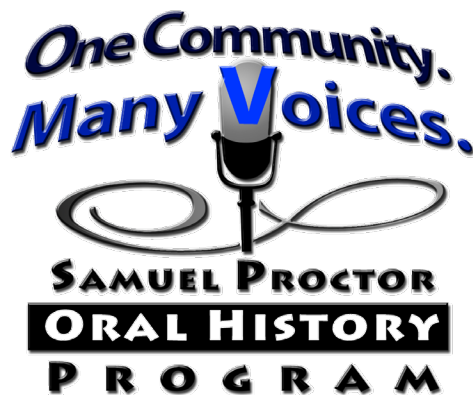


# **Anthony Scott Canty**

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)  
CAT-147**

**Speech by:**

**Anthony Scott Canty  
June 22, 1981**



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**CAT 147 Anthony Scott Canty**  
**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)**  
**Recorded on June 22, 1981**  
**43 minutes | 15 pages**

**Abstract:** Having returned from his two-year mission, Anthony Canty recounts his travels to his church congregation in Catawba. His mission was throughout Canada, and he worked with the Cree and Saulteaux. He expressed his gratitude for the church, and the lessons he learned while travelling. He was also appreciative of the support he received from the church, and he hopes to repay it by being of service to the community now that he's returned home. He also expressed encouragement for other young Mormon men to follow in his footsteps and pursue their own mission trip.

**Keywords:** [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Religion; Mormon Church]

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CAT 147

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Date of Recording: June 22, 1981

[Piano playing, people singing 0:00 – 2:37]

U1: Father in heaven, as we assemble here this evening in another sacrament meeting, we are thankful for this opportunity of meeting together. We ask thee to bless us, that'll we have thy spirit to be with. We ask thee to bless those that speak here tonight, that they'll have the inspiration in God which they need to saying something which will be afflicted to all. We are thankful for all our blessings, and we dedicate this meeting here this evening, and we do it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

All: Amen.

U2: Sacramental hymn on page 235.

[Piano playing, people singing 3:48 – 6:45]

U3: Oh, God the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, to bless and thank the spirit of all those who couldn't be here. That they may meet and remember the body of our son and witness over thee, God the Eternal Father, that there are ways to take up arms in the name of thy son and all the ways to remember him and keep him in **memories** that they may always have his spirit to be with them. Amen.

All: Amen.

[Break in recording 7:27 – 9:41]

U4: Anthony Canty has been with us now for about a week since he's been on his mission. And he gave us a little report before he left, and so, he's had two years

to think about his talk tonight, so I'm sure he's had ample time to prepare, and we're going to turn the remainder of the program over to Brother Canty.

C: Thank you. Brothers and sisters, it's good to be with you tonight, it's really good. I hope you've brought your pillows with you, they told me I have to speak to you for the rest of the night. [Laughter] There's not going to be a rest, song, or anything, so just sit back and get ready. Before I get on with it, I'd like to bring a message to you, and give you a message from the people in Canada. They send you their love, they send you their appreciation for sending missionaries out, for helping support them. My mission president sends his love, so do my fellow missionaries there. My companions and all the other elders that I knew there, they send you their love. They send you their thanks. It's great to be back with you, it's great to be home. I can't tell you how good it is to be home. It just feels good. How can I explain it? I've got a lot to talk to you about, there's just a whole bunch that happened to me in these past two years. A whole bunch I'd like to share with you, and if I could I'd like to share with you some of my feelings, and some of my thoughts about the past two years, and about being home. If I kind of go from subject to subject, don't let that worry you cause that's what I'm gonna to do. I'm not gonna to stick to any certain subject, I want to be free to talk about certain things, different things at different times. So, I hope you can follow me a little bit. You know, when I was up there in Canada, most of the missionaries they were all from Idaho or Utah—that's maybe where these elders are from, I don't mean to put you down—but a lot of the elders there were from Idaho or Utah or Arizona, somewhere like that. The people, they would ask me where I was from

