

Presidents of the Church

Timeline

	Church History	World History
1800		Estimated world population: 813 million
	Hyrum Smith born (Feb. 9)	The Second "Great Awakening" (U.S. religious revival) (1800–1830) Eli Whitney (U.S.) made muskets with interchangeable parts William Herschel (Brit.) discovered infrared solar rays
1801	Brigham Young born (June 1)	
1803	Joseph Smith Sr. moved his family to Sharon, Vermont	Robert Fulton (U.S.) invented the steamboat Napoleonic Wars began; they lasted 12 years Richard Trevithick (Brit.) built first steam locomotive Louisiana Purchase negotiated with France; size of U.S. doubled
1804		Napoleon Bonaparte crowned emperor in Paris, France
1805	David Whitmer born (Jan. 7) Joseph Smith born (Dec. 23)	Napoleon proclaimed himself King of Italy Lord Horatio Nelson defeated the French-Spanish fleets in the Battle of Trafalgar Earthquake in Naples, Italy, killed nearly 26,000 people
1806	Oliver Cowdery born (Oct. 3)	
1807	Wilford Woodruff born (Mar. 1)	British Parliament passed act outlawing slave trade
1808	John Taylor born (Nov. 1)	Ludwig van Beethoven (Ger.) debuted his 5th and 6th Symphonies
1810		Argentina, Colombia, and Chile declared their independence from Spain; Mexicans began fight for their independence from Spain Nicholas Francois Appert (Fr.) developed method for canning foods
1812		Napoleon began his invasion of Russia Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (Ger.) published their fairy tales The War of 1812 began (1812–15) (U.S.–Britain)
1813	Joseph Smith had leg operation	
1814	Lorenzo Snow born (Apr. 3)	After various defeats, Napoleon was banished to the island of Elba
1815		Mount Tambora erupted in Indonesia, killing about 10,000; indirectly contributed to worldwide death toll over 80,000 and causing major climate changes Congress of Vienna (1814–15) generated political and geographical realignments of Europe Napoleon left Elba to recapture France; defeated at Waterloo
1816	Smith family moved to Palmyra, New York, due to three successive crop failures in Vermont	Argentina declared independence from Spain
1818		Chile gained independence from Spain Franz X. Gruber (Austria) composed the music for "Silent Night"
1819	Smith family moved to Manchester, New York	
1820	Joseph Smith had the First Vision (spring)	King George III of Great Britain died; his son George IV became king
1821		Napoleon died on the island of St. Helena
1822		Earthquake in Syria killed 20,000 people
1823	Angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith three times during one night and twice the next day (Sept. 21–22) Joseph Smith first visited the Hill Cumorah and viewed the gold plates Alvin Smith died (Nov. 19)	Monroe Doctrine, warning European countries about interference with countries in Western Hemisphere, announced Mexico became a republic three years after declaring independence from Spain

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1824	Joseph Smith made second visit to Hill Cumorah to receive instruction	Simón Bolívar completed campaign for independence for Bolivia, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela
1825	Joseph Smith made third visit to Hill Cumorah for instruction	First steam locomotive railway in England began operating
1826	Joseph Smith made fourth visit to Hill Cumorah for instruction	
1827	Joseph Smith and Emma Hale married (Jan. 18) Joseph Smith obtained the gold plates (Sept. 22; see Isaiah 29:11–12)	John Walker (Eng.) introduced sulfur friction matches
1828	Martin Harris visited Charles Anthon in New York City (Feb.) Martin Harris lost 116 manuscript pages of the Book of Mormon (June) Joseph Smith regained the gift to translate the Book of Mormon (Sept.)	
