Spreading the word

Young men answer mission call to tell others The Book of Morman

staff writer

Four young men living in Farmington who have interrupted their school
years to search out families to teach
the google according to the Book of
Merrigon, say, as if in one voice, "There
is not a better way to start your life."

David Johnson and Todd Francis are
biditirom Alberta, Canada. Lex Brown
comts from Utah and Ulysses Llwag
from California. None of them had met
ene another before they came to Michigan in answer to a mission call of 18
months, through the Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints.

All of them live together in the same
apartment building, and all of them do
one kind of clerical work or another in
the church's local base of operations in
Farmington, but the basic work at hand
is proselyting, telling and teaching
their faith in the search for converts.

Johnson, who calls the door-to-door
search "family finding," spelled out a
typical day for the 19-21-year-old missonary.

Up, at 6300 a.m. for prayer. An hour

sonary.

Up.at 6:30 a.m. for prayer. An hour of personal study, then an hour of companion study with one's missionary-roommate. After breakfast the search for family finding runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon; and again after funch until 5 p.m. and again after dinner until 9:30

p.m. "The whole idea is to make as many friends and meet as many people as we

p.m.

"The whole idea is to make as many friends and meet as many people as we can," Johnson said.

Saturday is called "preparation day," the day set aside for laundry, shopping, maybe a visit to a museum, or a basketsall game or a workout in the gym.

FRANCIS, WHO will be going home soon to pick up studies in engineering and play bockey on a university team, thinks of this period of his life as a time to "forget about oncestif."

With the dailty routine not allowing for dating or participation in sports, "it is a time for service, all the focus is on service and thinking of others," he said. He lists the benefits "as a big jump in personal growth, I'm closer to my Father in Heaven, I have a stronger love for my farmly, a stronger love for my farmly, as tronger love for my farmly, as tronger love for my farmly, as tronger love for the companies on stronger lamily the was excheed by the other three, followed by stories of the many brother families they have come in touch with through their door-to-door prosclytring.

None of the foursome could verify if the saying "The family that prays together stays together" stemmed from the Mormon church, but they all acknowledged it as a trusim.

Brown added to this by adding anoth-



er well-known quote, "No success can compensate for failure in the home."

THE MISSIONARIES cited the church's "Family Home Evening Program" as one of the strongest resources they had for pulling a family together

"It's a very simple thing, and a habit "It's a very simple thing, and a habit we can introduce, or we can get someone else (from the mission) to introduce, which amounts to setting one night a week aside for the whole family to get together for an open discussion of problems, or difficulties in open communication. We introduce the concent of doing things together." Brown cept of doing things together," Brown



said. "It's a proven way of building bonds of love as the kids are growifg up and no better way to bring a family together when they know they have a specifit time and date once every week to do this. I grew up with the Family Home Evening Program — ours was every Monday night — and sometimes we'd plan to see a baligame that night, just something for all of us to do together."

gether."

Of the foursome Liwag is the only one who was not brought up in a Mormon family. He is one of the one-in-five missionaries working today for the



church who is a convert with no family members in the church.

When he was asked how his family felt about his mission in Michigan he said, "They thought it was a good thing to do. They thought that just turning 20 and doing the Lord's work was a good way to start my life."

Litway received his mission call almost immediately after high school graduation and said-he has given no time to thinking about what he will do



when his 18 months here are completed.

work, the proselytizing, the learning about myself, all on-the-job training."

BROWN, WHO will pick up inter-rupted business-administration studies when he returns home, said he has nov-

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