and they'd say, "Are you"—the members of the other missionaries they'd say—"Are you from Idaho, or are you from Utah, or maybe Arizona?" And I would stand up really proud, and I'd straighten my shoulders up, and I'd say, "No, sir, I'm not from Idaho and I'm not from Utah. I'm from South Carolina, from Catawba Ward in South Carolina." And I would remember the Charlotte, North Carolina, state. Well, they'd stand back, you know, step back you know and, "Wow, they really have missionaries coming from South Carolina?" Yeah, they do. You know, I was really proud to be representing you people. It was great. I tried to show them what it was like to be a Carolina Mormon. I tried to show them what it's like to be from a place like this. How good it can be, how good it is to be from here. Maybe I can tell you a little bit about where I was at, the areas I was in, and what I did there and how it was to me. I guess you remember two years ago when I stood up here and said goodbye. Well, I started off for a Canada Calgary mission, headquarters at Calgary, Alberta. I got there it was about, oh, October, I guess, last part of October, and it was nice weather, about like it is now, nice and warm. There was no snow or anything. We got off the plane. Here I was, brand new, nice, shaved head, haircut, the whole bit. Nice suit. Just a brand new missionary. Brand new, didn't know what was going on, didn't know what to expect, all I did was, "Yes, sir, no, sir. Yes, yes." You tell me what to do and I'll do it. And that's the way it was. I did it, anything they told me that's what I did. I left Calgary after about a week of training there, and I went to my first area. My first assignment was in a place called Medicine Hat. It got its name from an old Indian that was crossing the river, and his hat fell off in the river. He was a Medicine

Man, and somebody ran out there and picked it up and they named the town Medicine Hat. I was there for two months. There I got my first taste of what missionary work is really like. I went out there, you know, and I thought, "Well, I'm going to set the world on fire. I've got it by the tail now and nobody's going to stop me." I got out there and got with my companion and I found out what it was really like. I found out it's not all easy and not all smooth. I found out there's a lot of rough spots to it. A lot of work, a lot of prayer, a lot of giving and not sometimes receiving anything for it. I found out that the world has quite a few raw deals to hand to you, and you're not going to get them all on silver platters and that came pretty early in my mission. It was a learning experience in that area. After two months, I was transferred to a place called Piapot Indian Reserve. There we worked with the Cree people, the Cree Indians. I got on a bus in Alberta, and we had just had a chinook and it melted all the snow, and it was just nice and warm, warm breeze blowing out of the Rockies, and it was nice. I got on this bus and rode all night to a place called Regina, Saskatchewan. I got off the bus that morning, it was forty below zero. I got off the bus and the first I wanted to do was get back on it and head back for Alberta. That cold wind hit me and took my breath away, it was so cold. I walked right into another trying time. A good time though, I would soon find out, one of the better times in my whole mission. I got there and my companion, he says—he wasn't even there to pick me up at the bus stop, our truck was broke down. He sent somebody to pick me up and we got the apartment about five in the morning, and it was some other elder's apartment, our area was thirty miles out of town. He finally got me loaded

in a couple hours. I was mad and tired and ready to go home and go to bed, cause I'd been on that bus all night, and he got me out and we went to this place that we were going to be staying, and we drove up and there was this little bitty house out there on the reserve, and we got out and went in and I looked around and said, "Well, who lives here?" He says, "We do." We do? I thought we were going to have a nice place and we got there, and all the food and the stuff was froze up, it was cold in there. I was disappointed, you know, can't say I wasn't because I was, and again I began to find out what missionary work was all about. We got to working with these people, we forgot all about the hard times that was going on, we started thinking about the people. We started counting them as more than just a number, just somebody to teach, but actual people. Real people with real problems. People who had problems with their husbands and their wives, people who had problems with their kids. People who needed the gospel, and we were trying to give it to them. We tried really hard to give it to them. I remember times getting out and walking through the snow where our truck wouldn't run or something. We'd get out and walk miles and miles, just preaching the gospel to whoever would listen to us, and not preaching to those who wouldn't listen to us. That's what it was about, it's teaching to who would listen, and who would accept your message. Tonight, as I go along, I'll be talking—I want to talk about some things that are really special to me, some things that are sacred to me, some things that are called spiritual experiences, and then there are other things like the cold weather I was telling you about, those are, maybe, temporal experiences, physical experiences. Things that—it's hard to draw a line

