

## BLESSINGS COME FROM FOLLOWING THE PROPHET

by Sheldon B. Johnson, December 1997  
(as told to LaVerna B. Johnson)

While President David O. McKay was President of the Church he felt a need to give financial support to missionaries in foreign lands who wished to serve full time missions in their countries, but could not afford to do so.

President McKay had two counselors, but he called another one to help with this problem and other concerns he needed help with. He called Brother Alvin R. Dyer to this responsibility in (or about) 1970 when I had first been called to be Bishop of the St. George Third Ward.

Brother Dyer was given the responsibility to collect ten million dollars to help those in foreign lands who wished to serve missions. He came to St. George to interview candidates to help supply this money. Brother Dyer interviewed me, a new Bishop, and asked:

"Will you give ten thousand dollars for the Foreign Missionary Fund this coming year? If you will do this the Lord will bless you."

I was astonished. I did not have the most remote possibility of being able to provide ten thousand dollars, I thought. We lived on a tight budget. To provide one thousand dollars would be a struggle!

"Don't let it cause you any financial distress. Don't go without necessary things," Brother Dyer said. "Just remember that the Lord will bless you to make this possible. Simply donate your monthly surplus. If you make a commitment to do this, it will be enough. You will be blessed for your willingness to help the Lord in His work."

We began, and within a year we had paid the ten thousand dollars! We had no idea it was possible, but it was the simplest thing in the world. It was as if it was nothing.

One day a friend of mine came to me and said that there was an estate of a man in Ivins, an old bachelor guy, and money was due to clear the property he left behind. My friend said that he thought if I could come up with the needed amount of money the court would probably allow me to buy the property at a reasonable price. I paid the money. The estate was settled. Within a month I had made several thousand dollars on the resale of the property.

That was the first time in my life I had made money without working for it. Ever since that day the Lord has blessed me financially by giving me opportunities. I really believe that is the reason I have been as financially successful as I have been. Brother Dyer's promise was a promise from the Lord, and the Lord keeps His promises to us.