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Mormon Missions Necessary for Men: How Else Will They Learn to Dress Themselves?

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My favorite moment in LDS general conference came when President Gordon B. Hinckley told young women of the church that under no circumstances were they to serve missions. Going on a mission is strictly a guy thing.

Yes, I know this isn't EXACTLY what President Hinckley said about young women and missions. I'm simply trying to live up to his claim that the news media sometimes distort or misunderstand what he says. Call it the fulfillment of prophesy. Get off my back.

What is completely accurate here is that I was way ahead of President Hinckley on this important gospel issue.

So far ahead, in fact, that I once hit a sister missionary with a rock. Hey, I had good reason.

Flash back with me if you will to Tacuarembó, Uruguay, and the year 1974. Elder Martinet and I were tracting out Barrio Corrupcion when we spied Sisters Jones and Foster doing the same thing.

Alarmed by this blatant attempt to undermine our priesthood, I picked up a rock and threw it at them. It was intended only as a warning shot.

Unfortunately, the rock caromed off a fence post, skipped sideways and hit Jones in the leg.

``You are pathetic," Elder Martinet said.

``I wasn't trying to hit her," I replied.

``Yeah, but you didn't even knock her down."

This important but not-yet-ready-for-publication-in-the-Ensign gospel story illustrates the working relationship between sisters and elders in the mission field. Namely that 19-year-old guys don't need women making missionary work harder for them by stealing all their gospel stats.

Hitting Jones with the rock had a dramatic effect on missionary work in Tacuarembó. Instead of slowing her and Foster down, it merely increased