between physical and spiritual, because the Lord played such an important part in all these things. Even the hard times that I call hard, which now I see really weren't, the Lord had a part in that, and they were spiritual too. They really were. I was on that reserve for six months, six straight months. There I had two different companions. One was brand new. Brand new elder came up and I was supposed to teach him how to be a missionary and here I was fairly—what do I—I didn't know too much about it myself, but I did my best and I taught him what I knew. Then I left that area. Went to another place further north, another reserve. Three reserves were there. And we were working with the Cree, the Saulteaux, and the—I can't, that's all, Cree and Saulteaux Indians. Teaching them the gospel. We had a branch out there, a small branch of about forty people. Most of 'em were inactive people. The Lamanites were really inactive there. We had a program for the inactive members, we had a program for the converts, we used them both. And we had some success, and we had some failure, but all good times. All really good times. I worked there for another six months. I was a year in just two places. Then I began to move around. That last year I spent quite a lot of time in different places. I went to a place way up north called Le Pas. That's a French word, I don't what it means but it's a big paw, like a dog paw. There, met some quite different people. We had lumbermen there, lumbermen and loggers and fur trappers. That type of people. Really rough people, but we taught them too. We would teach anybody that would listen. That was what we were there for. And we did it. I had the opportunity to travel over most of the mission, during the time I was there, and visit all the areas and see the different people. I was sent



to—I guess the last six months of my mission—I was sent to a place called Winnipeg, one of the biggest cities in Canada. I think it's the third largest city. I was scared to death to go there. It's the first time that I'd ever been in a big city, you know, coming from a small place like here and making my way to the big city. It was quite a scary experience. It really was, there's over half a million people in that town. I didn't know whether I was coming or going. That was quite an experience. And then they put me out to pasture, 'cause speaking as a missionary, when it gets old and getting ready to head for home, they kind of stick him out to pasture. Put him out so he can do his last word without too much responsibility, without anybody bothering him too much or anything like that. They stuck me in a little town called Estevan. Little town had about, oh, three thousand people, I guess. Really small. And my companion and I worked really hard in that town, we had a few baptisms there. There was only two other members there besides us, so it was pretty small. But a good place. I haven't got any complaints about any of my areas. There were all really good areas, really choice places to be. And last of all, I went to a place called Moosejaw. They've got a lot of funny names up there. And Moosejaw was one of my favorite areas. It was my last area. It was one of my favorites because it reminded me of home. Had a little branch about this size. It had good leaders there, good teachers, good people, and it reminded me of home. In a way I kind of think the Lord sent me there to get me ready to come home. To get me used to being around that kind of people. Good-spirited people, people who had a down home, good feeling. And that's the way these people were. That's the way they treated, that's

the way I treated them. I think that's why we got along so good, because we came from two different but the same kind of places. You know, throughout all my travels and all the places I've been, one of the things I learned and one of the things I found out to be true is that the Church is true no matter where you are. No matter where in Canada I went, it was true there. Just like it's true here. The people there carry the same special spirit that you carry. They had the same special gift, the gospel, that you've got. And it's true, it really is. You know things that I took for granted before I went on my mission, things like prayer, things like the Holy Ghost, things like—well, you name it, anything, became really real to me. They came alive, they came and stared me in the face. I could tell what they were. I actually put them into use. Revelation, things like that, they actually are real. They happen. I remember once, we were teaching this family, my companion and I tracted out this family. We were there for our fourth or fifth time, we were teaching them about the Holy Ghost and getting them ready to be baptized, telling them what they would get after they were baptized, the Holy Ghost and that, and this lady, we were talking to 'em and she says—I was trying to explain what the Holy Ghost was like and what he did, and before I could even get it out she says, "Well, does the Holy Ghost come and whisper in your ear and tell you what's right?" And I said, "Yes, he does." And she says, "Well, you know he came last night, and he told me that I should be baptized into your church." And I said, "What? What'd he say?" [Laughter] I had to have her tell me about three times before I really caught what she said. That the Holy Ghost had actually came and told her that she should join our church, that what we were

