

Farewell Testimonial  
In Honor of  
**Elder Joseph Nephi Nemelka**  
Prior to his departure for the  
German-Swiss Mission



To be given in the  
**Hoplar Grove Ward Chapel**  
12th West & Union Avenue  
Monday Evening, January 14th, 1929  
Program 8:15 o'clock    Dancing    Voluntary Contributions

Joe's mission farewell.

# The Influence of a Mission

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Joe was called to serve a mission on November 6, 1928 by President Heber J. Grant. He entered the Missionary Home on January 21, 1929 and was set apart on January 29. He left for the Swiss-German Mission on January 31. Joe had two farewells: one in the Cannon Ward and one with the German Saints. As the time came for Joe to leave home and catch his train, Walt and his friend tried to beat Joe's train to Ogden in their car. They had such bad weather that they didn't get to Ogden in time to tell Joe good-bye again, it was a wonder that the two fellows weren't killed in their race with Joe's train.

Joe held several different positions during his mission including Branch President, Relief Society President, Primary President, and Beehive teacher. He said that he held every position that one could possibly hold excluding organist.

Several girls wrote to Joe while he was on his mission, and I'm certain that some of them were serious about him. Some sent him packages, and some sent money, too.

No. 18536

# MINISTERS CERTIFICATE

TO ALL TO WHOM THIS MAY BE PRESENTED

This Certifies that the bearer, Joseph Nepht Nepht  
who is in full faith and fellowship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day  
Saints, has been duly ordained a minister of said Church, with authority to  
preach the Gospel and administer in all the ordinances thereof pertaining to his  
office and calling, and we invite all men to give heed to his teachings as a servant  
of God, and to assist him in his travels and labor in whatever they may be any need.

*Henry Frank*  
*Ho Swine*  
Counselor  
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 27, 1897.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
WASATCH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

December 4, 1928

Elder Joseph N. Nevelin  
1204 South Redwood Road  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear brother:

You have been recommended as worthy to  
fill a station, and it gives us pleasure to call  
you to labor in the Wasatch and Denver District.

The date of your departure is January 22,  
1929. You will be expected, however, to pre-  
sent yourself at the Missionary Home, 21 South State  
Street, Salt Lake City, Monday, January 14th,

to avail yourself of a special course of training.  
Please let us know your feelings with  
respect to this call, and have your reply returned  
to your Bishop.

Trusting the Lord to guide you in this  
important matter,  
Sincerely your brother,

*Henry Frank*



Joe made many friends among his companions and many were life-long friends. For several years we belonged to a missionary club consisting of his former mission partners and their wives. The club was called “The Rhinelanders.”

Joe’s mission journal tells that, for most of the time, he was filled with the spirit and tried hard to be a successful missionary. Of course, he had a few bad days when nothing seemed to go right, and he records those incidents too. But, difficult or not, I remember him saying, “those were the best days of my life.”

Most people who serve missions find it a very challenging and oft times frustrating experience. Joe was



no exception. As I have already explained, Joe saw very little success during the three years he served but he grew to love the people and was often touched by the difficult circumstances in which many of them lived. To give you some idea of the experiences he had on his mission, I will quote from some of the letters he sent to his parents.

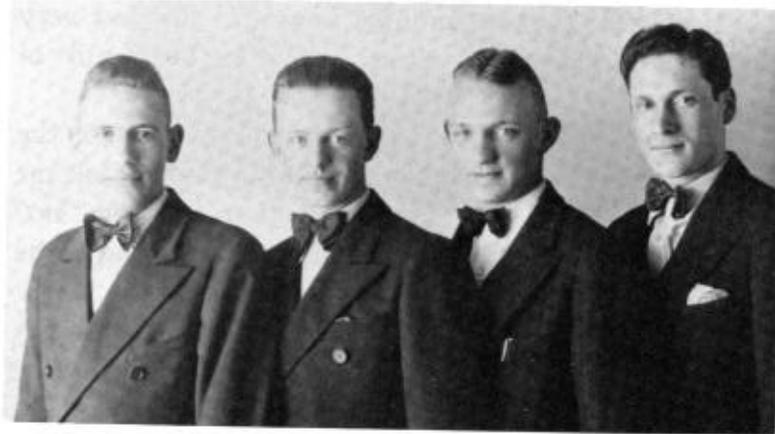
Our district conference has just ended and I can say it was wonderful. The Spirit was so strong that four persons applied for baptism...You can imagine how happy I felt.

