

Sister Susan Lunt – Louisville Kentucky Mission – 1990 -1993

One of the most spiritually growing times of my personal life was during my service in the Louisville Kentucky Mission. It was during this time that I really learned to rely on the Savior in all things and to go forward with a greater faith than I knew I had. From the time we were called by President Hinckley, gathered five of our six children and our belongings together to leave, said goodbye to our oldest daughter after her wedding, and buried my father, I had little time to prepare. I instead quietly repeated 1 Nephi 3:7 to myself and was sustained with my testimony of my Heavenly Father that he would “prepare a way for (us) that (we) could accomplish the thing which he commanded (us)”.

As I completed three years of missionary service in Kentucky and looked back at the many blessings and spiritual growth not only in my life but in the lives of my family I knew that the Lord did answer our prayers in every way and this wonderful opportunity that had been given us would change our lives forever. Missionary service is one of the greatest gifts we have been given so that we can learn to become more like our Savior. I witnessed the hand of the Lord in our lives continually and came home with a firm testimony of Joseph Smith, the promptings of the Holy Ghost, Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father.

The following are the messages that I sent to the missionaries each month in our newsletter. I truly felt unconditional love for each missionary and felt that they were my adopted sons and daughters.

July 1990 Newsletter

It's been terrific getting to meet with everyone face to face during Zone Conferences. Thank you for making our entire family feel loved and welcome. We could feel the missionary spirit by just being in your presence and could sense your devotion to your work. I will be anxious to hear how your dinner appointments are working out. Hope you are remembering to always leave a short message, have a prayer with the family, and make your visit no more than one hour. Also just a short reminder to visit the primary and YW and YM programs also. They will love your missionary zeal. It was great seeing everyone look so clean, with hair trimmed, etc. What wonderful ambassadors for the Church. I will be looking forward to getting to know you all better. Sure do love you.

August 1990 Newsletter

I have been so impressed with the positive attitude of all the missionaries here. You set a wonderful example for my family and also everyone you come in contact with. I think it is so important that you realize your influence on others and you know that missionary work extends in the way you look, speak, and write. I mention write because the Family Book of Mormon postcards are really important to those at home who have gone to the expense and caring to support missionary work. These cards need to be filled out (hopefully, with messages of thanks and your testimony of the gospel). Those letters and cards are read and become an important part of the sender's feelings toward missionary work and the Church. Your parents look forward to your letters. I hope you are taking time to write. They also want to hear your testimonies.

Let me mention a small health tip. Shaking hands with everyone is part of being a missionary. Shaking hands is also a great transporter of illness. Please remember to wash your hands often and to keep your hands away from your mouth. We want to keep you healthy because we love and care about you and know if you take care of yourself the work can go forward. Remember that your enthusiasm for the Gospel can also be contagious. Love you.

September 1990 Newsletter

“Have a good time!” That was the slogan that President N. Eldon Tanner told his missionaries while in Europe. These were good words of advice. He knew that by working and serving your hardest you will be you’re happiest. I hope you are enjoying your mission. A positive attitude and a bit of laughter can be the great influence for not only yourself and your companion but also those whom you want to share the gospel with. You set the example constantly of what joy and happiness the gospel can bring into lives.

“Be careful how you act. You may be the only standard work people may read.” Your example of cleanliness, politeness, tolerance and happiness is the foundation for those about you to want to learn gospel. What a blessing you are to everyone. I hope you will remember to constantly work on sharing the light you have been blessed with as missionaries. Don’t get discouraged when something doesn’t go right, or that letter doesn’t come. Know that is your time to serve your Heavenly Father and He will bless your life forever for the happiness and joy of the gospel which you are sharing. Have a wonderful happy month and you will be blessed and will stay in tune with your Father in Heaven. Happiness is a wonderful habit. “Have a good time!” Remember we love you. Sister Lunt

October 1990 Newsletter

What a beautiful time of year, what a beautiful place to be serving a mission. I hope you will stop and enjoy the wonderful opportunity you have to be serving your Heavenly Father in this mission. President Kimball said that when we express our testimonies through service our actions produce spiritual growth, greater commitment, and a greater capacity to keep the commandments. This month let’s reconfirm ourselves to giving worthwhile community service for four hours of each week. What a wonderful way to show love to the community you are serving in. We are reminded in Moroni 7:47-48, “Charity is the pure love of Christ”.

I want you to know we consider you our family. We want you to have a successful mission. Know we pray for you...we have unconditional love for you. I hope you can extend that love to your companion and to those in the community in which you serve. We’re so proud of each of you, the service you give, and the Light of Christ which shines in you. Have a wonderful month. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

November 1990 Newsletter

November! I know all of you must feel thankful for this wonderful opportunity we have to serve our Heavenly Father. To show our gratitude, why don’t we all go the extra mile this month. Let’s incorporate the theme, “Just One More”. When you read the scriptures try to read one more page. When you are going to your apartment for lunch, dinner, or for the evening, make one more call. I feel confident that by stretching ourselves we will be blessed for our diligence.