teaching her was right and it was good. Things like that, they really help build your testimony of these things. They really help to strengthen your testimony. If you could have been in the homes that I'd been in, up there in Canada, and seen the people that I'd seen, and talk to them, you'd know that you have something special. If you could talk with the people that I talk with, just the average, every day, day-to-day people there, you'd know what I mean. The world is full of ignorant people, it really is. It's full of 'em. I'm not talking about ignorance as far as learning, as far as knowing how to add, or how to subtract, or how to recite Shakespeare, anything like that. I'm talking about knowledge of God. The things that really count, the things that should come first. People are so ignorant of those things. We would go into some places, and we would talk to people, and we could talk about politics, about this and that, but when it got down to what we wanted to talk about, about religion, about what they were doing with their lives and about where they were headed, they didn't know heads or tails. They didn't know why they were here. They didn't know where they were going. When talking about God, they says, "Well, he's so big he can fill the universe, he's so small he can dwell in my heart." You've all heard that, that's what they tell us. Can you believe that? They think that about God. And we try to tell them what was right, try to straighten them out on things like this, and still they wanted to stay ignorant. They were the type of people that didn't want to change. They were the type of people that closed their minds. They were the type of people that were blind, had eyes that see but wouldn't see, ears to hear but wouldn't hear. That's the type of people I met most on my mission. Most ignorant type of

people. And then you meet these special type of people, these people that aren't hard of heart. That are willing to listen to you and are willing to listen with their hearts. Willing to try to understand what you're trying to say. Good people. People who can be touched by the Spirit, people who will let the Spirit touch them. I only met a few of those people, only met a handful. Only met a handful out of all the people I met, and I know I can't count the number of people I talked to. I talked to oodles and oodles. I could never tell you how many people I've talked to. And I've only met just a couple of handfuls that were just a bit receptive to the gospel, that were willing to really listen and really give it a chance to sink in. You know you've got something really special. You've got the gospel. Lot of people call it the pro—[inaudible 27:12] or whatever you call it. Let me tell you it's really special. I've seen it in action, I've seen it work. I've seen how people take it for granted. I've seen how people are missing something in their lives because they don't have the gospel, and you've got it. You've really got the true church. Let me tell you, it's true. It really is, don't let anybody tell you it's not. They'll try to—there're people around that'll tell you that it's not, that there's no true church, that there's no God. Don't believe 'em, because there is. I wonder...there's so much I could say, there's so much I want to tell you, so much I'd like to tell you. The two years that I spent, they were really precious to me. They've become very sacred to me. Especially towards the end, they became very special. A very special time. Time I won't ever be able to repay, a time I won't be able to say thanks enough for to my heavenly father. I've gained things there that there's no other way I'll ever be able to gain them except there in the mission field. There

are people here that can vouch for that. Ask Dean, ask Kim, ask Milton, ask anybody's that been on mission. What it meant to them. It wasn't just two years of time. It was two years of choice experiences, two years of learning, two years of growing, two years of giving. I can truthfully say it's been two of the greatest years of my life. I look forward to many more years just like that. My mission has come and gone. It's been here, it was good. It's a good two years. But now that it's over, I want to move on. I'm not saying I want to forget it, but I do want to progress. I want to keep going. I want to be able to do my part right beside you, alongside of you, building Zion right here in Catawba ward. Right here where it counts. I want to help you and I want you to help me to do my part. One other thing that my mission president and those that send us their thanks for your support, supporting me on my mission. You, those that did support me, all of you, made it possible for me to be there, made it possible for me to have these experiences. You made it possible for me to reach out and to find that happiness, to earn that happiness that I have now. Without you, I couldn't have did it. You were a part of it. You were just as much a part of it as I was out there doing it. You were a big part of it, and I love you and I appreciate you for it. I'm grateful for good teachers who taught me when I was coming up as a kid. I'm grateful for good strong leadership here. Men who saw potential and made it come alive. You youth, you young guys that haven't been on missions, and don't know what it's like, and you're thinking about or coming up and are wondering if you will. Don't wonder, but plan for it, go. You've got to go. Don't let anything stop you. Now I know it may sound like, well, here's a returning missionary standing here

