we] need not diminish the mandate of Christ to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” Therefore, it is necessary to maintain a separation between charitable efforts and doctrinal tenets, while at the same time-sharing mutual concern for those in need. People of good faith do not need to have the exact same beliefs in order to accomplish great things in the service of their fellow human beings.” see

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/respect-for-diversity-of-faiths>
-befriend those different than you. Jesus spent time with people who had different values than himself. He knew that was part of being one of God’s people, that you live “in but not of the world”. Among all types of people, but not breaking our agreements with the Lord on how we will eat, sleep, etc. Jesus spoke of a man who helped another wounded on a roadside, the good Samaritan, who helped the man on the dangerous road despite the possibility of getting shanked.

-we’re counseled to choose positive influences for who we will have as our closest friends. People who will help us live our standards, not mock us or try to persuade us to do things we do not believe in doing.

-The Holy Ghost has a distinct role of warning us of danger when such is present, rely on that guidance (President Packer recent General Conference Address 2013?)

– Joseph Smith taught that only those who persist in rejecting truth will remain in hell. All the rest will be lifted out of hell. This is one of the most liberal views on salvation ever taught.

-The following is a set of ideas presented in “The Crucible of Doubt” by Teryl Givens about people not in the church who do great work for God, that even during the great apostasy, though priesthood was lost, the church sort of hid in the wilderness, believers existed and tried to worship God and find truth even though they didn’t have the priesthood: Joseph Smith said that the restoration of the church was that it was coming forth “out of the wilderness”. In the book of revelation, it says the dragon chased the woman into the wilderness where it hid for a time. This was like the apostasy. The Catholic church held onto the doctrine that the living and the dead have lots to do with each other. The doctrine of purgatory is like our doctrine of the spirit world. The church came out of the wilderness. It didn’t disappear entirely, God still blessed people and

revealed things to people, just the ordinances and priesthood authority were gone. Yes, we have more than them, and what we have is essential,



and all will eventually hear it. But what they have is still important. God didn’t take a nap for 1600 years, he was always reaching out to those who would listen. Like Elijah hiding in the cave. Like wandering Mormon. D&C 49:8 8 “Wherefore, I will that all men shall repent, for all are under sin, except those which I have reserved unto myself, holy men that ye know not of.” These holy men may well have been the reformers and good people of the dark ages, who didn’t enjoy formal church organization authority and doctrine, but who tried to uphold the teachings of the scriptures in public and in private. JST Rev. 12:4-5, 7: “4 And there appeared another sign in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his

heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman which was delivered, ready to devour her child after it was born. 5 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore years. 7 And the dragon prevailed not against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.” This suggests that the church wasn’t entirely extinguished, that though the authority and ordinances needed for salvation were gone, good people who loved the scriptures were still blessed. Consider the inspiring poetry, art, and music God spoke to them through, which still speaks to us. Its unwise to tell others that the restored church has a monopoly on truth.

Some Thoughts on joining the church:

One said, “On deciding to join the church, leaving behind the Roman Catholic church, holding back due to logical questions, and not being able to just follow feelings since one can even has good feelings while reading parts of the Quran”

My brief response:

... the Quran has lots of truth, that’s why much of it feels good, it just doesn’t have the complete perspective & authority to accompany that complete perspective.

as for logical issues with the church, that’s hard because often the logic of man is foolish compared to the wisdom of god, and since his ways are higher than ours, that can get tricky. but a good through investigation is defiantly the way to go; from what I understand, Brigham Young, the prototypical member of the church, took 2 years to investigate it before he concluded it was correct to join. Here’s a hint, he based those 2 years investigation by studying the book of Mormon.

It sounds like you have a long journey of searching. god bless you brother for wanting to find answers to important questions. I am a member of the church and have had many of my questions answered. the ones that aren’t answered I’ve been blessed with comfort about, so i can handle being in the church without every question being fully flushed out.

I studied biblical Hebrew at BYU for the past 5 years and found many delightful things from doing that. the dead sea scrolls are also an

excellent resource, and have many things supporting the church in them. if you want to research this, look at publications by Donald parry, he is a church member and is on the international council of interpreters working on translating the dead sea scrolls, he teaches Hebrew at BYU, and he adores the old and new testament.

Also regarding the Roman Catholic church and the latter-day saints of Jesus Christ church, read James E Talmage chapter 40 I think it is, in his book 'Jesus the Christ', the chapter is called 'the long night of apostacy', it's about the loss of priesthood authority in the early church, and the need for it to be restored in a modern church by Jesus and the original apostles, which is what we see in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints. You can read that text free by searching for it at churchofjesuschrist.org



Carrying the Gospel to the “Heathen” Nations

The scriptures speak of heathen nations. Elder Orson Pratt defined the Gentile nations as those who embrace Christendom, and heathen nations as those which have not accepted Christianity (see pg. 18-19 of Prophecy Key to The Future by Duane S Crowther). The D&C 90: 9-12 says that the gospel will go to the Gentiles then Israel then the heathen nations, “That through your administration they may receive the word, and through their administration the word may go forth unto the ends of the earth, unto the Gentiles first, and then, behold, and lo, they shall turn unto the Jews. **10** And then cometh the day when the arm of the Lord shall be revealed in power in convincing the nations, the heathen nations, the house of Joseph, of the gospel of their salvation. **11** For it shall come to pass in that day, that every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own language, through those who are ordained unto this power, by the administration of the Comforter, shed forth upon them for the revelation of Jesus Christ. **12** And now, verily I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment that you continue in the ministry and presidency.”

