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# Two missionaries share their faith

**By KELLY GERLACH**

The two well-dressed young men knocking on Maquoketa residents' doors are on voluntary missions to share their faith with the community. Elder Price of Idaho and Elder Vance of Washington have been called to Maquoketa to talk about their faith as Mormons with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

"At 19 men can volunteer for this two-year mission position," Vance explained.

The missionary work is for men age 19 to 26. They are sent to various communities across the United States to share their faith with the people there. The young men and their families save money for the missionary to use during the two years, as they are not paid during that time. They rely on the kindness of others in the communities they visit.

"It's a matter of prayer and convention," Price said. "My two older brothers served missions and I saw how much it helped them in finding greater knowledge and a deeper faith."

"I have an older brother and sister (females can serve missions at age 21) who served missions and seeing them before and after, I could see it taught them a lot of life lessons," Vance explained.

"It's like for two years we're taken out of our bubble. We forget ourselves for a little bit and think about others – the way it should be," Price continued.

Both men have been in Maquoketa for about six weeks. It has been about 20 years since a Mormon missionary has served in Maquoketa, they said.

The two men lead quite a structured life, as proscribed by their missionary work. They arise at 6:30 to pray, exercise for a half hour, eat breakfast and prepare for the day. They spend one hour in personal study and reflection, then study together for one hour.

At about 10 a.m. Price and Vance are ready to enter the community and speak with its residents.

"We go door to door with our evangelical proselytizing about the Mormon faith," Vance said. "We're not pushy. We're more like full-time



**Elders Price and Vance**, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, are discussing and sharing their faith with Maquoketa residents. The two young men are completing two-year missionary roles with their church.

teachers of the Gospel."

"We share and explain certain lessons and core doctrines with the people. We also have programs like stop-smoking workshops and ways to strengthen faith," Price said.

The men also do volunteer work in the community in which they serve. This has included various tasks for the Jackson County Historical Society and the Clinton Engines Museum.

"We want to help the community in any way we can," Vance said.

Sometimes people can be a bit put off by strangers knocking on their door with religious pursuits. But Price and Vance said Maquoketa residents have been "really nice so far.

"Most have been really polite and they'll say they're not interested or have another faith and share their beliefs with us. We just share our beliefs."

"We get to learn a lot about others."

The young men remain in Maquoketa until one or both are called to serve elsewhere. That could be anywhere from a couple weeks to six months or a year.

"It's a big sacrifice but it's worth it," Vance said.

When they return home after the two years, Price and Vance said they would attend college and continue helping in their churches.

# Traffic light installation approved

**By DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

A Dubuque firm has been awarded a contract to install traffic signals at the intersection of West Platt Street with Westgate Drive and McKinsey Drive on Maquoketa's west side.

The City Council on Monday night, Aug. 17, awarded a \$148,675 contract to Portzen Construction Co. for the project.

The Portzen firm submitted the lower of two bids that were received for the project. Tschiggfrie Excavating Co., also of Dubuque, bid \$160,812.

The Iowa Department of Transportation will pay 45 percent of the cost of the project and the city will pick up the remaining 55 percent of the cost.

The low bid was under the engineer's estimate of \$152,539.

The contract was approved on a 4-2 vote, with council members Jason Hute and Ed Turney voting against it.

One council seat, that previously held by Marsha Myers is vacant because of Myers' recent resignation.

The stoplights will be linked to the lights at the West Platt Street-U.S. 61 interchange to the west and to the West Platt-Western Avenue and Creslane intersection to the east, Julie Neebel, an engineer with IIW Engineers & Surveyors Dubuque, the project engineer, told the council.

The council rejected an extra-cost option, to equip the stoplights with a battery-powered back-up system.

The back-up would keep the lights operating, either in their regular mode or in a flashing mode, for several hours during a power outage.

The battery back-up would have added \$5,250 to the cost of the stoplights under the Portzen bid.

Neebel said only one set of stoplights in the city is equipped with a battery back-up, those at the intersection of 200th Avenue and Carlisle Street, near the Wal-Mart store.

She said many communities are putting in the battery back-up for stoplights at busier intersections as a safety measure.

Hute urged purchasing the battery back-up, noting the safety aspect and saying that the cost is a small increase on a \$148,000 project.

Turney noted that motorists entering Platt Street from Westgate Drive may be waiting longer with the stoplights than they do now with stop signs.

Neebel noted that motorists can make a right turn on a red light, but agreed that those turning left may wait longer.

She also noted that "you'll have fewer people getting tired of waiting and just gunning and going."

Mayor Tom Messerli questioned whether traffic lights are needed at the intersection at all.

With the Wal-Mart store having relocated from its former West Platt Street location to the south edge of the city, he questioned whether traffic congestion is serious enough to justify the stoplight.

"Dos it still warrant putting a traffic signal out there for what this is going to cost? The mayor asked.

Neebel noted that the DOT required a traffic study done before it would approve the traffic lights and the results showed the intersection qualified for the lights.

Councilman Galen Saunders urged the council to approve the stoplights, noting that the traffic study shows they are warranted and the council has budgeted for the project.

The council strongly considered installing stoplights at the intersection several years ago, when the Wal-Mart store was at its West Platt Street location. When the Wal-Mart store moved to its present location, the council noted a decrease in traffic and put the project on hold.

The project was brought back on the table when officials of Fareway Stores asked the council to reconsider the lights when that supermarket moved to Westgate Plaza.