We have just baptized five persons. I have just returned from the baptism and am writing you this letter. I am feeling fine. I am so happy I could cry. I just know that the money you are spending for me will not be spent for nothing. I hope I can only keep the commandments of the Lord better in the future.

In one of your letters you told me to live as much on raw foods as I could. It is very hard to do this here in Germany. The Saints always feed us meat and they just prepare it for the missionaries. I have told some of the members to quit giving us meat, but they still do it... The air here works on the health of everyone who has worked here. I have been here thirteen months now and still feel very good although at times I feel a little full of smoke.

Everything is terrible over here. Most of the saints are out of work and quite a number ask me for money from the tithing. I hate to tell them "no" but I just have to. Yes, we are certainly living in the last days....

I only have one year more and then my time is up. The time has gone so fast that I hardly realize



where the time has gone. I am just beginning to know what it means to work for the Lord. I may not be making very much progress with the language as I should but I can make them all understand me when I talk. I have such a German face that the people think I am a real German...I realize more every day how many opportunities I have let go while I was home and I surely have learned to be different. .

The Saints here have treated me wonderfully and I can say that many of them have helped me immensely. At my farewell from Essen, one Saint gave me nineteen roses and they were beautiful. It is very hard to leave although I have only been here about four months. I have found a spot in my heart for many of the Saints here. I can really say that I have learned more about human nature here in Essen than I have in any other place. I have learned to take people as they are and not what they have been. .

I am now in Karlsruhe and I am having a hard time trying to understand the language down here. They speak a different language altogether. I guess I will understand them in a few days if I watch them very closely. I don't like it down here at all. The people here are as cold as ice and while tracting one gets very discouraged. We tracted two hours the other day and we didn't get a single good conversation....

I have to preach tonight so...I have to prepare something to speak on. I just love to speak. In my Patriarchal Blessing it says I would become a good speaker, but I haven't found it out as yet. One thing is sure; I certainly like to preach. I could preach all the time and not stop. Perhaps I will be able to speak better later. Right now I haven't the gift of speaking. Well, you will see when I get home



if I have improved or not. I may not be able to preach in English, but I am not afraid to preach in German. .

I will always try to be the missionary you think I am, and I know that the Lord will bless all of us. Oh, I cannot express my joy in being over here on a mission and what I feel in my heart! I owe everything to you and mother and I will never forget it. I am seeing it more clearly every day ...I can't express myself in this letter how thankful I am to the Lord for such wonderful parents. I can say just as Nephi said in the Book of Mormon: "I Nephi, hay-

ing been born of goodly parents.” I certainly am proud that I can say this without having to be like some of the boys of this world. I am setting my life now, and I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of my parents.

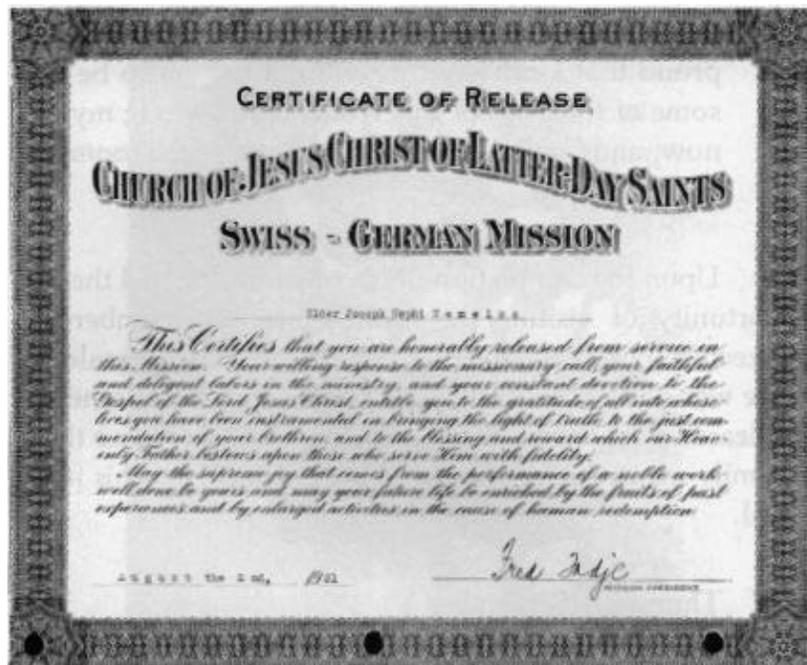
Upon the completion of his mission, Joe had the opportunity of visiting the Nemelka family members in Czechoslovakia for the purpose of gathering genealogy. Joe was always concerned for family and, being a newly released missionary, tried in every way to influence these family members for the good. I will quote from his journal.