The gentile gathering is almost complete, the Jewish gathering is in preparatory stages as the Jews gather to Jerusalem to later hear the fullness of the gospel. Nations which currently we have but little influence in are yet to come. The Arabs, the Chinese, the Indian, these are a few examples of nations which we have yet to reach by and large. See Crowther’s book ‘Prophecy Key to the Future’ or my notes on such for words of the prophets indicating that we will indeed preach to these nations and find great spiritual harvest there.

Perhaps you could say some of these nations aren’t the blood of Israel, but rather that of Ishmael or some other unrelated group. Yet the truth stands that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the WORLD, and that ALL people are beloved to God. Further, we don’t know where the blood of Israel has scattered.

There was a great scattering, and we’re seeing much of it being found in places before thought unlikely. It is the work of the saints to redeem the human race by proxy temple work, all the way back to Adam. This certainly includes those living afar off, and wherever temple work is, living work of preaching the gospel is soon to follow. Remember the prophecies of temples to dot the earth. We are already building a

respectful reputation among Indian scholars, many of whom admire the contribution Joseph Smith has brought to the religious community, as reported by Teryl Givens in a lecture. Africa is currently fertile grounds for the growth of the gospel, and surely that will spread to the regions of Egypt and other eastern countries. How is and isn't the blood of Israel we know not.

Elder McConkie once said those who join the church are almost without exception the literal blood of Israel. There is also the doctrine of adoption, wherein when someone joins the church, their blood changes to include that of the blood of Israel, and they become inheritors of all promised to that household of faith. They come to know the true God, and worship him, and receive his true blessings. President Kimball suggested learning Chinese, and we might well learn Arabic, Hindi, and other languages of not only the European and American worlds, but of the eastern worlds as well, as the work of God, according to prophecy, grows to cover the earth.

President Spencer W. Kimball encouraged the saints to learn Chinese, foreseeing a great work to be done there.

Give an Answer to EVERY Man

(Picture source unknown)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” (1 Peter 3:15)

Give an answer about your hope to EVERY man? Let’s make a short list of who that could imply.

Yourself

The first person to teach is yourself. The first questions to answer are those of your own. Catalog your findings in some way which you’ll be able to review them as time goes by, and use them as a resource in teaching others.

-your spouse (find nice ways to explain your religious views)

Children

Find ways they can understand. I cringe to see families who quickly read a few verses of scripture at the end of the day to their children without offering any explanations, they consider that their duty regarding the teaching of their children has been complete. Children aren’t designed to be independent learners.

Neighbors

In America many from around the world are flocking, so our neighbor has expanded not only in number, but in type. The scripture says “give every man that asketh...” The “that asketh” portion is enlarged as our neighbors grow in number and type. Living in closer association with them means they are more likely to ask, and we are obligated by the Lord to answer. In this day of social media, ‘who is our neighbor’ becomes perfectly limitless.

Foreigners

Another passage says that the gospel will be preached to everyone in their own tongue.

With global instant communication, we don’t even have to wait for people to move in next door to begin befriending them, which will lead to joy and opportunities to share our beliefs.

I hear some people complain that not all in the US are perfect at English. Who are we, as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to turn our backs on the increasingly large communities amongst us who are from a different land, and speak a native tongue which is not our own? It is our duty to carry the gospel to these persons as quickly as possible, and learning their languages will not only carry the gospel further to their hearts, but it will give them increased opportunities to embrace the gospel without having to wait for someone native to their own country who happens to have learned the gospel. When Christ asks “which of these was neighbor to him”, will it be the person who isolated them because of their language, or the person who learned their language, and embraced them where they were instead of leaving them in isolation for 5 years waiting for them to learn the local language?

Learning a second or 3rd etc. language may be out of reach for some, but for many, especially given the advancements in educational technology and increased availability of literature, it isn't. Language learning can be scary, but the path of discipleship often is, especially when we aren't considering that God will help us immensely. Looking back, you may find it wasn't so hard as it appeared. Is it God or the Devil who wants you to be afraid? Give learning a try, and line upon line, precept upon precept, prayer after prayer, you can find success.

People of Other Faiths & Walks of Life

Do we understand the doctrines of the faiths of our neighbors so we can give them a holistic view of our faith in light of their faith? Joseph Smith told people not to leave behind what they have, but to come and see if we can add to what they have. We don't tear down their religion, but build on common ground. As you now see, you must learn not only your religion, but theirs.

The protestant, the Catholic, the Muslim, the atheist, the Buddhist, the capitalist, the communist, the working man, the business man, the political man, the list could go on and on. Suffice it to say that any of these could ask us a reason for our hope, and may God help us to prepare to answer each of them in a way they can understand. The restored gospel will appeal to any one of these people, as it is calculated to satisfy the human soul in all it's varieties.

