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## Joseph's Mission to Canada/"Who Will Listen?"

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## Joseph's Mission to Canada



Even before the Church was organized the Lord had instructed those who knew of the glorious events that were taking place to share the good news with others. In February 1831 He declared, "Ye shall go forth in the power of my Spirit, preaching my gospel, two by two, in my name, lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, declaring my word like unto angels of God."<sup>24</sup> During the Kirtland years, many of the brethren left their families and homes to share the story of the Restoration with family and friends, as well as with strangers.

Fourteen times between 1831 and 1838 the Prophet Joseph left Kirtland to preach the gospel. In the fall of 1833 he went to Upper Canada with Sidney Rigdon where he spoke to a group of people in the Nickerson home in Mount Pleasant. Lydia Bailey Knight who heard them speak described the experience.

... rumors of a new prophet and a "golden bible" had reached Mount Pleasant .... The Prophet commenced by relating the scenes of his early life. He told how the angel visited him, of his finding the plates and the translation of them, and gave a short account of the matter contained in the Book of Mormon. As the speaker continued his wonderful narrative, I was listening and watching him intently. I saw his face become white and a shining glow seemed to beam from every feature. The Prophet bore a faithful testimony

that the priesthood was again restored to the earth, and that God and His Son had conferred upon him the keys of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods. He stated that the last dispensation had come....<sup>25</sup>

The following day Joseph preached again. Lydia continued,

The Prophet then arose and poured forth a golden stream of words, many of which were verily pearls without price .... With power he exhorted everyone who was present to seek for the truth of his and his companion's words from the source of all light, all truth, and all religion, and a knowledge of the truth of the same should surely follow.<sup>26</sup>

Then, as now, those who were seeking the truth recognized the Book of Mormon as the word of God and Joseph Smith as His prophet.

## Who Will Listen?

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Declaring the Book  
that testifies  
Jesus is the Christ,  
the Eternal God,  
Joseph preaches  
treasured pages.

Prophetic words  
once etched in gold  
compass the truth,  
covenant the righteous,  
plant promises of peace.

Pointing the way  
to God's presence,  
ancient writings  
keystone His Church,  
scripture the past,  
purpose the future.  
They perish learning  
of the worldly-wise,  
kindle a faith  
that forever changes  
hearts and lives.

*And the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given of me  
for your instruction; and the power of my Spirit quickeneth all  
things (D&C 33:16).*