Preventive Maintenance is a great way to keep cars in shape and it is also a great rule for your body. If you don’t eat right and get your rest you are only cheating yourself. As with all machinery, you will pay for poor maintenance sometime. As we enjoy this beautiful fall season let’s show our gratitude and love for our Heavenly Father by taking good care of the physical and spiritual body He gave us and by stretching ourselves with the “Just One More” effort. We send our thanks and love to all of you for the wonderful examples you set for your wards and branches. Thanks for having prayer in the member’s homes. Carry on –sure love you. Sister Lunt

December 1990 Newsletter

This is a month filled with love for the Savior and Joseph Smith. What a wonderful opportunity you have to leave in every home you come in contact with a message of love for your Savior. Let's be sure and leave a message of Christmas from the Book of Mormon. I know that each one of you love your Savior. I know you show this love by your willingness to live the rules, by reading the scriptures, by giving service, by being a united mission, and by keeping busy in the service of your Father in Heaven. As we celebrate in our hearts the life of the Savior we will want to share this great gift of love with others. Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself. We give ourselves when we give gifts of the heart, love, kindness, understanding, gifts of the spirit, peace and faith."

The spirit testifies that all should come unto Christ and be saved. May you leave your testimony with everyone you see, the letters you write, the expressions you wear, and the lives you live. Have a wonderful month. We sure love you. Carry On. Sister Lunt

January 1991 Newsletter

January always brings to mind a "new beginning". It's a time to look at what we did right last year, and a time to set goals for improvement. Let's remember to look at our strides forward and not get discouraged if our goals were not quite achieved. What is important is that we are moving in the right direction. It was never promised that life and missionary work would not have challenges. We were only promised that it would be worth it. As cold winter weather comes, so comes the flu and colds. We need healthy and wise missionaries. Dress warm and dry, eat right, get your rest, and wash your hands often.

The best medicine cure I can offer to keep you healthy is for you to keep yourself spiritually happy. President Spencer W. Kimball said, "Happiness comes to those who live the gospel to the fullest and to those who forget themselves and love others." Work each day on being happy. If you look up the words happiness and joy in your scripture index there are enough scripture references to keep you healthy and well fed for a long time. May you be blessed with great happiness and continued enthusiasm for your mission. We love and appreciate each one of you and loved being with you at Christmas time. It meant a great deal to our family to share our feelings about the Savior with you. Have a happy, enthusiastic January. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

February 1991 Newsletter

I once read about the importance of the word "Come" in Christ's vocabulary. When he said "Come" it was without qualifications. Not come when we are perfect. Not come when we have no doubts or problems. It is simple, "Come Now". It is an insistent invitation. He walked with us and knows firsthand the mysteries of life on this earth. He knows that all those who come in darkness will leave in light and peace. What a wonderful time to be among the missionary force that extends this message to the world. Your time is so valuable. There are so many that need this light in their lives. Please make your visits with the members memorable. Be a TOP missionary. Leave a (T) testimony and thought each time you visit their homes. Stay only (O) one hour for dinner. There is too much work to be done to stay longer. Please always leave a (P) prayer in their homes. Pray for missionary work to go forward with the members. We must be a team with the members in our mission. Ask them to share the gospel with their friends.

Have a wonderful and peaceful month know you are in the service of your Heavenly Father. "Press forward with steadfastness in Christ, have a perfect brightness of hope and love of God and of all men." Sure do love you.

March 1991 Newsletter

We are so proud of each one of you and the work you are doing. It's such a blessing to know that we are engaged in planting seeds for eternity – building faith and testimony for ourselves and others. Each one of you are of such great worth. Never sell yourself short thinking that your service is of less consequence than that of others. Remember when Jesus stood before a multitude, evening approached and he fed 5000 with five loaves and two fish. The young boy who gave his lunch must have wondered how this would be possible. But the message for me is that he gave all that he had. When we give all that we have, the Lord will take it and bless it and magnify it. He will magnify our abilities to teach and testify. Have a wonderful month with the peaceful knowing that we are all children of our Heavenly Father. You are of great worth. May you know this in your hearts so you will want to share the peaceful knowledge that the gospel brings. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

April 1991 Newsletter

During April I hope you will take time to appreciate the beauty about you and find energy and peace in the Conference messages from the apostles. How very blessed we are to hear the words of the Prophet of the Lord. Listen well and follow Mosiah's admonition to put off the natural man and become "submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love and willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict." The Savior loves you and knows your heart. We are looking forward to visiting with you in your apartments this month. I am so happy with the way you are taking pride in your callings as servants of your Heavenly Father by taking good care of yourselves and also your apartments. Have a wonderful month taking great heed in the examples you set as missionaries. We sure love you. Sister Lunt

May 1991 Newsletter

During April we were able to visit most of your apartments. It was very special for us to be in your apartments and feel your spirits. It was interesting to me to note that where the apartments were clean and organized the work was moving ahead. On the other hand, where the apartments were not kept up the missionaries seemed to be depressed about their missionary work. I have always carried in my thoughts that "Home is where you hang your heart". Make your apartments clean and neat, hang religious pictures on the walls, make area charts, investigator charts and hang uplifting thoughts around the room. Make your apartment your home so that the right spirit can dwell there and you can focus on your mission of bringing souls to Christ. To follow Christ and bring forth the blessings of Heavenly Father we must have peace in our hearts and in our apartments. Elder Wells stated in his April Conference talk that no matter what the reason, the solution to achieve peace is always the same. We must turn to Christ and follow his example. We should talk of Christ, rejoice in Christ, preach of Christ, live like Christ, and worship him and our Heavenly Father with all our heart, might, and strength. I sure love you. Sister Lunt