May we understand what is important to each type of people, and to each individual person we meet, be it in person or through social media. Perhaps only when we have begun to ask them questions about

who they are will they ask us questions of who we are. Remember the scripture which says speaking of the disciples' feelings about Christ, "we love him because he first loved us". The duty of a Christian is to 'first love them'. This just so happens to be a very delightful duty, and gives us permission to use much of our time to enjoy life with our neighbors. In the Book of Mormon, captain Moroni always speaks of the opposing team as "our brethren", never as "the enemy". He wipes out all of the "us and them" mentality by reminding us that we are all one big family. Most people who are willing to befriend others who are different than themselves at face value end up being shocked at just how similar they have been all along. Cultures vary, but core human traits feelings longings pains and all the other important things, are the same for all.

Family Mission Plan Example

Introduction:

Every family has a mission. Work together to discover this mission. Part of that mission will of course be spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Categories:

Memorize

Learn

Be Friendly

Pray

Finance

Memorize

1. The 10 commandments
2. The Beatitudes (9)
3. The Articles of Faith (13)
4. The “Doctrinal Mastery” Passages (100)
5. Learn these in another language also.

Learn

1. Scripture Stories (these serve as the primary resource for bedtime stories)
2. Other Scripture Stories
3. The Commandments
4. Preach My Gospel: Passages & Scriptures
5. Find favorite scriptures

Be Friendly

1. Say hello to neighbors
2. Invite Neighbors to Play
3. Make time to be social

Pray

1. To be an example of a follower of Christ
2. To help people find the gospel
3. For love
4. For faith
5. For your friends

Finance

1. Money to go on mission
2. Money for college
3. Purchase books
4. Create apparel etc. with gospel messages

Angels to Buoy up the Servants of the Lord

Marvel at what God is doing,
and how he uses weak things like me to
help in his work

In Holy Faith we do things
which would be an impossible to
accomplish alone; We do things
knowing that if left to ourselves, we
will fail, yet we do the things not
thinking that we waste our time and
failing but thinking that we succeed
counting on relying on expecting
waiting for the help of God and His
Holy Angels and they do help us;
they help us do the strange work of
God, that work which so often defies
logic and confounds the wise; his
angels help us get places quickly



when we've been engaged in doing the work of the Lord and needed
to take flight in safety and the angels have helped us to complete
assignments and shorter amount of time as we've been engaged in
the Lord's work which takes up other parts of our time; We have
many duties and God helps us get them all taken care of and do his
work, a thing which could not be done by mere power of a mortal;
Angels are helping us to have our needs to be met so that we can do
this work; The work of the Lord takes many forms, and those feeling
called to one should go there, and those feeling called to another
department should go there. Our witness of miracles in the path of
duty for Christ are so many that we can't begin to count them. Well
did the Prophet Spencer W Kimball love the hymn, "I Need Thee
Every Hour"

For more on angels, see Donald Parry's book "Angels" and Dwayne
Crowther's book "Life Everlasting"

“Time Travel” - A Privilege and Cross of the Saviors

Note: Literal Time Travel is impossible, I think even for God. It would alter the agency of man. Of course visions of past and future are possible, and God does know the end from the beginning. This essay is about helping others and putting yourself in their shoes, and the joy and sorrow that can entail.

Topics: missionary, friend, sing, salvation, sorrow, darkness, confusion, consecration, leader, stranger

There comes a point in the path of duty according to the holy law of consecration wherein you will be willing to relive the past of yourself or others, it being the present of others

-You will keep specific elements vague in most cases, but for the sake of those walking where you once walked, you will remember the sorrow, the joy, the discovery, confusion, every element, and you will celebrate their lives, celebrate where they are in the path of life, celebrate what they are feeling, embrace their struggle, and sing with them.

-You will disassociate these feelings with your personal life, but you will nonetheless travel into the place of the initiate once more to go this time as an assistant, but with them there you are none the less.

-You feel what they feel, you put aside the answers and allow yourself to embrace the struggle, for their sake. And with you, they will climb to salvation, though perhaps not without you.

-My name is Stranger. You used to be me. “Once I was a stranger.” They took me in. Now I take you in.

-Don’t question my faith because I’m willing to spend an hour as an angel with the lords who now suffer. What I do may seem strange to an outsider, but it may be the only means possible to reach a select few I’ve been called to find. Friendship is always the first step to brotherhood. Brotherhood is always the first step to Godhood. All this being said, let it be understood that we never no never break the laws of God. Though what we do in the rescue may break some stipulations and assumptions, it will never break the laws of God.

-When traveling time as described above, we do not need to excuse ourselves in bad behavior; we can travel cultures to reach those living therein, but we cannot partake of the sins thereof.

Not Just a Servant, but a Friend: Ministering as The Fun Commandment

We are learning in the church that ministering to others more often means being their friend than preaching to them. We show them how we are happy and satisfied human beings, and often leave it up to them to put 2 and 2 together and realize that we are Latter-day Saints (“hm that castle-like picture on their wall with the golden trumpeting angel on top, where have I seen that before?”). We show them that “this is me” and that “I am glad” and that “I love YOU” (you may be one of the few or only person in this world who does).

Living our religion at its core only entails 2 things: keeping the commandments of God, and cultivating a genuine love for fellow human beings. Do we really love people? Better yet, do we “like” people? In other words, do we just serve them because we should, or is it from a well of genuine concern for their happiness?