1829	Aaronic Priesthood restored (May 15); Melchizedek Priesthood restored shortly thereafter; Joseph Smith ordained an Apostle by Peter, James, and John (see D&C 20:2; 27:12; 128:20) Book of Mormon translation completed; the Three Witnesses and the Eight Witnesses were shown the gold plates	First steam-powered locomotive in U.S.; first passenger rail line
1830	Church membership: approximately 280 at end of year	
	Book of Mormon published Joseph Smith sustained as First Elder of the Church (Apr. 6) The Church was organized (Apr. 6)	King George IV of Great Britain died; his brother William IV became king
1831	Church members began gathering to Ohio Some Church members moved to Missouri	Charles Darwin sailed on surveying expedition on HMS <i>Beagle</i> (to 1836)
1832	Joseph Smith sustained as President of the High Priesthood (Jan. 25)	
	Vision of the three degrees of glory (D&C 76) received (Feb. 16) "Prophecy on War" (D&C 87; Dec. 25) and "Olive Leaf" (D&C 88; Dec. 27–28, Jan. 3) received	
1833	The Word of Wisdom (D&C 89) received (Feb. 27) Book of Commandments published First Presidency organized (Mar. 18) Brigham Young baptized (Apr. 14) Wilford Woodruff baptized (Dec. 31)	
1834	First stake organized Zion's Camp (May–July)	Louis Braille (Fr.) perfected his reading system for the blind Cyrus McCormick (U.S.) introduced mechanical grain harvester Slavery abolished in the British Empire
1835	Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Quorum of the Seventy organized (Feb.) Mummies and scrolls purchased from Michael Chandler (July) Doctrine and Covenants approved (Aug. 17)	Halley's Comet reappeared (76-year cycle) Hans Christian Andersen (Dan.) published first of his children's stories
1836	Kirtland Temple dedicated (Mar. 27); first temple built in this dispensation Moses, Elias, and Elijah committed priesthood keys to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery (Apr. 3) John Taylor baptized (May 9) Lorenzo Snow baptized (June 19) Church hymnal published (Nov.)	
1837	First mission in the Church organized in Great Britain	After the death of her uncle, Victoria became Queen of Great Britain

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1838	Joseph Smith received revelation on tithing (July 8) Governor Boggs issued "Extermination Order" in Missouri (Oct. 27) Haun's Mill massacre (Oct. 30) Joseph F. Smith born (Nov. 13) Joseph and Hyrum Smith imprisoned in Liberty Jail (Dec. 1838–Apr. 1839)	
1839	Church members moved to Illinois and Iowa	Public announcement of Louis Daguerre's (Fr.) form of photography Kirkpatrick Macmillan (Scot.) constructed first bicycle Charles Goodyear (U.S.) discovered process of "vulcanization," making commercial use of rubber possible
1840	Church membership: 16,865	
	First Church members to gather from a foreign land sailed from England Joseph Smith began teaching baptism for the dead (Aug. 15)	Upper and Lower Canada united
1841	Orson Hyde dedicated the Holy Land for the return of the Jews (Oct. 24)	China ceded Hong Kong to Great Britain
1842	Relief Society organized (Mar. 17) First full endowment given (May 4) Wentworth Letter written (spring) Book of Abraham published	Crawford W. Long (U.S.) used ether for surgical anesthesia Charles Dickens published <i>A Christmas Carol</i>
1843	Revelation on the new and everlasting covenant, marriage, and fulness of life (D&C 132; recorded on July 12)	
1844	Joseph and Hyrum Smith martyred in Carthage, Illinois (June 27)	
	The Twelve Apostles sustained as the presiding quorum in the Church (Aug. 8)	Samuel Morse (U.S.) sent first telegraph message Friedrich Gottlob Keller (Ger.) invented wood pulp paper