June 1991 Newsletter

Successfully fulfilling our mission here in the Kentucky Louisville Mission as well as here on this earth depends on us making the right decisions and choices in our lives. I know you have observed as I have that a missionary who is happy is one who is constantly trying to make the right choices. They are trying to live the mission rules; they are trying to be Christ-like. It takes courage to always set the right example. It takes courage to stand up for the mission rules. In order to have the courage to do things that are right we must have faith in ourselves; we must believe we are capable and we must have faith in our values. If we excuse ourselves saying we don't care or "we can't", true happiness will never happen. As we read in D&C 8:10, "Without faith (we) can do nothing". We love and appreciate you and so want you to have faith in yourselves. There is a reason for mission rules. There is a reason that Christ gave us the Iron Rod. He truly loves you. Have the vision and the love of Christ to keep the rules.

July 1991 Newsletter

The Lord has truly blessed our mission during the past month. As you are busy being 101% missionaries you are also 101% happy. You have all set a wonderful example for our son John who will be leaving July 9th for his full time mission (we are calling it a mission transfer). Your enthusiasm for missionary work has been not only a positive influence for him but for other members in the mission area contemplating going on missions. As Paul taught in 1Corinthians 9:14: "Even so that the Lord ordained they that preach the gospel should live the gospel."

Thank you for living what you are teaching. Your missionary example speaks far louder than your words. As you act with quiet dignity you truly carry the Spirit of our Father in Heaven with you. I recently heard a bishop tell his congregation that missionaries have a spirit about them that will bless their homes. I'm so glad you are leaving a message and a prayer in their homes. It is so very important. Continue to be an example as in 1Timothy 4:12 "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Have a wonderful July. We sure love you. Sister Lunt

August 1991 Newsletter

What a blessing it is to belong to a Church that allows us to give service to our fellowman and not just to ourselves. We have been blessed with many baptisms. They are like seeds that when planted need to be nurtured so they can assume the stature of a tree. Let's remember to follow-up with these new converts and give them love and concern. Help the members to get acquainted with them and include them in activities. They need to have the opportunity to give worthwhile service also. Help them give of their talents in the ward or branch.

Last week I spoke to a group of youth about the need to let the light of the gospel shine forth in their lives. I expressed to them the need to live the gospel at school, in their homes, and in their communities. Elders and Sisters your responsibility is great to set the right examples and let the light of Christ shine from you. May your missionary efforts always be directed to invite and give nourishment so all might come unto Christ. Love you all.

September 1991 Newsletter

I am continually impressed with how unique each missionary serving in our mission is. I am also impressed with how unique many of the areas are in our mission boundaries. In a talk given by Chieko N. Okazaki of the Relief Society General Presidency she emphasized the following motto: "In principles, great clarity, in practices, great charity". She emphasized that all should have a singleness of vision when it came to church principles. But when it came to practices and acceptance of others we should have kaleidoscopic vision. As Paul teaches in 1Cor. 14:36, all the parts of the body contribute to the whole. We must love and accept all of our Heavenly Fathers children.

It is especially important that you are accepting of your companion's individuality in personality while also knowing that you share the same vision. Praying together, bearing your testimony to each other, and sharing spiritual feelings will help you bring the oneness that should exist in your companionship. The President and I have a great love for each of you and for our Savior. We know He loves you and wants our vision to be one of acceptance and love. May your hearts be filled with gratitude and love for your Savior for we all are so very blessed. Sure do love you. Sister Lunt

October 1991 Newsletter -

The President and I are really enjoying our apartment visits. I especially appreciate the effort you have put forth to have clean and orderly apartments. Your appropriate pictures and maps on the walls have really added to the good spirit there. It has meant a great deal to the President and I to kneel in prayer with you. I know as you keep your apartments in order you will have a spiritual place to study and pray for direction in your missionary work. In a recent talk given by Elder Busha he said we should learn to be quiet in our hearts and listen. We should extend unselfish love to all people, both investigators and members. He said that the goal of the church is to help everyone to develop Christ-like love that builds bridges. Sometimes this starts with us showing love and understanding. It can start with missionaries always staying focused and not listening to Gossip or bickering. It can start with missionaries helping members to visit the inactives and the new baptized members. It can start with Christ-like service in your communities. It can start with patience and love to your companion. The list goes on and on. As you extend love and service you will find peace. Have a wonderful October and listen and follow the words spoke at General Conference. Love ya. Sister Lunt

