

Names for Temple Ordinances

October 2012



The purpose of the restored Church of Jesus Christ is to help members qualify for exaltation by fulfilling divinely appointed responsibilities.



One such responsibility is enabling the salvation of the dead by performing vicarious ordinances in holy temples.

The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve have reemphasized that the primary responsibility for supplying names for temple ordinances rests upon individual members, families, and local units.

Names for Temple Ordinances



“When members of the Church find the names of their ancestors and take those names to the temple for ordinance work, the temple experience can be greatly enriched.

“Members with limited ability to do their own family history research are encouraged to perform vicarious ordinances with names provided by other members or by the temple.

Names for Temple Ordinances



“We especially encourage youth and young single adults to use for temple work their own family names or the names of ancestors of their ward and stake members.

“Priesthood leaders should assure that young people and their families learn the doctrine of turning their hearts to their fathers and the blessings of temple attendance.

Names for Temple Ordinances



“Some Church members have large numbers of family names reserved so they can personally attend to the temple work. We encourage them to release these names in a timely manner so the necessary ordinances can be performed.

Names for Temple Ordinances

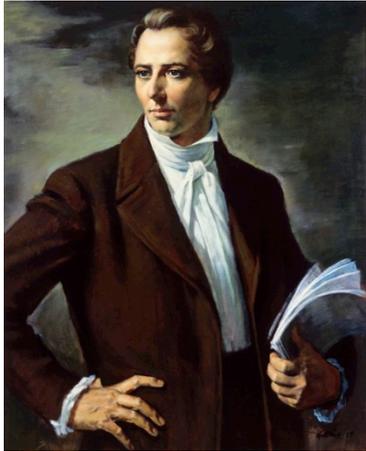


“We appreciate your efforts to seek out the names of your ancestors and to provide essential temple ordinances.

“We pray that the spirit of this sacred work will increase in the hearts of all members of the Church.”

First Presidency Letter
October 8, 2012

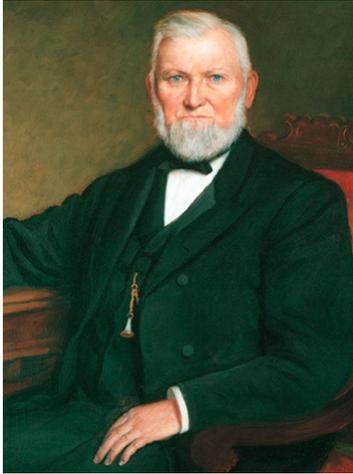
Greatest Responsibility



“The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after **our** dead. The apostle says, They without us cannot be made perfect; for it is necessary that the sealing power should be in our hands to seal **our** children and **our** dead for the fullness of the dispensation of times – a dispensation to meet the promises made by Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world for the salvation of man.”

Prophet Joseph Smith, HC 6:312-313

Trace “**their**” Genealogies

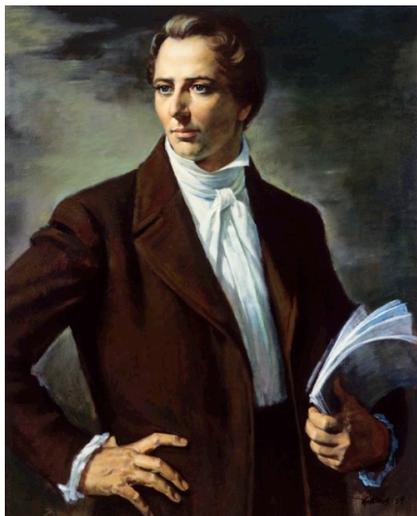


“We want the Latter-day Saints from this time to trace **their** genealogies as far as they can, and to be sealed to **their** fathers and mothers. Have children sealed to **their** parents, and run this chain through as far as you can get it.”

Wilford Woodruff

“Children sealed to their parents”
Millennial Star 1894, pp 338, 339, 341

Scriptures and Prophetic Teachings



...your baptisms for **your dead**.

D&C 124:32, 33, 36

...in relation to the baptism for

your dead.

D&C 127:5

...When any of you are baptized

for **your dead**.