1845	Church leaders announced plans to move to the West (Oct.)	
1846	Saints began leaving Nauvoo (Feb.) Nauvoo Temple dedicated (May 1) Mormon Battalion began its 2,000-mile march from Kanesville, Iowa (July 21)	U.S. declared war on Mexico Elias Howe (U.S.) patented first lockstitch sewing machine Potato crop failure led to famine in Ireland
1847	Members of Mormon Battalion discharged at Los Angeles, California (July 16) Brigham Young's Pioneer Company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley (July 22–24)	
	Brigham Young became second President of the Church, with Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as counselors (Dec. 27)	
1848	Miracle of seagulls saved crops in Utah	<i>Communist Manifesto</i> issued by Marx and Engels
1849	Perpetual Emigrating Fund established (Oct.) Sunday School organized (Dec. 9)	Armand Fizeau (Fr.) determined speed of light
1850	Church membership: 51,839	Estimated world population: 1.13 billion
	Utah became a U.S. territory; Brigham Young appointed its first governor (Sept.)	R. W. Bunsen (Ger.) produced a gas burner
1851	Pearl of Great Price published in Liverpool, England	Isaac Singer (U.S.) patented first continuous stitch sewing machine Telegraph began operating between London and Paris
1852	Doctrine of plural marriage first publicly announced (Aug. 28–29)	
1853	Four cornerstones of the Salt Lake Temple laid (Apr. 6)	Commodore Matthew Perry (U.S.) sailed to Japan (isolated for 150 years) to negotiate trade agreements Crimean War began between Turkey and Russia (ended 1856)

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1854		During the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale (Eng.) redefined the field of nursing
1855	Fast day held the first Thursday of each month	
1856	Pioneer handcart companies began (June); Willie and Martin companies rescued (Oct.–Nov.) Heber J. Grant born (Nov. 22)	
1857	Utah War (to 1858)	Indian armies mutinied against Britain
1858	Johnston's Army passed through Salt Lake City (June 26)	First transatlantic telegraph cable between the U.S. and Britain completed
1859		Work began on Suez Canal Charles Darwin published <i>On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection</i>
1860	Church membership: 61,082	
	Handcart era ended (last company arrived in Salt Lake in Aug.)	Majority of Italy united under Garibaldi Jean Etienne Lenoir (Fr.) demonstrated first practical internal combustion engine
1861	Church began use of wagon trains that left Salt Lake Valley in the spring with provisions for yearly immigration and returned in the fall with immigrants; used until 1868 (railroad came in 1869)	Abraham Lincoln became U.S. President (1861–65) U.S. Civil War began (ended 1865)
1862	U.S. Congress passed Morrill Act, outlawing plural marriage in U.S. territories (July 8)	All foreigners expelled from Japan Victor Hugo (Fr.) published <i>Les Misérables</i>
1863	Brigham Young arrested on charge of bigamy (Mar. 10); never brought to trial	Founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross
1864		Louis Pasteur (Fr.) developed pasteurization
1865		Gustave Doré (Fr.) created his illustrations for the Bible
1866	Settlers in many parts of Utah battled with Indians	Alfred Nobel (Swed.) invented dynamite Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Russ.) published <i>Crime and Punishment</i>
1867	First general conference held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle (Oct. 6)	U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia Britain granted four Canadian provinces dominion status
1868	Last organized "Church train" arrived in Salt Lake Valley	Johannes Brahms (Ger.) composed <i>Ein Deutsches Requiem</i>
1869	Church-owned Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI) opened for business (spring) President Brigham Young organized the Young Ladies' Retrenchment Association (Nov. 28; later renamed the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Organization)	U.S. first transcontinental railroad completed at Promontory, Utah Suez Canal, connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas, opened
1870	Church membership: 90,130	
	Utah became one of first U.S. states or territories to grant women the right to vote (Feb. 12) George Albert Smith born (Apr. 4)	Franco-Prussian War (ended 1871)