November 1991 Newsletter – Servant of the Lord

What a blessing to be a “Servant of the Lord”. In the Mission President’s Conference last week it was suggest by Elder Ballard that in our mind we replace the word missionary with the words “Servant of the Lord”. If we envision the magnitude of this statement then we will want to do all we possibly can to live up to our fullest potential. We need to be filled with the spirit so that we might, as Elder Busche said, not to talk about love and faith but to talk in love and faith. Let’s start each morning dedicating each moment of our time to this purpose. Feed your spiritual body each morning with scripture study and prayer and then know that you will blessed as a Servant of the Lord to start the day. When we are the Lords Servant we are filled with love and love can cast out fear. We are all masters of the comfortable and when it comes to missionary work let’s do the uncomfortable first. As we do this we will feel the freedom and joy of knowing how to teach, baptize, forgive, given service and extend unconditional love. Listen to the words of counsel in Moroni 7:34. I know that the Lord will bless you with great joy as you turn to Him for strength. Love you so much. Sister Lunt

December 1991 Newsletter - The Christmas Season

I love serving a mission at Christmas time. I am reminded of something I read once concerning the thoughts that we carry with us at Christmas. The night of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem was filled with travelers and animals. For most of these people this day and night would not be cause for celebration. In the days to come, this night if remembered at all would remind them of coming to a small town in order to pay taxes. But for a handful of humble shepherds in the nearby rocky hills and for a group of searching scholars in a far off land, this would be a night never to be forgotten. Why were these few so privileged and not the others? The question is important for each of us as we approach this Christmas time as missionaries. We must make the choice to spend Christmas Season not blinded as the long-ago taxpayers but instead as the shepherds and the magi. The Shepherds were humble men, aware of the earth and its seasons. They were men of compassion, and deep respect for God as they were told by an angel about the new born king. The wisemen were so different in appearance from the shepherds yet similar in heart. They were not self-important, or puffed up in scholarship – they were more than learned they were wise.

This Christmas Season let us spread the feeling of Christ wherever we go. Carry with you in your heart a continual silent prayer of thanksgiving for sending Jesus Christ to the earth. Know that your Heavenly Father loves you. We love you. Have a wonderful Missionary Season. Sister Lunt

January 1992 Newsletter – A Missionary Change of Heart

A short time ago, I listened to a student bare her testimony who had just returned from being off on her own for the first time. I was especially touched as she witnessed the love she had for her scriptures and her Heavenly Father. As I listened, I realized that what had happened in her life was what needed to occur in all of our lives. She wanted to read and study the scriptures – she didn't have to read the scriptures. Many of you are on your own for the first time in your lives and if not, you are at least experiencing a soul searching time when you have scheduled reading, studying and praying about the scriptures. We hope you will love this time. We are supposed to give our service joyfully twenty four hours a day. We are asked to give four hours of community service with only the thought of giving service in mind and not rewards. We carry the banner of "Servant of the Lord".

One of the great blessings that will come to you on your mission is when that special "change of heart" happens to you as a missionary. When you discover for yourself that when you are in the service of your fellow beings you are really in the service of your Heavenly Father and that will bring you great happiness and joy. When studying the scriptures becomes an opportunity looked and longed for, you are starting to find that special "missionary change of heart". When giving service at the hospital, the nursing home, a visit to the sick, or giving a priesthood blessing becomes something you look and long to do, you are experiencing the "missionary change of heart". As a missionary you long for the Saviors companionship for you are his servant.

We are instructed in the D&C Section 4 that we should serve God with all our heart, might, and mind that we may stand blameless before him at the last day. We are also told that we will never be alone in this endeavor. We only need to knock, then the way will be opened for us. Let us as Servants of the Lord have a "Missionary Change of Heart" to totally commit ourselves to wanting to love and serve. Let's start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving in our hearts for the great blessing it is to be a Servant of the Lord. President and I sure love you.

February 1991 Newsletter-- Love is an Action

In Matthew 22:36-39 we are told that the greatest commandment given to man is to show "love". As we learned in school, the word love is an action word used to express motion. It symbolizes something accomplished. When an action of love is taken, then the feeling that we so often equate with the word love will follow.

As missionaries we're constantly being reminded to love our Heavenly Father by keeping his commandments and devoting all our time and talents to his purposes. We are asked to love our investigators; our ward or branch members; and our areas that we are assigned to work in. We can do this by showing patience and a willingness to help others in service, retaining, reactivating, and by example. We are asked to love our enemies by praying for them and treating them with kindness. These are all principles of action taught to us by the great example of Jesus Christ.

I recently read a sign which stated, "Your attitude determines your altitude". I hope our attitudes can all be one of "love" filled with action so that our entire missionary force will be headed toward high altitudes. We do this by following the teachings found in Moroni 7:47-48. This is also my prayer and wish for each of you.

We "love" you. Sister Lunt

March Newsletter 1992

One of the most often used words in Christ's vocabulary was the word Come. When I envision Christ saying these words I always seem to see him with outstretched arms and a warm countenance as a loving parent would say to a child, "come". As missionaries we are all aware that this invitation is not restricted for the few but is for all, no matter how weak or afraid. In Matt. 11:28 we read "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come follow me". Come follow the Savior is the message we share as missionaries. Not surprising is the fact that there are 22 songs listed in the hymn book starting with the word "come". When applying this word to our lives here in the mission field let us remember that we answered the Lord's call to Come be His Servant. In doing so we all knew we were not perfect. We did answer his call. We knew that with his help and love we could grow and increase in our own personal testimony. We are so blessed that we can ask for forgiveness and strength to grow and reach and change.