D&C 127:6

Learn To Save Our Own Dead



“Thousands of our faithful people seldom go to the temple, and of those who do go, most are not working on their own ancestral lines. They are not saving their own dead. They seem to believe they are fulfilling their responsibilities by merely attending the temple occasionally. This is simply not so. We all must learn to save our own dead. We must properly identify them so that we can then perform the work for them in the temples ...

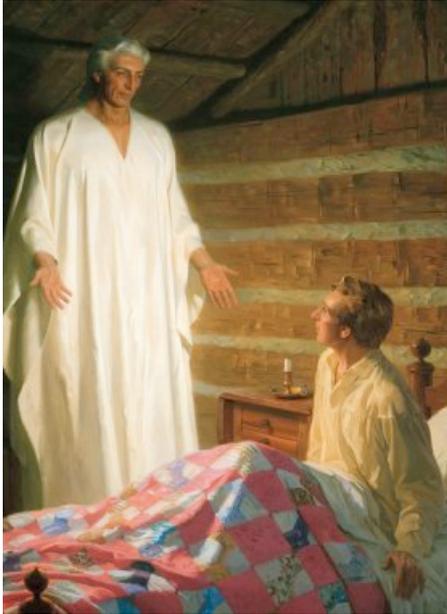
Learn To Save Our Own Dead



“Saints in every temple district must be taught to provide their own names. Japanese people should provide the names for their own Tokyo temple. South American people should provide the names for their own Sao Paulo temple. Likewise, in Mexico and Seattle and in every other established area. If they do so, then they will save their own dead. If they do not, and depend on Salt Lake City to send names, they do not save their own dead, but instead work on other people’s ancestry.”

President Spencer W. Kimball,
Regional Representative Seminar 1976 ●₁₃

“...to **their** Fathers”



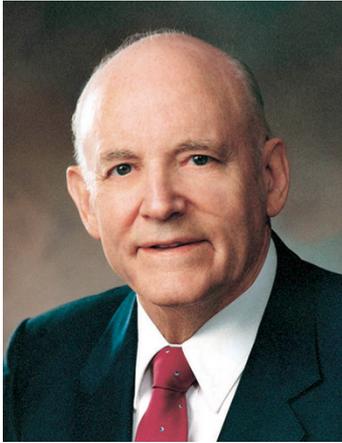
“Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to **their** fathers.

If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.”

Doctrine & Covenants 2:1-3

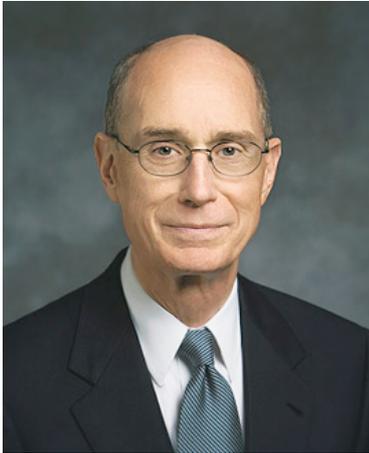
Labor of Love



“The dead are anxiously waiting for the Latter-day Saints to search out their names and then go into the temples to officiate on their behalf, that they may be liberated from their prison house in the spirit world. All of us should find joy in this magnificent labor of love.”

President Howard W. Hunter,
“A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, February 1995

Their Hope Is In Your Hands



“It is important to know why the Lord promised to send Elijah. Elijah was a great prophet with great power given him by God. He held the greatest power God gives to His children: he held the sealing power, the power to bind on earth and have it bound in heaven. God gave it to the Apostle Peter. And the Lord kept His promise to send Elijah.”

Their Hope Is In Your Hands



“Elijah came to the Prophet Joseph Smith on April 3, 1836, just after the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, the first temple built after the Restoration of the gospel. Joseph described the sacred moment:

"Another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:

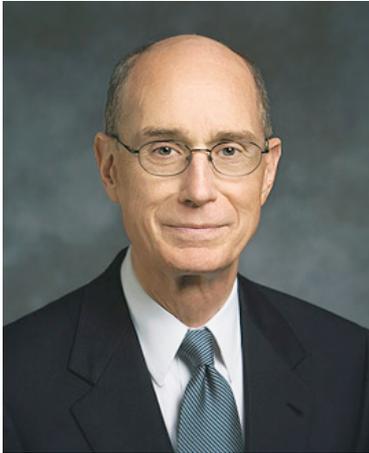
Their Hope Is In Your Hands



"Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come—

To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—”

Their Hope Is In Your Hands



“Remember that the names which will be so difficult to find are of real people to whom you owe your existence in this world and whom you will meet again in the spirit world. When you were baptized, your ancestors looked down on you with hope.”