Do we share not only their burdens but their joys? We used to say as we home-taught, “if you need anything let me know, I’m here for you.” But what we now say as we become more truly ministers is, “lets hang out just because I think you’re neat!” In today’s world I think the need is more often for a friend than for a slave. For example, instead of “let me know if I can do anything to help!” (Master says I must serve you. Tell me quickly so I can do it and be on my way. This isn’t my ideal idea of an evening so keep it short.) go for “Will you play with me?” (I want you to be a part of my life. I understand the doctrine of Christ which says we are all brothers and sisters, and I find joy in finding common ground with you).

Further, my experience is that we must offer things rather than waiting for people to ask for things. In today’s culture, we are very independent, and the concept of getting help from “an outsider” is very foreign to us. First of all, we’re trying to not be outsiders. The word fellowship is interesting. At a university, the title fellow often connotes that you have significantly contributed to the organization of the field of your expertise. Perhaps when we become a fellow to our neighbors etc., we are contributing in a most significant way to their wellbeing. And the happy result is always that it brightens our own souls when we do this.

I also think we should ask others for help, even those we minister to. Allowing someone to serve you, even asking them to serve you, is a way of showing trust and love. People need to feel like they are useful in this world. They can be if you ask them to be. Many are laborers willing to help, wanting to help, waiting to help (Haha! a reference to “My Fair Lady” with Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn, an excellent missionary/charity movie), but they need help finding how to do that. Friends help each other.

Thou Shalt Party

Missionary work is often the most fun commandment. Its the permission to relax and have fun with friends. After all, if we have no friends, how will we share the gospel? If we don't have relationships with our children, how can we show them the gospel in action?

This doesn't mean we sit around all the time shooting the breeze. In fact, the Bruce R McConkie family did hardly any sporting aside from the occational hike. They bonded by working together, discussing the gospel, and so forth.

This being said, it seems clear that enjoying time with loved ones is par for the missionary course.

Here are some ideas for enjoying time with others:

1. Have picnics. This means the cost of the food is low. Further, if you live in a rural area, you can visit friends in town by picnicking in local parks.
2. Healthy snacks/treats. They're out there, you just have to find them and be willing to pay a bit more for them. It's worth it!
3. Free time to chat. You don't need constant games and activities. Shooting the breeze and walking around is quite fun, and children can always find ways to entertain themselves. As President Boyd K Packer famously said, "no one owes children entertainment." We simply can't keep up with the Jones on all things cool fun entertainment, so why even try? It's good to want your children to have fun, but you shouldn't break your back arranging that.
4. Restore wholesome dance. Dance is a dying breed. We are living in a famine of wholesome song and dance. Reviving these things can bring great joy.
5. Social media groups can be useful in finding likeminded individuals to associate with. This being said, we must always remember our other

neighbors too. The ones we live by, the ones we work with, etc. And to the extent possible, those different than ourselves within reasonable limits (don't put yourself or your children in a situation with overwhelming temptation.)

A few more thoughts on befriending others:

-befriend those different than you. Travel from your planet to another' to investigate the alien species, to learn to love it and help it rise with you. Each person is like a different star in the cosmos, and yes! We can travel to them!

-Jesus spent time with people who had different values than himself. He knew that was part of being one of God's people, that you live "in but not of the world". Among all types of people, but not breaking our agreements with the Lord on how we will eat, sleep, etc. Jesus spoke of a man who helped another wounded on a roadside, the good Samaritan, who helped the man on the dangerous road despite the possibility of getting shanked.

-we're counseled to choose positive influences for who we will have as our closest friends. People who will help us live our standards, not mock us or try to persuade us to do things we do not believe in doing.

-The Holy Ghost has a distinct role of warning us of danger when such is present, rely on that guidance (President Packer recent General Conference Address 2013)

The Need to Defend Truth by Elder Christofferson to Religious Educators – Lecture Notes

Full text at: https://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/elder-christofferson-addresses-growing-need-defend-truth?cid=HP_TH-1-2-2018_dPFD_fMNWS_xLIDyM

– “It has always been important not only to teach but to defend truth, and in our time that need seems to be growing,”

-truth is unaffected by our preference or opinions or lobbying, it is a fixed reality

-moral relativism doesn't work if we are to have a just society; robbing isn't ok just because you believe it is or because you grew up in a group who thought it ok. Another example, is it right for a man to sexually harass a woman because he finds it in accordance with his personal standard of right and wrong?

-not judging has become an almost unchallengeable standard for our behavior, but we all make -judgements for ourselves and those around us

-teach the truth of moral concepts; what they are, how far they extend

-we prize truth on any subject from any source, but eternal truth we must obtain from God

-56% of Americans say it is not needed to have religious belief to be a good person; God not a prerequisite for morality and being a good person; while it's true that atheists or non-religious persons are most often good people, we know good people aren't good without God; even if unaware, people have the light of Christ, and thus has a sense of right and wrong which we call conscience.

Technology to Tell the World of A Savior by Elder Stevenson – Lecture Notes

Scientific discoveries that "stagger the imagination," and further: "Discoveries latent with such potent power, either for the blessing or the destruction of human beings, as to make man's responsibility in controlling them the most gigantic ever placed in human hands. . . . This age is fraught with limitless perils, as well as untold possibilities."