1871	Location for the St. George Temple dedicated (Nov.)	
1872		Jules Verne (Fr.) published <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>
1873	President Young called six additional counselors in the First Presidency David O. McKay born (Sept. 8)	Color photography developed
1874	United order movement launched (Feb.); over 200 united orders established in Latter-day Saint settlements by the end of the year	

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1875	First Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association organized (June 10) Salt Lake Tabernacle dedicated (Oct.); President John Taylor, President of the Quorum of the Twelve, read the dedicatory prayer Brigham Young Academy founded in Provo, Utah (Oct. 16); became Brigham Young University in 1903	Count Leo Tolstoy (Russ.) published <i>Anna Karenina</i>
1876	Joseph Fielding Smith born (July 19)	Alexander Graham Bell (U.S.) patented the telephone Korea became an independent nation
1877	St. George Temple dedicated (Apr. 6); first temple since the Church moved west	Thomas Edison (U.S.) invented the phonograph
	President Brigham Young died (Aug. 29)	
1878	Primary founded; first meeting at Farmington, Utah (Aug. 25)	
1879		Thomas Edison (U.S.) developed electric incandescent light bulb Zulu war in South Africa
1880	Church membership: 133,628	
	Jubilee year celebration inaugurated (Apr. 6), reminiscent of Old Testament practice (see Leviticus 25) Pearl of Great Price accepted as a standard work of the Church (Oct. 10)	
	John Taylor became third President of the Church, with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as counselors (Oct. 10)	
1881		Clara Barton organized American Red Cross
1882	Assembly Hall on Temple Square dedicated (Jan. 8)	Robert Louis Stevenson (Scot.) published <i>Treasure Island</i>
1883	First permanent branch of the Church among the Maoris organized in New Zealand (Aug. 26)	Eruption of Krakatoa, volcano in Indonesia, killed almost 36,000 on nearby islands
1884	Hundreds of Church members imprisoned for the practice of polygamy Logan Temple dedicated (May 17); second temple since the Church moved west	World's first steel-framed "skyscraper" (10 stories high) completed in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
1885	Extensive prosecution of Church members practicing polygamy continued under the Edmunds Law; President John Taylor and other Church leaders went into hiding Church colonies in Mexico established	Karl Benz (Ger.) built first practical automobile powered by internal combustion engine
1887	President John Taylor died while in "exile" (July 25)	
	Church disincorporated and property confiscated due to prosecution under the Edmunds-Tucker Act Church settlements in Canada began	
1888	Missionary work began in Samoa Manti Temple dedicated (May 17, 21); third temple since the Church moved west	George Eastman (U.S.) introduced the Kodak box camera Nikola Tesla (U.S.) built first alternating current (AC) electric motor
1889	Wilford Woodruff became fourth President of the Church, with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as counselors (Apr. 7)	
		Eiffel Tower opened during Paris World Exhibition
1890	Church membership: 188,263	
	"Manifesto" issued (Sept. 24); unanimously accepted by vote in general conference (Oct. 6; see Official Declaration 1) First Presidency sent letter directing that a weekday religious education program be established in every ward where there was no Church school (Oct. 25)	

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1891		Earthquake in Japan killed nearly 10,000 people
1892	Brigham Young Academy building dedicated in Provo, Utah (Jan. 4) Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Relief Society	Pyotr Tchaikovsky's (Russ.) <i>The Nutcracker</i> ballet performed for the first time
1893	Proclamation of amnesty for polygamists issued by U.S. President Benjamin Harrison (Jan. 4) Salt Lake Temple dedicated (Apr. 6); fourth temple since the Church moved west	U.S. stock market crash resulted in four-year economic depression New Zealand first country to grant women the vote
1894	Genealogical Society of Utah organized (Nov. 13)	Rudyard Kipling (Eng.) published <i>The Jungle Book</i>
1895	Spencer W. Kimball born (Mar. 28) First stake outside the U.S. created in Cardston, Alberta, Canada (June 9)	X-rays discovered by German physicist Wilhelm C. Roentgen Guglielmo Marconi (Ital.) invented radio telegraphy
1896	Utah became a state (Jan. 4) Fast day changed from Thursday to Sunday (Nov. 5)	First modern Olympic games held in Athens, Greece
1897	Fiftieth anniversary of the Saints' arrival in the Salt Lake Valley celebrated (July 24) <i>Improvement Era</i> began publication (Nov.)	Jewish Zionist Congress convened in Switzerland
1898	First single, official, proselyting female missionaries set apart (spring)	Spain and U.S. declared war on each other over Cuba (Apr.–Dec.) Pierre and Marie Curie (Fr.) discovered radium
	President Wilford Woodruff died (Sept. 2) Lorenzo Snow became fifth President of the Church, with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as counselors (Sept. 13)	
1899	Harold B. Lee born (Mar. 28) Revelation emphasizing tithing received by President Snow (May 17) Ezra Taft Benson born (Aug. 4)	Boer War between British and Boers (Dutch settlers in South Africa; ended 1902) Bayer company (Ger.) patented aspirin First magnetic recording of sound
1900	Church membership: 283,765	Estimated world population: 1.64 billion
	President Snow reaffirmed Church's ban on plural marriage (Jan. 8)	Boxer Rebellion against foreigners in China began (ended 1901)
1901	Mission opened in Japan (Aug. 12)	Queen Victoria of England died; succeeded by her son Edward VII
	President Lorenzo Snow died (Oct. 10) Joseph F. Smith became sixth President of the Church, with John R. Winder and Anthon H. Lund as counselors (Oct. 17)	
	<i>Children's Friend</i> first published (Jan.)	