In Mormon 5:23 the statement is made that should give clear meaning to any doubt we ever have pertaining to our actions or thoughts. "Know ye not that ye are in the hands of God?" He is aware of each one of you and will give you strength. As we teach this wonderful principle of "Coming unto Christ", we can learn the principle of not being judgmental of others but allowing them also to put their lives in the hands of God and be changed and lifted up. Have a wonderful March knowing that we love and support you and have full confidence in you and the service you are giving. We have confidence in knowing that the mission work we are about is in the hands of God. Love you. Sister Lunt

April Newsletter 1992 – Spring: A Testimony of Christ

Spring is a wonderful time of year where there is renewal all around us. The gray grass is turning to green and the blossoms are on the trees. Spring is a testimony of Christ. All God's creations bear witness of his existence. In D&C 88:47 we read; "Any man who hath seen any of the least of these hath seen God moving in his majesty and power". As missionaries we should make our lives a witness of spring. Spring can be beautiful for all people but for those who see spring as a witness of resurrection and salvation it is even more beautiful. When others are in your presence I hope they feel the hope and love of the Savior. Inspire others to feel the hope and power of God's love and existence. Every flower that appears, every greening field tells us that Christ is all about us. The power of God's love is everywhere.

I challenge you to renew your dedication missionary work this spring. Have a reawakening in you like the earth. Yearn to search and reach out to others. Consider new ideas and approaches to missionary work. Add something or change something positive in your apartment. Strengthen your goals – expand your horizons. Make old challenges into new opportunities. Just as we have asked you to clean out your apartments and open the windows and let fresh air blow in, let this same spring air blow in the windows of your mission with new dedication. My message this month is as simple as the message of spring. Let's give thanks this day for our Creator and may each one of you have a missionary renewal – a personal spring. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

May Newsletter 1992 – The Extra Mile

In your missionary service you are expect to study and be spiritually prepared, to pray and to rely on your Heavenly Father. We assume you will follow the mission rules. A wise man has said: Do more than exist, live. Do more than touch, feel. Do more than look, observe. Do more than read, absorb. Do more than hear, listen. Do more than think, ponder. What is the secret of real success here on your mission and in life? I think it can be summed up in three words.....the extra mile. Top missionaries do what is expected of them. They are thoughtful, considerate of others and then more. They meet their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely and then do more. They

go that extra mile by doing more than asked not for the applause of others but because of their love of the Savior and for the honor and opportunity it is to be His Servant.

This is the way it is with the Lord. When you are striving to know, to be and to do all that you can, the Lord pays you in full and then a bit more. I challenge you are missionaries to do as the Lord does to you and do a little bit more. Find some way in your companionship to do just a bit more each day. Pray just a bit longer, study just a bit harder, exercise, eat right, keep your apartment picked up, go to one more door. Go the extra mile. Your potential has no limit as you devote your talents and service to your Heavenly Father. So often missionaries get discouraged over the appointment not kept or the empty mail box and the list can go on and on if you look hard enough to give you a reason for not stretching, for not going the extra mile.

Each one of you is of great worth to your Heavenly Father and to our mission. May the Lord bless you to walk in the light and to realize the potential you have as you go the extra mile this month. Follow Matthew 5:16 and "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." We love you. Sister Lunt

June Newsletter 1992 -- Seek with Intent and Action

The last part of the 13th Article of Faith tells us to Seek after good and praiseworthy things in our lives. Each day we are given the opportunity to choose to Seek after the good. As missionaries we have to live in the world but we must not be of the world. We must constantly cultivate peaceful and righteous thoughts and actions in all we do. Because we can have an eternal perspective in our lives we each can know that our Heavenly Father loves us in all our imperfections. He does forgive us and we can constantly Seek to move forward.

The word Intent means to desire to do something. In the scriptures we are taught to seek the Savior with real Intent and if we do we will be blessed. In order to have this happiness and blessing we must put into action all the good intentions that we have. The D&C 43:9 reads: "Bind yourself to act in holiness before the Lord". Just having good intent alone will not help the investigator, thank the ward member, find the fellow shipper, or increase your testimony. We must follow through with Action. We must seek with real intent and then take action in prayer, in scripture study, and in all aspects of missionary life. I know the Lord will bless you are you turn to him. Love you.

July Newsletter 1992 -- Freedom to Choose Happiness

I am thankful that our Heavenly Father gives us the choice each day to Choose to be happy. He has given us the opportunity to choose what we find our happiness in. As we look about us, we find many who search for happiness by living in sin, by being less than honest and by acting undignified.

In Jeremiah 12:1 Jeremiah asked God, "Doth the way of wicked prosper?" The answer was that the happiness of sin is momentary and empty and is the opposite of the happiness of God. As missionaries we teach this, we have experienced this and we know it is true. Yet, occasionally, all of us fall short in the way we try to find happiness on our missions. If we want to find happiness as a Servant of the Lord, then we must "Choose" to act as a Servant of the Lord. We must act dignified and worthy of our calling at all times as we go into member's homes (leaving a prayer and a message, never "camping out"). Our answering machines need to be an extension of our calling of being dignified servants, with appropriate messages on them. We need to be proud of our service in the community, making certain that it is in keeping with the gospel principles that we teach. We should choose to live the mission rules because we want to have happiness on our missions for we know that the happiness of not doing so is momentary and empty and is the opposite of the happiness of God. Mark Twain said that happiness is not a destination but a way of traveling. Finding happiness on our missions is choosing to travel the Lord's way. The

Gospel of Jesus Christ which we teach and testify of is the good news that will make us happy as well as others. Through service and sacrifice, we can find happiness each day of our lives. As we travel our missions, may we all CHOOSE God's way of happiness and realize the promise given in Mosiah 2:41, "those that keep the commandments....have never ending happiness".

