

An Unusual Job Interview

At 3 a.m. one cold morning, a missionary candidate walked into an office for a scheduled interview with the examiner of a mission board. He waited until 8 a.m. when the examiner arrived.

The examiner said, "Let us begin. First, please spell *baker*."

"B-a-k-e-r," the young man spelled.

"Very good. Now let's see what you know about figures," the examiner said. "How much is twice two?"

"Four," replied the applicant.

"Very good," the examiner said. "I'll recommend to the board tomorrow that you be appointed. You have passed the test."

The candidate left pleased with the conclusion, but somewhat puzzled by the experience.

At the board meeting, the examiner spoke highly of the applicant and said, "He has all the qualifications of a missionary. Let me explain.

"First, I tested him on self-denial. I told him to be at my house at 3 in the morning. He left a warm bed and came out in the cold without a word of complaint.

"Second, I tried him out on punctuality. He appeared on time.

"Third, I examined him on patience. I made him wait five hours to see me, after telling him to come at 3.

"Fourth, I tested him on temper. He failed to show any sign of it; he didn't even question my delay.

"Fifth, I tried his humility. I asked him questions that a small child could answer, and he showed no offense. He meets the requirements and will make the missionary we need."

A unique interview process, to be sure.

But the qualities identified by the examiner are the marks of a good leader or, for that matter, any person who takes on a role of responsibility. They are self-denial, punctuality, patience, control of temper and humility.

Such characteristic trigger admiration and trust among others.