telling me that I should go, and it would be good for me, but it's not like that. I can speak from experience. I know that it's good, I know what it's like. I know you should prepare for a mission. I've seen the joy that it brings. I've felt the joy that it brings. If you're looking for adventure, go on a mission. If you're looking for growth, go on a mission. If you want to get close to the Lord, and want him to get close to you, go on a mission. And you give, you give your best, you give what you've got, might not be much but just give it and I promise you the Lord will bless you with more than you can ever imagine, or you can ever hope to repay. He'll bless you because he is real. He is a real man. God is real. I want you to know this church means a great deal to me. I'm so thankful to be a member of it. I'm thankful to be a part of this ward, to be back with you again. To see the things that I have and to share them with you and for you to share with me. I want you to know I support you, I love you, and I appreciate you, and I'm again grateful for the support you have me. I thank you. If there's anything I can do to help anybody, let me know and I'll try my best. And I could go on talking and talking about experiences I had on my mission, but I don't think I will. Sometime if you want to talk about it, I'll talk about it with you, but I don't want to get into a big travelogue because there's a lot to tell. There really is. I just wanted you to know how special it was to me, how much I appreciated it, how glad I was to go be a part of the Lord's work. I can testify that this is the Lord's work. That the work that these two elders are doing here is the Lord's work. It's good, it's true. That's the only thing that'll bring happiness to this world. You can look around and see that people are missing things from their lives, this church has it. This church is where

they'll find their happiness, the only place they'll find their happiness because it is the only true church. Once again, I want you to know this church is true, there's a prophet at the head of it. President Kimball the **Rexist** church by Revelation. I know that. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I'm grateful for that book, the things it's meant to me. I'm grateful for all the church has meant to me, the freedoms it brings me. You know how great it is to be free. Let me tell you something, those people in Canada, they don't know what it is to be really free, they don't know what it is. A lot of people there in Canada, they put down this country, the United States. In those two years I took that, I listened to them, and I didn't say anything about it as they put down the States, but let me tell you how lucky you are to live here in this country. How great it is to be an American. To live in a country that God blessed. Those people livin' right next door to us, they can't even compare with America. This is really the promised land, it really is. Don't ever take it for granted. When I was flying home and we flew over the U.S. border and the pilot announced we were crossing over the U.S. border, if I could've got down on the ground, I would've kissed the ground. It was so good to be back home. Appreciate your country, love it. With all its faults, with all its corruption, it's still the greatest thing going. It really is. Where else could the gospel have been born, other than here? I'm grateful for you having listened to me tonight. It's good to have a captured audience here, to be able to talk to you, and I hope to be able to talk to you again sometime. I'm thankful once again to be home and I want to leave these things with you, testifying that this church is true, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

All: Amen.

U2: Anthony spoke about being a citizen of the United States of America and I think we all should take this into mind, those of you that attended our general session council this morning, or maybe it was last night. Someone with us made a statement that all the denominations that we have on the face of the earth today, the Baptist, the Catholics, the Lutherans, the Apostle whatever, all derived from different countries other than the United States. Mormon is the only American religion in this United States. It's the only one that was founded here, in the upper state of New York, so you've got something to be proud of. We've got the only religion in the United States that's really born here. All the other religions are from foreign countries, Germany or whatever. I'd like to read to you one passage scripture, and I'll quote it to you, if I might catch a beat, I think it falls very astute to Brother Canty's case, both of 'em, Dean and Anthony and missionaries previous to them and those that are proud to go out. In a verse of Lehi, chapter three, verse seven. Lehi speaking with his daddy, he says, "I will go and do the things the Lord commanded, for I know the Lord will give no commandment on the children of man. Save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commanded them." I feel sure that Brother Canty was very much prepared by the Heavenly Father to do the things he did, and he accomplished with him on his mission through the support of each individual here who made donations to Anthony and Dean, the time they were out of us. I know you've heard me repeat several times of this before you but we need to support our missionaries. This is a perfect example of why we need to support these



young men. We couldn't have picked two finer young men to go out and serve twenty-four months. I'd like to bring my attention to also that the gospel is true, and we should be anxiously engaged in every righteous call that is brought to our attention by our prophet, President Kimball, because he is indeed a prophet of God, and he receives divine revelations extend his life to pass onto us. And I say in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

All: Amen.

U2: Closed hymn is found on page fifty-two.

[Piano playing, people singing 0.39.53 – 0.42.12]

U2: Before we close, we'd like to have all the families that are participating in the finishing program please remain at your shackles so the missionaries can give their third lesson. Thank you.

U4: [inaudible prayer 42:33 – 43:02]

All: Amen.

[End of interview]

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