CHOOSE to have a happy month ahead. We sure love you. Sister Lunt

August Newsletter 1992 – Let Yourself Grow

The theme of the world today might read "Let yourself go". Might I suggest that the theme that we might teach and live by should read, "Let yourself GROW in the Gospel". As baptized members of the Church and as full time missionaries we have entered into covenants that we will serve others with diligence and dedication and complete commitment.

This kind of complete commitment is exemplified by Nephi, who when the Lord commanded him to go to Jerusalem and get the brass plates said, in 1Nephi 3:7, that he would go and do whatever the Lord commanded. He knew that he would not be asked to do something by the Lord that was not meant to be accomplished. As we know his brothers were not as committed, and they wanted to return to their father when their first two attempts to get the plates were unsuccessful. Nephi, on the other hand, was completely committed to doing what the Lord had asked him to do. Because of his great faith and commitment, he accomplished what seemed to be an impossible task. Alma taught a group of believers concerning baptism in Mosiah 18:8-10. We also must be desirous to come into the fold of God with complete dedication and commitment to the service which we are called. Let's rededicate ourselves to this greatest service of all, being a "Servant of the Lord". May you honor your own baptismal covenant to serve others along with your missionary covenant to serve with full purpose of heart, always remembering the great love that our Father in Heaven has for each one of you. Have a wonderful month Growing each day in the Gospel. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

September Newsletter 1992– Find Joy in your Mission

We will be visiting each of you during the next couple of months in your apartments. I especially look forward to these few minutes which we spend with you and your companion. We not only hope to find a clean apartment but one where the Spirit can dwell and you can feel at peace. Appropriate pictures, scriptures, or thoughts posted on the walls helps to have a good feeling there. It's difficult to feel good both spiritually and physically in an apartment that isn't clean.

Our Heavenly Father wants you to find joy on your missions. He has given us companions that we might strengthen each other and be a support to one another. I hope you will pray often with you companion. Pray for the Spirit to be with you at all times to help you constantly support one another in making the right decisions. When Jesus was here on the earth he taught us things that would help us to be more like him. He taught us in John 5:12 that we should "love one another" and in Matthew 5:16 that we should "let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven". This tells us what we should do to follow Christ but also why...to bring glory and honor to our Father in Heaven.

May I suggest that each night as you hold your planning meeting with your companion, ask each other this question: What do we want to happen tomorrow? The answer should be, "Bring souls to Christ". You will know what our Father in Heaven wants you to do because you are thinking ahead what He would want you to do. I know the potential within each one of you is endless. May you find joy in your Mission. I love you. Sister Lunt

October Newsletter 1992 – Find Joy in the Challenge

The news media and many others would have us believe that the world has so much wickedness in it that there is little hope for change. If we are not careful we will inch our way into that negative way of thinking therefore making breaking the commandments of God seem easier, or accepting others reluctance to change. However, everyone is invited by Christ to make that mighty change of heart and find joy in this life. The people of the City of Enoch changed. Alma changed, and so did the good people in 4 Nephi. As we look about us there are many who are the peacemakers and mourn with those who mourn, are meek and lowly of heart, but are bold in defending righteousness. We see Elders and Sisters honor their call as Servants of the Lord by living all the commandments given them by our Heavenly Father. They carry forward with a positive outlook on life and start each day with thanksgiving for the opportunity it is to serve Him.

I know the place to start this mighty change is within ourselves so that we are anchored into the knowledge that Christ lives and are converted to living His ways so we might find joy. As missionaries we must work constantly to have the change of heart through prayer and by not only studying the scriptures but by living the principles of the scriptures. Follow the mission rules so that you can pray for the constant companionship of the Savior with a clear conscience. If we do this the promise that was made in Moroni 9:25-26 can be ours.

“My son, be faithful in Christ; and may not the things which I have written grieve thee, to weigh thee down unto death; but may Christ life thee up, and may his sufferings an death, and the showing of his body unto our father, and his mercy and long suffering and hope of his glory and of eternal life, rest in your mind forever.” We love each one of you and pray that your mission will bring you great joy.

November Newsletter 1992–In the Strength of the Lord

Perhaps one of the most important lessons each one of us needs to learn while we are here on our missions is that in every situation, whatever our experience, we have the promise of Jesus Christ, “Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”. (Matthew 28:20) We need not face each day, each challenge, each opportunity for growth alone. We can go forth in the strength of the Lord. Repeatedly, the Book of Mormon contains the phrase “in the strength of the Lord: We read of King Benjamin and his armies overcoming the armies of the Lamanites “in the strength of the Lord”. As Moroni went among the people waving the Title of Liberty, he cried, “Behold whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, let them come forth “in the strength of the Lord”.