1902		Mount Pelée erupted in the Caribbean, killing nearly 29,000 people Aswan Dam in Egypt opened
1903	Brigham Young Academy became Brigham Young University (Oct.) Church purchased Carthage Jail (Nov. 5)	Henry Ford founded the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, U.S. Wright brothers flew a manned, motorized airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, U.S. First Tour de France bicycle race held
1904	President Smith issued second manifesto (Apr. 6)	Russo-Japanese war Trans-Siberian railroad completed (4,607 miles)
1905	Dr. William H. Groves Latter-day Saints Hospital, first in Church hospital system, opened in Salt Lake City (Jan. 1); Church turned its hospitals over to private organization in 1975 Joseph Smith Memorial Cottage and Monument, in Sharon, Vermont, site of the Prophet's birth, dedicated (Dec. 23)	

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1906	President Joseph F. Smith became the first Church President to visit Europe (summer)	San Francisco (U.S.) earthquake killed 700 people; \$400 million in property loss Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi began nonviolent resistance movement in South Africa A typhoon in Tahiti killed over 10,000 people
1907	President Smith announced that the Church was free of debt (Jan. 10) Church purchased Smith farm near Palmyra, New York, including the Sacred Grove Howard W. Hunter born (Nov. 14)	Sir Robert Baden-Powell (Eng.) founded Boy Scouts
1908	Priesthood programs and other organizations systematized (Apr. 8)	Henry Ford (U.S.) introduced Model T automobile
1909	Responding to debate of Darwinism and evolution, First Presidency issued official statement on origin of man (Nov.)	North Pole reached by Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson from U.S. Sigmund Freud (Aust.) introduced his theories on psychoanalysis
1910	Church membership: 398,478	Estimated world population: 1.75 billion
	Gordon B. Hinckley born (June 23)	King Edward VII of England died; succeeded by George V
1911	Church adopted Boy Scout program	Roald Amundsen (Nor.) became first person to reach South Pole
1912	First seminary organized at Granite High School in Salt Lake City (Sept.) Correlation Committee created (Nov. 8)	SS <i>Titanic</i> sank after hitting iceberg; 1,513 passengers and crew died
1913	Boy Scout program officially adopted as activity program for boys of the Church (May 21) Seagull Monument on Temple Square dedicated (Oct. 1)	
1914		Panama Canal officially opened Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary assassinated, triggering World War I
1915	<i>Relief Society Magazine</i> began monthly publication (Jan.) First Presidency inaugurated "Home Evening" program (Apr. 27) Ricks Academy, in Rexburg, Idaho, became Ricks College (fall) Elder James E. Talmage's book <i>Jesus the Christ</i> published (Sept.)	Albert Einstein published his general theory of relativity
1916	First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve issued doctrinal exposition on the Father and the Son (June 30)	Battle of Verdun results in over 1 million soldiers being killed
1917	Church Administration Building completed in Salt Lake City (Oct. 2)	Balfour Declaration declared Palestine as homeland for the Jews
1918	President Smith received vision of the redemption of the dead (Oct. 3; see D&C 138)	Czar Nicholas II and his family executed; Russian revolution (to 1921) Influenza epidemic (killed 20 million people by 1920)
	President Joseph F. Smith died (Nov. 19)	
	Heber J. Grant became seventh President of the Church, with Anthon H. Lund and Charles W. Penrose as counselors (Nov. 23)	
1919	April general conference postponed to June 1–3 due to nationwide influenza epidemic Laie Hawaii Temple, first out of contiguous U.S., dedicated (Nov. 27)	Treaty of Versailles officially ended World War I
1920	Church membership: 525,987	
	Elders David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon left on 55,896-mile world survey of Church missions (Dec. 4; returned Dec. 24, 1921)	Earthquake in China killed over 180,000 people The League of Nations was established
1921		
1922	Primary Children's Hospital opened in Salt Lake City (May) President Heber J. Grant dedicated Deseret News radio station and, for the first time in the Church's history, delivered a message over the airways (May 6)	Benito Mussolini established fascist dictatorship in Italy King Tutankhamen's tomb was opened in Egypt

