

My Testimony of the Daily Dose English Program

Since the restoration of the kingdom of God here on earth on April 6th 1830, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, many people have felt the urge to find its warm rays of truth.

Today many of the prophecies of old are being fulfilled on a daily basis: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, when the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”* 2 Nephi 12:2-3

This prophecy has deep personal meaning in my life. In 1969 during a family vacation, we came through Salt Lake City and went through the Salt Lake Temple Visitor’s Center. My mother knew she had found the truth, but upon returning to Ecuador we could not find the Church. Four years later on a return visit to the United States we joined the Church and became part of the new church members when we again returned to Ecuador. Now I know that this was my personal fulfillment of the words spoken by Isaiah.

Every year hundreds of thousands of people like those in my family are being attracted to this country in fulfillment of this prophecy. Literally millions of foreign-born immigrants currently live in this great country of ours, including myself as a naturalized United States Citizen born in Ecuador, South America. Among these millions of foreigners many do not feel yet at ease with their conversational English skills.

I have been involved with promoting the Daily Dose English Program among the Stakes of Zion in Utah County for over four years. Originally when I was called by the Utah South Area leaders as the first Hispanic Regional Coordinator for the North Utah County region, I was informed that this program was strictly a community service only, and not to promote it as a missionary tool. But early on I was impressed that this program had the potential to be an excellent missionary opportunity. One evening after coming back from training one of my region’s Stakes, I envisioned a very large magnet, and then understood that many would be attracted to learn conversational English, with an authentic American accent, and then the opportunity would be ours to befriend them, love them, and socially and spiritually convert them.

The Daily Dose English Program is composed of 48 lessons to be taught weekly by volunteer Latter-day Saints both at the Stake levels and through the Church Service Missionaries at the Church Mission level. Conversational English classes called “Huddles” among small groups of non-English speakers are taught by native English

speakers. The program is distributed by both the Church Service Missionaries and the Stakes. In order to invite the Spirit every class starts and ends with a prayer. The classes are taught in either three 20-minute segments or two 30-minute segments per class each week. In the case of the Stakes, the classes are held at a Chapel. When the non-member crosses the threshold of a dedicated building such as a Chapel, he or she immediately feels a very strong warmth and spirit of reverence. In the case of the lessons taught by the Church Service Missionaries, they will bring this same spirit of reverence with them as they enter the non-member and less active member homes.

The missionary opportunity is presented simply as unconditional service is rendered, complemented with the pure love of Christ and faith in Christ. After every lesson there is a time to obtain a social conversion on part of these new friends. The church members and every Ward and Stake resource can be utilized to first socially convert and then spiritually convert many of these new friends. In the case of the Church Service Missionaries, after or during the lesson many gospel sharing opportunities present themselves. In one recent situation, an inspired Church Service Missionary couple was teaching a part of lesson 14 that describes the Temple buildings. This couple was impressed to ask the family parent, "Would you like your family to be together for all eternity?" After the Spirit bore witness of this truth the parent immediately replied "Yes!"

After the Church Service Missionaries teach the first 12 lessons, the students are brought to the Stakes to complete the remaining 36 lessons. This in turn allows the great benefit of every Stake and Ward resource to maximize the social conversion and then spiritual conversion of these new friends.

Brothers and Sisters, this simple but very effective program has been developed under inspiration to become a wonderful gathering tool for Zion. We have seen its success in Utah and desire to share it with the entire Church and its missionary efforts throughout this country and throughout the world.

I testify that as we continually use it in conjunction with personal revelation and every other missionary opportunity available, many thousands of the descendants of Jacob will find their way back to the God of their fathers, the Redeemer and Savior of the world, even Jesus the Christ!

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