As I look at our missionary force, I see a potential that has no limits. I see a vast army filled with the will of the Lord serving with faith and strength. We have his promised in D&C 6:36 to fear not and in Alma 37:36-37 to cry to God for all our support and to counsel with Him and He will direct all we do for good. Do we have the faith to believe that this promise is for us? I know this higher power is accessible to each of us every day, every hour. It is the power of faith. Faith is a principle of action, and knowing that our Heavenly Father is directing our missionary efforts.

Elders and Sisters, we love and care about each one of you; your Heavenly Father loves and cares deeply and I know that He will answer your prayers. Each one of us needs to activate our power of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We love and care about each one of you; your Heavenly Father loves and cares deeply and I know that he will answer your prayers. Each one of us needs to activate our power of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and know that he is directing our lives. "And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me." (Moroni 7:33) We don't need to serve our missions on our own. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

December Newsletter 1992 – Know His Voice

A thought that has stuck with me since the Mission President's Meeting which I attended last month is the following statement by one of the area Presidency: "The more you serve the more you know His voice." It made me reflect on the tremendous growth that has not only taken place in my own life but also in each of you as you have committed your lives to our Heavenly Father's service. As we pray more earnestly each day and as we rely on His strength, we feel a constant companionship with the Lord. This spiritual light from our Heavenly Father is there for all, but we must be willing to reach for it first for ourselves and then share this light with others.

Elder Ballard stated it well when he told us that we should remind ourselves often that our time is not our own. We are here because we love the Lord, and we will be obedient because it is the Master's time. He promised us that if we love the Lord so much that every day is His and not ours then we will have the power to lead the people to the light of Christ. How fitting that during the month of December we spread the message of hope, love and peace of our Heavenly Father. I know that if you focus on the beautiful message which only the Gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints can bring, your own personal life will be filled with the light of Christ and thus you will be able to radiate to others. Have a wonderful Christmas season by sharing this light with others. Let's make it a "white" Mission Christmas.

January Newsletter 1993– New Beginnings

January always brings to mind a "new beginning". It brings to mind a rededication and intensity to serve the Lord with all our heart, might, mind and strength. It's a time to set goals for improvement. We must remember to give thanks for those goals that were met and not get discouraged if our goals were not quite achieved. What is important is that we are moving in the right spiritual direction.

Successfully fulfilling our mission here and on this earth depends on us making the right decisions. I know you have observed as I have that successful, happy missionaries are those who are constantly trying to make the right choices. They are trying to live the mission rules and live Christ like lives. It takes courage to resist temptation, to constantly do one's duty. It takes courage to always get up on time. It takes courage to set the right example and stand up for mission rules. In order to have courage to do things that are right we must have faith that our Heavenly Father will fulfill his promise in D & C 36,37: "Look unto m in every thought; doubt not, fear not..be faithful, keep my commandments and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven." We also read in D&C 8:10, "without faith (we) can do nothing".

We love and appreciate you and so want your faith in yourselves and your Heavenly Father to grow while you are here. There is a reason for rules. There is a reason that Christ gave us the Iron Rod. He truly loves each one of you. May you start the new year off with the vision and love of Christ in all you do and think. In Proverbs 29:18 we read "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he".

May you be blessed with great joy and continued enthusiasm for your mission. Our family loved being with you at Christmas time. It meant a great deal to all of us to share our feelings about the Savior with you. Sure love you, Sister Lunt.

February Newsletter 1993 – 101% Missionary Work

Our mission has truly been blessed especially in the last two months. One hundred fifty-two people during December and January have come into the Church. I know as you have opened your mouths and testified following the promise given us to talk to at least ten people a day, each of you have seen many blessings and miracles take place. We must remember that each of these new members are like a seed and need to be nourished as taught in Alma 32:38. Please be aware when you are transferred into a new area who the new members are. Make certain that they are receiving the new member lessons, being fellowshipped, have home teachers, know about upcoming events in the ward or branch, and hopefully are feeling the spirit every day and attending their Church meetings.

I appreciate each of you being aware of the examples you set throughout our mission. Many are giving 101% to their service to the Lord and therefore they are 101% happy. Paul has taught in I Corinthians 9:14, "Even so that the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live the gospel." Thank you for living what you are teaching. Your 101% missionary example speaks far louder than your words. As you act with quiet dignity, dress in clean, pressed, appropriate clothing, and present your message with love, never with contention, the Spirit of our Father in Heaven will emulate from you. Continue to leave a contagious influence for good where ever you go. This is especially evident in your service that you render and the examples you set there. We are taught in 1Timothy 4:12, "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity". Have a wonderful February, filled with 101% love for your Heavenly Father and missionary work. Love you, Sister Lunt

March Newsletter 1993 –A Missionary Covenant

"Covenants are the means by which men link themselves to God in order to lay hold upon eternal life. If we keep our covenants, the promised blessing shall be ours." As missionaries, we should make a personal covenant with the Lord that we will serve with all our heart, might, mind and strength. (D&C 4:2) We need to covenant with the Lord that we will strive daily to have faith, hope and charity and turn to Him for guidance through prayer and the Holy Ghost. It is not so difficult to keep these promises when it is a personal promise between us and our Heavenly Father. What a wonderful promise is given in D&C 82:10, "I the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." Let's make positive covenants with the Lord and then keep them. He always will keep them with us.

