

## Chapter 6

# A Mission to Germany, 1927-30

Hugh graduated from high school in 1927 at age seventeen. While college was the obvious next step, Hugh's parents were more concerned with his social development than with his intellectual development. As his father put it in a letter to Charles W. Nibley, "What he needs now is contact with people." And Hugh's parents did not believe college was the best place for him to get that contact. With Hugh's brother Sloan preparing for his mission to Germany, his parents began to think a mission would be perfect for Hugh too. "It will be the finest experience in the world for him to get out tracting from door to door rather than going to college this winter," El wrote.<sup>2</sup> At that time, the Church had no set standards on how old missionaries had to be, so on 11 August 1927 El wrote to his father, then serving in the First Presidency, asking him whether it would be possible for Hugh to receive a call.<sup>3</sup> Hugh's grandfather replied, "We have had many good missionaries who have gone out when they were only seventeen years of age, although it would be preferable if they were eighteen or nineteen. I will try to look into the matter."<sup>4</sup>

By August 20, Sloan had received his mission call to the German-Austrian Mission.<sup>5</sup> Evidently Hugh was given special consideration, because by September 12, his bishop had interviewed him, and the letter of calling had arrived from the Church president. Hugh would leave for the Swiss-German mission in November. Hugh must have been thrilled with this news, for his father wrote that, "He is studying hard all the time for his mission and is most excellently equipt [sic] and prepared."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Alexander Nibley, Letter to Charles W. Nibley, 12 September 1927, Charles W. Nibley Collection, Family Correspondence, Mss. 1523, Box 1, fd. 3, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.

<sup>3</sup>I have not been able to find a copy of this letter; however, Charles W. Nibley refers to it in his response.

<sup>4</sup>Charles W. Nibley, Letter to Alexander Nibley, 13 August 1927, Charles W. Nibley Collection, Mss. 1523, Box 1, fd. 3, Perry Special Collections.

<sup>5</sup>Alexander Nibley, Letter to Charles W. Nibley, 20 August 1927, Charles W. Nibley Collection, Mss. 1523, Box 1, fd. 3, Perry Special Collections.

<sup>6</sup>Alexander Nibley, Letter to Charles W. Nibley, 12 September 1927, Charles W. Nibley Collection, Mss. 1523,