Preach My Gospel II

Dear Sisters and Elders,

This past week a second edition of Preach My Gospel was released. It is exciting to be serving as full-time missionaries when these new instructions have been published, as we will be among the first in the Church to internalize this new resource ourselves, and then use it to bring souls unto Christ. We love the simplifications we see in the lessons and the presentation of the doctrines. For the first three lessons, the one-minute drill bullet points are given to us. Lessons 4 and 5 have now been combined into one lesson and we will have some work to do as we will need to create our own bullet points for these. We have included a PDF with what is now 40 Principles, instead of 42. Again, simplification is at the heart of these changes.

Another highlight is the new diagram for Heavenly Father's Plan of Salvation Through His Son Jesus Christ. We have attached a copy to this letter. It SIGNIFICANTLY emphasizes the role of Jesus Christ in the Plan. We hope you will use it often!

As the new edition was introduced at the Mission Leader Seminar at the MTC in Provo, Utah, last Thursday, President Nelson shared a recorded message. We joined via video to participate in this historical event. We have transcribed his message and include it below. In addition, we are including a simplified summary of the changes for each of the 13 Chapters much of which came from the missionary department. We are currently printing a large black and white version of the new manual for each missionary to be used until we receive the color copies in the 4th quarter. We expect to send these copies out to the missionaries across the mission next week so that we can begin to study the new manual together as a mission starting on July 1st. We will create a schedule so we are all studying the same chapters together and we will then use our district and zone conferences to review what we are learning. Once we have completed the full review of the new manual as a mission, we will then restart one-minute drills and role plays.

Here is President Nelson's introduction to the second edition of Preach My Gospel:

The Lord declared two millennia ago, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." That commandment is still in force, made vital again by the Savior's coming to the earth, under the direction of God the Father, to the Prophet Joseph Smith to restore the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness and to reestablish His Church. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have the sacred and covenant responsibility to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and bless the lives of all of God's children.

I am pleased to announce the release of the second edition of Preach My Gospel. It carries the subtitle, "A Guide to Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ" This new edition comes at a time when the world is rapidly changing and reflects a sensitivity to many of those changes. It contains some of the best instruction I have ever seen to help people accept the Lord's invitation to come unto Him. I invite you to enjoy the enrichment of your own testimony that the updated Preach My Gospel manual can provide. You will sense the privilege it is to assist our Father in heaven in His holy work. As you study and apply the teachings from Preach My Gospel second edition, from the scriptures, and from living prophets, you will be blessed. Your own testimony will be enriched. Your capacity to share the Savior's gospel will increase. I know that God lives. Jesus is the Christ. This is His Church. We are His covenant people, called to assist with His work. I so testify with my expression of love for each of you, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

And this from the Missionary Department:

"This second edition of Preach My Gospel is based on the teachings, inspiration, and emphasis of current Church leaders. It is enhanced by additional scripture references, more recent teachings from prophets and apostles, and additional art and other visuals. The content in each chapter has been updated. However, the chapter order and core teachings remain the same."

Here is a summary of the major changes for each chapter:

Chapter 1: Full Your Missionary Purpose

More clarity around the doctrine of Christ and the importance of making covenants with God. Sections about establishing the Church and becoming a successful missionary have also been enhanced.

Chapter 2: Search the Scriptures and Put on the Armor of God

Additional encouragement and promises for diligent scripture study. It also includes a new section outlining safeguards for using technology.

Chapter 3: Study and Teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Provides new instruction about preparing to teach. It also includes a new section about inviting people to be baptized. It summarizes the importance of this joyful, hopeful ordinance and covenant. A new plan of salvation visual has been added. Lesson 4 combines what were previously lessons 4 and 5 into a new lesson titled "Becoming Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ." The teachings in this lesson are organized according to specific aspects of the baptismal covenant.

Chapter 4: Seek and Rely on the Spirit

Quotations in this chapter are updated with teachings from current Church leaders. The "Word of Caution" section is also expanded.

Chapter 5: Use the Power of the Book of Mormon

Updated with teachings from current Church leaders about the Book of Mormon. The "Questions of the Soul" section also includes substantial updates.

Chapter 6: Seek Christlike Attributes

Focuses on seeking Christlike attributes. Adjustments are based on the role of the Holy Ghost in distilling these attributes on those who seek to follow the Savior. A new section titled "Integrity" has also been included.

Chapter 7: Learn Your Mission Language

Simplied and reflects the latest approaches to language learning.

Chapter 8: Accomplish the Work through Goals and Plans

Greatly simplies the goal-setting process and includes the two new key indicators for conversion. Also includes two appendices with detailed examples of how missionaries can use the goal-setting process in working with people they are teaching and in finding new people to teach.

Chapter 9: Find People to Teach

New instruction and many new ideas for finding people to teach, including some based on using technology and the Preach My Gospel app. It includes a new section finding people to teach called "Keep Lines in the Water." Includes additional ideas on how missionaries can support members in their efforts to apply the principles of love, share, and invite.

Chapter 10: Teach to Build Faith in Jesus Christ

Now includes instruction on following the Savior's example in teaching, teaching by the Spirit, teaching children, helping people access the scriptures, using technology, and inviting members to participate. It also provides more help on teaching someone from a non-Christian background.

Chapter 11: Help People Make and Keep Commitments

Additional teachings about the importance of conversion and Spirit-led invitations. It also provides more guidance on helping people keep commitments. A section titled "Come and Stay" is new.

Chapter 12: Help People Prepare for Baptism and Conrmation

Revisions align with the General Handbook regarding baptism and confirmation. The section "After Baptism and Confirmation" is expanded to emphasize helping new members participate in the blessings of the temple.

Chapter 13: Unite with Leaders and Members to Establish the Church

Aligns with the General Handbook on the roles and responsibilities of local leaders in their efforts to share the gospel. Provides helpful instruction to missionaries and local leaders about weekly coordination meetings. It also highlights principles for sharing the gospel.

Sisters and Elder, may we be filled with gratitude and joy to be a part of this miraculous work as we now quicken our pace to learn and use this amazing new resource to gather Israel one last time.

All our love,

President and Sister Kunz