As we have discouraging moments, let's remember this missionary covenant we have made. A mission should not be just a survival mission. We do not need to just endure problems because we can overcome discouragement with the Lord's help. If you need to be uplifted, try reading the scriptures, church magazines, or your personal journal.

Look for ways to overcome problems. Try dressing warmer, washing hands more often, eating healthier to overcome the persistent cold. Make a pledge not to mention anything negative for a day. Missionaries who can remain cheerful despite their daily trials realize that whatever their challenges; life is still good. Have a good time being a missionary. Learn to accept criticism. Thank the giver. If they're wrong it is not worth arguing about it. Remember to accept the fact that missionary work will not always be easy. Most importantly we should know that our personal testimony of Jesus Christ is the most valuable of all. If we have this testimony and have made a missionary covenant with the Lord then all will be well. He always keeps his covenant with us.

President and I love you. We pray for you and know the Lord will bless you in your service if you rely on him and follow D&C 4:2. Sure Love you. Sister Lunt

April Newsletter 1993 –Serving ...The Lord's Way

During the last couple of months, we have had the opportunity to visit many of your apartments. We could feel the spirit of your missionary work and appreciate the extra efforts that you put forth for our visit. We found that when the apartments were clean and in order, there were happy productive missionaries. It makes such a difference if you take the time to make your apartment home. Religious pictures, area charts, uplifting sayings and scriptures hung on the walls help to bring a good spirit. Remembering to clean your apartment before transfer day shows the unity and respect you have for your brothers and sisters who also serve here in the Kentucky Louisville Mission. Elder Kikuchi suggested that we make our own Sacred Grove in our apartments where we can pray and focus on our mission of bringing souls to Christ. Look around your apartment today and make certain that this is possible.

To follow Christ and bring forth the blessings of our Heavenly Father you must have peace in your apartments and in your hearts. The solution to find this peace is and always will be the same. We must turn to Christ and follow his example. We must do Missionary work His way. We must follow mission rules. We should talk of Christ, rejoice in Christ, preach of Christ, live like Christ worship Him and our Heavenly Father with all our heart, might, mind and strength. Let's not frustrate the work of the Lord

by trying to do missionary work the natural man's way. I know the missionary work will go forward if we rely on His programs and we do it the Lord's way. Sure love you. Sister Lunt

May Newsletter 1993 – Serving...Ambassadors of the Lord

In the Missionary Broadcast we were taught by President Hinckley that we are Ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as such we are his representatives to speak in his name. What a tremendous responsibility and stewardship each of us have. Each of us is an Ambassador of the Lord to the people

that live in our particular areas to which we have been assigned. Although we might feel unable because of inexperience, age or courage to fulfill this responsibility we were promised by President Hinckley that as we were set apart as servants of the Lord we were given the power of our calling, the power of love, and the power of a sound mind. He reminded us that our acts of kindness and examples of faith and purity will cause many to look well past our age or intellect. He told us that we were not sent out on our missions to save ourselves, but as we lose ourselves in service to others we ultimately do save ourselves. What a wonderful blessing to hear the words of our prophet.

I remind you to keep in mind of whom we represent in all we do and think. We need to remember to have charity toward all as we follow the example of the Savior while he was on the earth. This means charity toward companions, ward and branch members and all our brothers and sisters that we meet each day. May you go to bed each night as we were told by President Benson, "Tired in the Lord." We must thank our Heavenly Father each moment for the opportunity to be his ambassador. I love you.

June Newsletter 1993 – The Lunt's Farewell

We will be released from our callings on 1 July 1993 at which time President Douglas Nielson will become President of the Kentucky Louisville Mission. It is important that the transition be smooth and positive. We're confident that each of you will accept President Nielson with full loyalty. Remember that his love, devotion to God and many years of diligent service have brought him to this sacred calling. The following suggestions will help this important transition.

1. Immediately give your allegiance and sustaining support to President and Sister Nielson. Seek for the Lord to bless them and their family. They are devoted and capable, and above all they are the ones the Lord has chosen to lead the mission.
2. Continue in complete obedience to your covenants, the commandments of God, and all the mission rules. Always remember that protection and great blessings come only through obedience.
3. Continue to work hard and smart in carrying out the current programs of the mission. Do not wait to see what President Nielson will do. Press forward.
4. Adjust quickly to the management style of President Nielson. There are many different leadership methods that are good and solid.
5. If and when changes come, embrace them firmly, without hesitation. Place full faith and trust in the Lord as he reveals his will for this mission to President Nielson.
6. Make this a time to start anew—a fresh and new beginning. President and Sister Nielson are enthusiastic about the future as you should be.

We are humbled, touched and grateful as we remember the blessings that we have received individually, as a family and as a mission over the last three years. Because of our mission to Kentucky, our attitudes, priorities and interests are different. We have experienced a mighty change of heart.

You are wonderful missionaries serving in one of the truly great missions of the Church, and greater things are yet ahead. Each of you is dear to us. We love and will continue to pray for your success and well-being. With love, President and Sister Lunt