Thursday, September 10, 1931

Packed this morning and left for Dresden at two o'clock. I first visited the Mission Home and then I visited Aunt Johanna Winkler. She didn't impress me at all. She loves to gab and chew the rag too much. I slept on the floor because she had rented the room. Talked her into giving me pictures and other things of her father, Adolf Nemelka. I can use them.

Friday, September 11, 1931

Copied Genealogy this morning. Went to the mission office and sent pictures to Leipzig. In the afternoon we went to Seyde with friends in an auto to visit Adolf Winkler. The darn auto wouldn't climb so we had to walk a few miles. At Adolf's we had a fine time. He cleaned my teeth etc. Left at dusk and had to push the auto again. It was terrible—I was glad when we were home again. Went to bed as soon as I had eaten a little.



Saturday, September 12, 1931

Visited Czechoslovakia Counsel this morning and paid Rm 4.20 for Visa. Caught train for Tetschen at 11:56 o'clock. A wonderful trip up the Elbe River. Fine scenery. Arriving in Tetschen I walked to the market Poldtz and right there in big letters I saw the name "Nemelka." No one was in the office so I had to walk to the home. I walked in on them and they were surprised. The first thing they did was to feed me. My cousin, Betty, is certainly some hot girl. Very good-looking and blond. I hope Esther looks like her later. Hugo, Walter and Robert are all fine fellows. Albine Furlain, the mother, is certainly a hard worker. They asked me all kinds of questions and then Hugo and I went to a show. The show was "Waizer Paradus" and wasn't worth two cents. I just went for company.

Monday, September 14, 1931

Worked on Genealogy today. Hugo doesn't want to give me old papers etc. from my grandfather, but I will talk him into it yet. Stayed home the rest of the day. Hugo doesn't seem to like to work hard. They all treat their mother like a slave. I hope I can love mother more from now on.

Tuesday, September 15, 1931

Home all morning. Visited office where teeth are made, etc. I guess Uncle Hugo certainly earned money. They say he made debts playing cards etc. Hugo showed me the town. In the evening I visited Professor Muller. He and I talked about Genealogy and religion. He wants me to send him a Book of Mormon. I must write him to send me names. He doesn't like Hugo because he insulted him once while drunk. I then went home and Professor Muller accompanied me.

Sunday, September 20, 1931

Attended Priesthood meeting this morning in Chemnitz and also Sunday School. About four hundred were in attendance—a fine conference. I had dinner at Uncle Adolf's and then I attended Officers meeting. None of the Nemelkas wanted to go. In the evening I took Uncle Adolf and his wife along although they didn't want to go. Again we had the hall full. I had the privilege of speaking twenty minutes. The Lord helped me a lot and I think with His help I gave a fine speech. Uncle Adolf liked the way I spoke. After the meeting a young sister came up to me and asked me for a picture because I had told her in my speech what she had prayed for. I know that the Lord helped me. I am indeed thankful to my Father in Heaven. Uncle Adolf and his wife

did not seem to understand the Gospel because after the meeting they said they have the same teachings we do. I hope they don't have to go through the trials to learn the way to God. Came home and went to bed. The choir sang better than any choir I have heard.

When Joe came home from his mission, he didn't go directly home to see his people—mother, father, and family. Instead, he went swimming at the old Deseret Gym with his companion from the mission field. He had decided to stay with the companion until the train left and then go home. I find it hard to think that Joe didn't want to go home right away to see his parents—he must have really liked his companion!

As a result of the experiences of his mission, Joe became very good at addressing audiences and speaking about various subjects. After his mission, he took part in various speech contests and often liked to compare mission-trained speakers with school-trained speakers. In 1933, he entered the M.I.A. speech contest and was pitted against a very good school-trained speaker. Joe never completed High School, yet he acquired skills and abilities far superior to many well educated men. In this instance, it turned out that the mission-trained speaker was superior since Joe took first place. This speech is so indicative of his ideas and abilities that I want to share it with you.