DAVID O. MCKAY

Risks Associated with New Technologies

- Wasted time
- Less face-to-face interaction
- Inappropriate content
- Idealized reality
- Debilitating comparisons

Throughout Every
Nation, Kindred, Tongue, and People

PRINT	RADIO	TV	WEB	MOBILE APP	SOCIAL MEDIA
1830	1929	1949	1996	2007	2010

-President David O. McKay began speaking of things to come, things which would spread the knowledge of a Savior throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Listen to these prophetic words about

scientific discoveries that “stagger the imagination” and further: “Discoveries latent with such potent power, either for the blessing or the destruction of human beings, as to make man’s responsibility in controlling them the most gigantic ever placed in human hands. ... This age is fraught with limitless perils, as well as untold possibilities” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1966, 4).

-Spencer W. Kimball, who in 1974 described his vision of a day to come: “I believe that the Lord is anxious to put into our hands inventions of which we laymen have hardly had a glimpse” (“When the World Will Be Converted,” Ensign, Oct. 1974, 10).

-Speaking of competitive social status on social media sites: “But they measuring themselves ... and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12).

-First, LDS.org, established in 1996, which today receives over 24 million new visitors a year and over 1 million average visitors each week. Many members find curriculum for teaching and past general conference talks here. Second, Mormon.org, a website designed to introduce the gospel to our neighbors and friends who are not members of the Church. This site receives over 16 million unique visitors a year.

-Elder J. Devn Cornish recently provided timely counsel as well: “We torture ourselves needlessly by competing and comparing. We falsely judge our self-worth by the things we do or don’t have and by the opinions of others. If we must compare, let us compare how we were in the past to how we are today—and even to how we want to be in the future” (“Am I Good Enough? Will I Make it?”)

—“I believe the time has come for us as disciples of Christ to use these inspired tools appropriately and more effectively to testify of God the Eternal Father, His plan of happiness for His children, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world; to proclaim the reality of the Restoration of the gospel in the latter days; and to accomplish the Lord’s work” (Elder David A. Bednar, “To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood”).

—“Let each of us do our part to share our “knowledge of a Savior” to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The best way to do this is one step at a time and in a unique way that works best for you or your family. May each of you have the courage to blog, pin, like, share, post, friend, tweet, snap, and swipe up in a way that will glorify, honor, and respect the will of our loving Heavenly Father.”

Note: See also Elder David A Bednar's address "To Sweep the Earth as with a Flood" where he encourages us to use social media to flood the earth with the gospel, rather than just a trickle.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/prophets-and-apostles/unto-all-the-world/to-sweep-the-earth-as-with-a-flood?lang=eng>

Mission Oriented Finance

We must have as our chief objective to do missionary work. This is, as Joseph Smith taught, our greatest duty in life. This includes having children, and it includes going on full time proselyting missions. These things aren't horrendously expensive, but they do require maturity and sacrifice in budgeting and foresight. The scriptures denounce the pursuit of wealth, and insist that we focus rather on building zion, "Now, as you have asked, behold, I say unto you, keep my commandments, and seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion. Seek not for riches but for wisdom; and, behold, the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you, and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich." (D&C 11:6-7). This theme is repeated throughout the scriptures.

Children are a key component of missionary work. We raise them and bring them up in the ways of Christ. They go on to do much more than we could have alone. They exponentially increase our outreach to the world in the cause of Christ. Children aren't as expensive as people think. They are if you live in restaurants etc., but God will provide if you humble yourself. There are some basic guidelines for how much square footage is typically considered reasonable for housing children in the foster care websites. It's all about bunk beds. When compared to our ancestors, we are truly living like kings. Lets not get too carried away with this, and point our resources toward missions rather than mansions.

The house is one of the greatest expenses, keeping people chained down for decades. If we live in modest houses instead which are sufficient for our needs but not elaborate, we can pay them off more quickly, and unchain ourselves so we are free to save for then go on full time proselyting missions.

If you find yourself in a position to serve a full time mission, finances at the ready etc., but you have not received a call, talk to your bishop and stake president. They can typically arrange some sort of mission for you. But if all else fails, you can up and move to some slums or something where your services will be needed. We must be anxiously engaged in a good cause, not waiting to be commanded in all things.

Homeschool: A Secret Missionary Weapon

This is one of the greatest missionary tools ever. You can keep your children at home, your missionary training center. We don't need to throw our children to the wolves, we can help them stand in holy places. We can be in but not of the world by schooling from home.

The movement to homeschool is growing swiftly, but the freedom to do so is also in great danger. Do it while you still can.

Custom design curriculum with religious themes which shine the gospel truths. There are curriculums which do this available for purchase at very reasonable prices, such as the Life School curriculum which my family has enjoyed using for several years

(<https://www.lifeschoolk12.org>). To put it simply, public schools are militant socialist reeducation camps, and they intentionally remove the true religious history from education.

The academic and social benefits of homeschooling cannot be understated. They score higher on tests like the ACT and SAT, and they don't have a grade inferiority complex, but interact with adults more on a regular basis, so they can look anyone in the eye as they speak to them.

Kids don't need tons of friends. Siblings are the core friend group. There is no need to expose children to the corrupt attitudes and undisciplined nature of peers from your community. Academics can be relearned (sometimes), but the negative attitudes of peers are not so easily removed. Many cannot, and none should be compelled to, battle the atheistic culture of our time as children and youths. Kids really can and do thrive socially from a proper home education.