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1923	Church purchased part of the Hill Cumorah Cardston Alberta Temple dedicated in Canada (Aug. 26)	
1924	First radio broadcast of general conference (Oct. 3)	First winter Olympic games Vladimir Lenin died; Joseph Stalin began rule of USSR
1925	Mission home in Salt Lake City; first organized training for missionaries First mission in South America established (Dec. 6)	Adolf Hitler published <i>Mein Kampf</i>
1926	First institute of religion began in Moscow, Idaho, at University of Idaho (fall)	Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett (U.S.) made first airplane flight over North Pole
1927	Thomas S. Monson born (Aug. 21) Mesa Arizona Temple dedicated (Oct. 23); dedicatory services broadcast by radio	Economic system in Germany collapsed Charles Lindbergh completed 33.5-hour solo transatlantic flight from New York to Paris
1928	Church purchased the rest of the Hill Cumorah 100th stake organized, in Lehi, Utah (July 1)	Chiang Kai-shek overthrew Manchu dynasty; elected president of China Josef Stalin began his Five-Year Plan in the Soviet Union Alexander Fleming (Brit.) discovered penicillin
1929	Tabernacle Choir began weekly network radio broadcasts (July 15)	New York stock market crashed, beginning severe economic depression (to 1941)
1930	Church membership: 670,017	Estimated world population: 2.07 billion
	Church observed the centennial of its organization (Apr. 6)	Max Theiler (S. Afr.) developed yellow fever vaccine
1931	<i>Church News</i> first published by Church's <i>Deseret News</i> (Apr. 6)	
1932	Church began a campaign against the use of tobacco (Apr. 2) Special fast day called during the Great Depression to help the poor (May 15)	Scientists split the atom Mohandas "Mahatma" Ghandi began a "fast unto death" and urged a boycott of British goods to protest British government's treatment of India's lowest caste, the "untouchables"; helped bring reforms Philo Farnsworth (U.S.) developed electronic television Amelia Earhart (U.S.) became first woman to make solo airplane flight across Atlantic
1933	Church held a six-day commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the Word of Wisdom revelation (Feb. 21–26)	Germany and Japan withdrew from League of Nations First concentration camps erected by the Nazis in Germany; by 1945, 8–10 million prisoners were interned, at least half of them (most of them Jews) were killed
1934	Junior Sunday School became official part of Sunday School organization	Hitler gained titled of Führer and control of Germany
1935	Hill Cumorah Monument dedicated (July 21)	Robert Watson-Watt (Scot.) built radar equipment to detect aircraft
1936	Church introduced its formal welfare program, the Church Security Program (Apr.); later renamed the Church Welfare Program (1938)	Spanish Civil War began (ended 1939) King George V of England died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII; Edward VIII later abdicated and was succeeded by his brother George VI
1937	Church purchased portion of Nauvoo Temple lot (Feb. 20) Church members counseled to store a year's supply of food (Apr.) Hill Cumorah pageant, "America's Witness for Christ," began (July)	U.S. gunboat <i>Panay</i> sunk by Japanese; Japan invaded China Plastics first used in manufacturing Frank Whittle (Brit.) built first jet engine German dirigible <i>Hindenburg</i> exploded and burned while landing in New Jersey
1938	First Deseret Industries store opened, in Salt Lake City (Aug. 14) Genealogical Society of Utah began microfilming records (Nov.)	Lajos Biro (Hung.) invented ballpoint pen
1939	Church purchased Liberty Jail in Missouri (June 19) First Presidency recalled all missionaries from Europe (Aug.–Nov.)	Germany invaded Poland; World War II began (ended 1945)

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1940	Church membership: 862,664	Estimated world population: 2.3 billion
	First Presidency recalled all missionaries from South Pacific and South Africa	Winston Churchill became Britain prime minister German blitz on London began; nearly one-third of the city destroyed by end of year
1941	First Presidency announced new positions of Assistants to the Twelve (Apr. 6)	Germany attacked U.S. ships; Japan attacked Pearl Harbor; U.S. entered World War II
1942	Church members urged to restrict travel to comply with wartime restrictions	C. S. Lewis (Eng.) published <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