Socrates of old said: “The care of the body is important, the training of the mind is of great moment, but the culture of the heart is supreme and crucial.”

All things in the universe if allowed to follow the course mapped out for them by the Creator,

maintain a proper balance and harmony. Where there is not proper balance, there cannot be harmony. Have you ever noticed a man who has used his right hand and arm for years, and neglected to use his left hand and arm? His right shoulder is higher than his left shoulder. His right arm is strong and adept, while his left arm is weak and, to use a common expression, the “fingers” on his left hand “are all thumbs.” He is not properly balanced, he is deformed. A musician when writing a musical composition calls into play every talent he possesses to obtain a proper balance of the four parts in order to have harmony.

Progress and true happiness depend upon harmony and proper balance. This is true of our daily lives and pastimes, as well as of our physical, intellectual, and spiritual make up.

Happiness is absolutely essential to proper spiritual and intellectual growth, and there is no better tonic for a discontented, non-progressive mind than a flood of sunshine brought in by participating in wholesome pleasure.

The recreation he seeks marks the man. Our play more than our work reveals our true nature. If a person revels in physical pleasures alone, he need not hope to keep his life at any but a low pitch. Our leisure hours should be filled with something else than feasting, dancing, theatre-going, athletic sports and resort pastimes—wholesome though they may be. These pleasures, in moderation, may be all right, but carried on intemperately or without proper balance of mental recreation, will dissipate rather than develop our powers. The crying need of the world today is more constructive and uplifting pastimes.

The supreme object of all endeavor is to build character in men. "For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul." Thus we need heart education. Its supremacy must ever be recognized since it is center and spring of character. Men rob municipalities, pillage coffers, scandalize civilization, and blacken the pages of history because they have hard, cold, selfish hearts.

One who has the spirit of service in his heart, is a disciple of the Master—whose life was a life of service. Service to man is an expression of real religion. The supreme and insistent need of these trying days is the unselfish application of the Golden Rule to every day life; the submergence of self and self-interests in the interest of the common good. If unselfishness and generosity were substituted for greed and avarice, we would emerge from our chaotic condition and rise to the highest level of human happiness ever experienced in the world.

There is a phase of service which can well be accentuated in all our lives. It operates both ways. It is most fundamental and effective in its service to others and at the same time most beneficial to ourselves. It is making ourselves strong so we can impart strength to others, rising above our own infirmities so we can lift others above theirs. The most serviceable gift which anyone can give to the world is a radiant and victorious personality. What all people stand most in need of is contact with individuals who awaken hope and who stimulate faith, whose very presence lifts one out of the maelstrom of daily routine and compels them to think and act along new lines. In the last analysis this constitutes the supreme human service. There are people into whose presence one cannot come without going away stronger and better—in whose

presence one cannot think ungenerous or ignoble thoughts. By some intangible or magic influence they hold one at his best.

Speaking of this world of service, Fosdick says:

“The deepest service that one man can do for others is to minister to the spiritual forces of their lives, inwardly to change their minds, to make great faiths real and great ideals convincing, to establish for them vital contacts with the spiritual world, to bring them into transforming fellowship with Jesus Christ.”

This service, valuable as it is, depends in a large measure for its efficiency and persistence upon the quality of man's inward life. A person cannot live one thing and teach another and have the thing which he teaches register effectively in the lives of others. There is an influence which emanates from the individual who is heroically struggling to conquer his own infirmities, to conform his life to truth, who through cheerful self-discipline builds up an inwardly victorious spirit that cannot come from any other source. Somehow when we have swept and garnished our own souls we are strong. When we have confessed our own weakness we are unafraid. This seems to be the manner of life that inspires confidence in God and man, that imparts courage and re-creates faith. This subtle but powerful influence defies analysis and resistance. Its seat is in the depths of personality.

When Moses came down from the mount, the children of Israel could not endure his presence, he had to veil his face when he spoke to them. He had taken on some of the divine radiance which enveloped and glorified the divine personage with whom he had talked.

One imagines that when Joseph Smith came

from the grove after his first vision that countenance shone with a new light, that he had taken on a touch of the glory revealed in the celestial presence of the Father and the Son.

Therefore, the supreme service which anyone can give is the service which comes from a self-conquered, triumphant and victorious Personality. That is the highest service which men and women can give to the world.

Such service was given by the great Abraham Lincoln. Quoting from his second inaugural speech:

“With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”