I've written much more on homeschooling in the recreation book under the education section, those interested will surely wish to review those materials.

Celebrating Religious Holidays

Children love holidays. They define calendars by them. They hope and yearn for them. What if we used them as powerful teaching tools? Throw out useless (pagan) holiday symbols and practices, and work toward religious celebrations.

Should we celebrate Jewish holidays? Most of them are biblical, and they point to the Messiah, so yes! Further, remembering and respecting the Jews is something we are commanded to do in the Book of Mormon.

The Pennsylvania Jewish Community Center had this helpful list of Jewish holidays with brief descriptions:

Shabbat

The day of rest and weekly observance of God's completion of creation.

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year—a holiday observed with festive meals and a day spent in prayer or quiet meditation.

Yom Kippur

The Jewish Day of Atonement—the most solemn day of the Jewish year. A day devoted to self-examination, and the chance to begin the New Year with a clean slate.

Sukkot

A celebration of the fall harvest, this holiday also commemorates the time when the Hebrews dwelt in the Sinai wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.

Shemini Atzeret

Literally the “8th day of assembly,” this holiday marks the end of Sukkot with an annual prayer for rain.

Simchat Torah

The day marking the end and the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle.

Hanukkah

A festival celebrating liberation from oppression, freedom of worship, and finding light in the darkest of times.

Tu B'Shevat

The Jewish “New Year of the Trees,” celebrated with observances that connect us to our environment and the natural world.

Purim

A day celebrating the saving of the Jews from a diabolical plot of destruction, as recounted in the Book of Esther.

Passover

A festival of freedom that marks the Hebrew exodus from Egypt long ago.

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)

The day Jews all over the world mourn the loss of six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust.

Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day)

A day commemorating the soldiers who have fallen fighting for Israel's independence and defending its security.

Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)

This holiday celebrates the independence of the Modern State of Israel.

Lag B'Omer

The holiday that marks the 33rd day of the 49-day “Omer” period between Passover and Shavuot.

Shavuot

The celebration of the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people, also known as the Festival of First Fruits.

Tisha B'Av

An important fast day commemorating the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

Tu B'Av

A Jewish celebration of love.

(see <https://pjcc.org/jewish-life/jewish-holidays-explained/>)

Street Contacts: Talk to EVERYONE!

This essay is mainly directed toward full time proselyting missionaries, but it has some application to church members in general. We should be congenial and friendly toward everyone, and strike up conversations with strangers wherever possible, as these often lead to friendships, and missionary opportunities. Prophets have spoken of our duty to do this.

You might well draw a set of stairs, with the first being contacting new people, the next teaching people, and the last being baptizing. Without the bottom rung, you will never reach the top.

As a full-time missionary, you'll want to have both set aside time for contacting new people, and you'll want to have a policy of talking to whomever the Lord puts in your path (or sight).

My missionary trainer chastised me for talking to EVERYONE. He said to the mission president, "but President, he talks to *everyone*!" The wise mission President responded by just gazing back at the missionary. "Oh yeah" the Elder replied. This was precisely what the President had been teaching his missionaries to do! The D&C calls for missionaries to lift up their voices, and spare not! It says that missionaries cannot go amiss, to the north east south or west, that the field is while, already to harvest.

If you're not a full time missionary but still missionary minded, you'll want to smile and say hello to those you pass by. Where possible, you can be creative and brave to strike up conversations with people. Your circle of friends should always be expanding.

A wise mission president gave missionaries a promise that whenever an appointment would fall through, going to that destination would not have been in vain. He told them that if their appointment fell through, the next person they see would be who the Lord had in store for them. I saw this miraculously fulfilled many times on my mission.

Keep your contacts in order via the Area Book. These must be in good order. This is one of the primary duties of a missionary. Where possible, add a photograph to each entry. Area Books are increasingly electronic, but my understanding is that there is still no feature to add photos. As this is the case, missionaries can have a binder of pictures of investigators, aside from their electronic area books.

Find excuses to talk to your neighbors. Take interest in their pets. Ask them how to take care of a pet. Mutually enroll in youth sports.

Enroll in local clubs. 'Clean out the freezer' and offer them food (or just bring them food anyway). You can find a way, some way, somehow, and remember to pray for them by name. Look for a local phonebook or other directory to help you learn the names of non-member neighbors. Use the ward directory to learn the names of those in your ward.

Role Play

Role play is a very effective learning tool.

When people say they understand but they can't effectively teach it, they don't really understand it (or at least they won't be effective in putting that knowledge into use in the real world).

Use family home evening and other opportunities to role play.

Here are some things to role play:

Teaching lessons from preach my gospel.

Reciting scriptures.

Singing songs in groups and alone.

Responding to temptation, such as invitations to drugs, alcohol, unchastity, vandalism, obscenity, non-temple marriage, etc.

Inviting others to come to church, to come play, etc.

Members Working with Missionaries

Members attending lessons to investigators with missionaries can be helpful to build a bridge for the investigator to come to and join the church. The presence and added testimony of a local church member shows the investigator volumes about the church.

One precaution is that the members should not seek to dominate the teaching, or to overwhelm the investigators in any way. Missionaries are those set apart to lead in this work. Members may feel an investigator isn't ready for baptism, but that is not for them to decide.