Their Hope Is In Your Hands



“Perhaps after centuries, they rejoiced to see one of their descendants make a covenant to find them and to offer them freedom. In your reunion, you will see in their eyes either gratitude or terrible disappointment. Their hearts are bound to you. Their hope is in your hands. “

President Henry B. Eyring
“Hearts Bound Together,” *Ensign*, May 2005.

Georgia Elias



- Recently widowed
- Drawn to the Church because of the doctrine of temple and family history work
- Within weeks of her baptism she prepared some of her family names for temple ordinances, obtained a limited-use recommend, and took the names to the temple

Georgia Elias

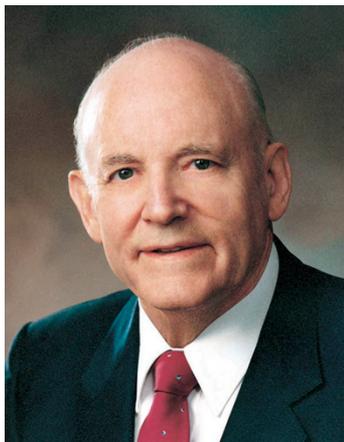


“The moment I realized that I could have my connection with my family I just got very excited. I realized I could have my husband... I want him to be with me forever.”

... For we without
them cannot be
made perfect;

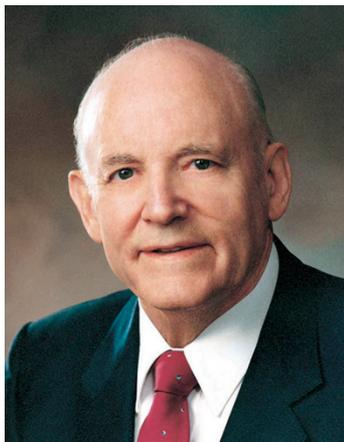
Doctrine & Covenants 128:18

Both Halves of the Blessing



“We must accomplish the priesthood temple ordinance work necessary for our own exaltation; then we must do the necessary work for those who did not have the opportunity to accept the gospel in life. Doing work for others is accomplished in two steps: first, by family history research to ascertain our progenitors; and second by performing the temple ordinances to give them the same opportunities afforded to the living. Yet there are many members of the Church who have only limited access to the temples. They do the best they can. They pursue family history research and have the temple ordinance work done by others....

Both Halves of the Blessing



“Conversely, there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, they lose a blessing by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter day prophets. I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know the additional joy of receiving both halves of the blessing.”

President Howard W. Hunter,
“A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, February 1995

Nick Bartley



- 15 years old
- Has researched and prepared many of his own family names
- Has been to the temple approximately seven times to do family names

“It was one of the most amazing feelings I have ever felt to this day.”

Implementation

- Why now?
 - Increased number of temples
 - New technology
- Implement through councils
 - Implementing this emphasis will actually flow into Area, Coordinating, Stake, and Ward Councils
- Not new
 - Line upon line, precept upon precept
- Avoid extremes
 - There is no restriction on attending the temple if members (youth and young single adults) do not bring their own names

Summary

1. The purpose of the restored Church of Jesus Christ is to help members qualify for exaltation by fulfilling divinely appointed responsibilities. One such responsibility is enabling the salvation of their dead by performing vicarious ordinances in holy temples.
2. Teach and act on the doctrines of the Church and the direction of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve that the primary responsibility for supplying names for temple ordinances rests upon individual members, families, and local units. The role of the family history department and workers is to help members fulfill this divinely appointed responsibility.
3. This should not be interpreted to mean members cannot go to the temples without bringing names of their own ancestors.