Members should pray not just for missionaries to be lead to those ready for the truth, but that they themselves can be lead to them, at which point they can contact missionaries for assistance.

Converting Your Children: A Sacred Duty

Long has it been taught that raising children is key in missionary work. Parents have a duty to teach the gospel to their children morning mid-day and night (see Leviticus).

This is one reason I advocate homeschool, so truth and the gospel can be freely mixed into all subjects, and not just at the end of the day.

Parents must be relentless in making their home a sanctuary of faith (see President Nelson's remarks at the priesthood session of the April 2021 General Conference)

Play is a Key:

Keep work at work, and make home time the most important time. Really! Don't go for the evening and weekend work unless you have no other choice. Don't be a finance/temporal success driven person.

May children adore their parents because their parents first adored them.

I have written of this further in my book on parenting.

For more on helping children, see my family studies, which have several sections devoted to both parenting methods, the importance of childbearing, and the role of parents in Gods plan.

Religious Community: Knowing Their Names

The religious community we have currently is our local wards. We don't have communities of religiously committed people, so the best we can do is make these pocket subcommunities wherever we live. The church ward is where to do this. Share your faith and testimony there boldly, as it is what you make it. Many (most) will not share your convictions in your wards, but a few might, so share your faith, and never stop building.

Use the gospel tools app to learn the names of everyone in your ward. Say their names to them as you walk by. I remember one account of a student who moved to a strange new area. To help him get to know people there, he purchased a yearbook from the year before, and said “hello _____” to everyone as they passed in the halls. They didn't know who he was, but they soon did! Who can resist a friend? Peoples' names are what are most important to them.

If you struggle to remember names, write down the names you hear, practice them, associate them with something, learn personal details about the person, and make an effort to greet them several times until the name sticks. Someone has said that it is hard to pray for people whose names you do not know.



Visit & Comfort the Sick & Afflicted



Jesus went about doing good, and a good missionary will do the same throughout life. Here are some ideas:

The Just Serve website by the church lists local needed service projects.

Find a treatment center or mental hospital to volunteer at.

Find a food or homeless shelter to volunteer at.

Become a foster parent. Sometimes these children even need adopting.

Attendance of family reunions, family funerals, etc., are additional important ways that we serve each other.

The crucible of the Lord's way is the family. The family is where God expects you to do 99% of your ministering to others. Keep the doors open to children coming into your home, do not limit your family size. Do whatever you can to build the faith of your spouse and children. Do not keep your services and ambitions limited to those of your household, but have a plan to continually expound your household, and to reach out on the community and global levels, but these only as the most important work is taken of in the home. Several times in the D&C, early brethren, including Joseph Smith himself, were chastised for

not having their families in order, for having many things out of place in their family structures, for neglecting the teaching of their children. I have written of this in further detail in my books on marriage, parenting, exaltation, etc.

Remember that there are many sick today emotionally, starved of social support and friends. Going to visit with others can be the connection which draws them back to the church, or motivates them to stay in the church.

Give in the Lords Way: Not Panhandling

While it is not to us to judge others for their poverty, or to say it is their fault and they deserve to be poor, it is also not our duty to give money to panhandlers. It is a common phenomenon for people to beg money on street corners, but this is not the Lords way. The Lords way is to teach others how to care for themselves, while giving small help during that process. The Lords way is not to just give people money. Naturally in times of crisis such as the death of a loved one, family members and friends may chip in to help fund unforeseen costs. But all responsible citizens should be saving reserves for such emergencies, and should have insurance where possible to help with unforeseen events. The Lords way is to pay tithes and offerings to the bishops storehouse, as it is the calling of the bishop to oversee the needs of the poor in his jurisdiction. We know that the funds donated to the church do not go to any but those in need, and to build church facilities. No bishops are paid for their services, the church has a lay ministry of unpaid members. Only a small stipend is afforded those in life long callings in the high ranks of the church. Even full time young and senior missionaries are expected to fully fund their own missionary efforts.

See Elder Dallin H Oaks' book "The Lords Way" which gives more detail on this.



Foreign Language Study for Missionary Work

Many general authorities take the pains of studying foreign languages. Language study of spoken language and ancient language serves missionary purposes.

Ancient language study serves to access a more pure translation of scriptures, in languages such as Hebrew Greek Latin and German.

Ancient language also serves us to be equipped to work on genealogy, finding and reading records of old.

Studying modern language allows us to fulfil the prophecy in the D&C that the gospel would be brought to all nations in their own tongue.

We should pray for the gift of tongues in our pursuit of foreign language skills, and even language skills in our native language.

Those who sincerely embark in language study for the purpose of preaching the gospel see the Lords hand working clearly in their lives.

The number one key in foreign language study is reading scriptures, verse by verse, in your native and foreign language. Doing this, particularly with The Book of Mormon, opens the windows of heaven, giving the gift of tongues. The Preach My Gospel manual also has a chapter dedicated to foreign language study methods.

Refer to my other works on language for resources of key grammars, methods, charts, etc. to help in more language study.

Memorizing Scriptures



A Seventy came to visit a ward and listed on the board from memory scores of scriptures on obtaining a change of heart. I'll never forget that.

In addition to other suggested scriptures to memorize and those which are meaningful to you, memorizing scriptures from Preach My Gospel, and the Doctrinal Mastery list of 100 scriptures are particularly helpful.

In addition to using reference inserts, I recommend compiling PMG & DM scriptures all in one booklet for word-for-word memorization. I have such a booklet but cannot sell it for copyright reasons. Contact me for more information about such a resource.

I also recommend the amazing flashcard program Quizlet.com and the Quizlet app for memorizing these scriptures. These programs are free unless you want extra features. You can find PMG & DM decks I've compiled under the username quizrichardson at Quizlet.com. One benefit of Quizlet is that cards can be read aloud by the program. There is also a night mode on Quizlet (with the \$1/month subscription) to help soften the glow.

A few more words in favor of flashcards. Repetition is a proven key to both memorizing and understanding information. When in college I used to walk through the library with piles of flashcards for hours on end, and thereby made it through several foreign language classes which otherwise would have quickly overwhelmed me.

There is also an official church app for the doctrinal mastery scriptures which is quite helpful. There is also typically a set of flashcards available from church seminaries to learn key scriptures.

Another useful idea is to make audio recordings of lists of scriptures (from PMG, DM, or otherwise) which you wish to memorize. Audio can be used during a commute, during cleaning, gardening, exercising, etc.

Priestcraft – Potential Concerns



The teachers time isn't more valuable than the hearers time. At work you get paid for your learning time too. You go sit down to hear someone teach, that's your time you're giving. The teacher's time and the hearer's time are both equally valuable.

It could be said that the teacher does take much more time to prepare than the learner, but we presume that the learner has been learning as well.

A good solution is that we all teach each other what we specialize in.

What of the many jobs in the church that are paid? Perhaps these lawyers builders etc. should be paid, just not the positions related to preaching such as missionaries, and ecclesiastical leaders. Perhaps the doctrine to be studied is that of *consecration*, that we should transition to the celestial order of Zion, and move on from our current systems.

What we are doing now isn't enough. that's why this is the ON-GOING restoration. We are trying to build the New Jerusalem, we aren't there yet.

It's not just about not getting wealthy, its any gain: the word the scripture uses is "gain." Any gain. Even making your name popular is dangerous as it can lead to gain. The righteous preacher always points the hearer to Christ and away from himself.

What if we do priestcraft then give away all the proceeds? We shouldn't do bad things, even if we have good intentions.

Cain: he brought an offering to the Lord as instructed by Satan. It wasn't the offering God had asked for. God didn't accept Cains offering. Cain became mad at God, this was Satan's plan to gain Cain.

Saul: he was commanded to kill all even the animals, but chose to save them instead to give to God, but was rebuked for this.

The scripture says that to obey is better than sacrifice. If we have a “great idea” for how to build God’s kingdom, but that idea is contrary to God’s laws, that idea is actually NOT a great idea.

What of General Authorities being paid? One D&C passage speaks of bishops being paid out of consecrated funds. (D&C 72, 42, 70, etc.) This is similar to the Levites who had their living expenses covered for operating the church. This is their stewardship: they consecrate all to the church, and are provided for in return. Bishops in the church are not paid, only those whose duties require full time consecration, and they receive only a modest living stipend.

It seems that the law of consecration will certainly be more fully implemented in the New Jerusalem / Zion. There will be a new economic system.

What of Seminary/Institute of Religion teachers being paid? It seems this mostly just happens in Utah. This is of interest as the scriptures say not to be paid for preaching. Perhaps missionary volunteers could fill these teaching roles rather than a small group having all the fun. I see no shortage of would-be volunteers for these positions.

This said, I’m not offended that the church does this differently than I might, I’m just expressing an opinion. The ministry of the church is largely a lay ministry, and it may be fine to have a small group of specially trained teachers. The hope for such teachers would be that their training is in the history and doctrines of the kingdom, not in fanciness and game show tricks.

What of selling gospel books? There does seem to be a difference between a book which has a religious theme but which is primarily academic work, and that of a book which is just preaching, or just analysis of scripture and prophets and gospel insights.

I feel that gospel writers can easily enough sell their work at cost rather than for profit. LeGrand Richards did this with *The Marvelous Work* and a *Wonder* book. Several have followed this pattern. Freely you received the Lord’s thoughts on the gospel, freely share your thoughts on it. The scriptures teach us to share the gospel, then go back to work. Let’s not

limit deep gospel knowledge to the rich but impart freely to all regardless of their status.

On the other hand, some argue that a modest fee for one's research is appropriate. I can see this point of view, as one may be able to accomplish much more in their field of study if they aren't worrying about temporal affairs. This said, let us exercise utmost caution.

There is certainly something strange about the person who is paid to sit around reading scriptures all day, who then gets up and rebukes others for not studying the scriptures enough.

Government Schools are Priestcraft

See also the chapter "Priestcraft" in H Verlan Anderson's "The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil" book, where he shows how government schools fit the bill of priestcraft in many particulars. My notes on that are found in my volume on society.

Resources for Teaching the Gospel

Living Scriptures Movies: Cartoons of Book of Mormon Scriptures

Torch Lighters: Cartoons of heroes of the reformation, etc.

For a more detailed list of uplifting movies, see my book on recreation. See also the Zion Tube website by the Joseph Smith Foundation, which lists many suggestions categorized by “good, better, bt.”