1943		Famine in India killed at least 1.5 million people Selman Waksman (U.S.) discovered streptomycin
1944	Church announced purchase of Spring Hill in Missouri, (Adam-ondi-Ahman; Mar.) Memorial Services held to commemorate 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum (June)	Allies launched "D-Day" invasion of Europe
1945	President Heber J. Grant died (May 14) George Albert Smith became eighth President of the Church, with J. Reuben Clark Jr. and David O. McKay as counselors (May 21)	
	For the first time since 1942, general Church membership invited to attend general conference (Oct. 5–7)	U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan World War II ended
1946	Church began sending supplies to war-torn Europe (Jan.)	United Nations held first session Cold War began (ended 1990); British Prime Minister Winston Churchill coined term "Iron Curtain"
1947	Church membership passed one million Church celebrated 100th anniversary of pioneers' arrival in Salt Lake Valley (July 24)	Dead Sea Scrolls discovered To prove prehistoric immigration, Thor Heyerdahl (Nor.) took raft expedition from Peru to Polynesia
1948	The Tabernacle Choir performed its 1,000th nationally broadcast radio program (Oct. 17)	Gandhi assassinated in India Israel declared an independent state World Council of Churches organized
1949	The Welfare Program declared a program of the Church (Apr. 5) Public telecast of general conference began (Oct.)	China adopted communism as form of government NATO established German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany created, splitting Germany into East and West Germany Independent Republic of Ireland established
1950	Church membership: 1,111,314	World population: 2.55 billion
	President George Albert Smith dedicated statue of Brigham Young at U.S. Capitol (June 1) First early-morning seminary started in Southern California (Sept.)	Korean War began (ended 1953)
1951	President George Albert Smith died (Apr. 4) David O. McKay became ninth President of the Church, with Stephen L. Richards and J. Reuben Clark Jr. as counselors (Apr. 9)	
1951		Color television first introduced First thermo-nuclear bomb detonated, in the Marshall Islands Electricity produced using nuclear fuel
1952	Missionaries began using the Systematic Program for Teaching the Gospel, inaugurating use of a standard plan for missionary work throughout the Church Elder Ezra Taft Benson chosen as Secretary of Agriculture by newly elected U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower (Dec. 31); Elder Benson served for eight years	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> published King George VI of England died; succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth II First hydrogen bomb detonated

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1953	Church organized its United Church School System (July 9)	Sir Edmund Hillary (N.Z.) and Tenzing Norgay (Nepal) first to reach peak of Mt. Everest, world's tallest mountain Jonas Salk (U.S.) developed anti-polio vaccine
1954	Church announced inauguration of Indian Placement Program (July)	First atomic submarine, <i>Nautilus</i> (U.S.), launched
1955	Bern Switzerland Temple (first in Europe) dedicated (Sept. 11) Tabernacle Choir made major concert tour of Europe (Aug.–Sept.) Church College of Hawaii (now BYU–Hawaii) opened (Sept. 26)	Warsaw Pact signed In South Africa, armed police move 60,000 blacks from an area to be used by whites only
1956	Relief Society Building in Salt Lake City dedicated (Oct. 3)	Nikita Khrushchev denounced Joseph Stalin (USSR) Transatlantic cable telephone service began
1957	Semiannual general conference cancelled because of flu epidemic (Oct.)	Soviet Union launched <i>Sputnik 1</i> , first artificial satellite
1958	Hamilton New Zealand and London England Temples dedicated (Apr. 20; Sept. 7)	U.S. and Canada established North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) Nikita Khrushchev became leader of USSR
1959	President McKay issued statement “Every member a missionary” (Apr. 6) Tabernacle Choir awarded a Grammy, a national music award, for its recording of “Battle Hymn of the Republic” (Nov. 29)	Fidel Castro took control of Cuban government Vietnam War started (ended 1973)
1960	Church membership: 1,693,180	World population: 3.04 billion
	First stake in England organized in Manchester (Mar. 27)	American U-2 spy plane shot down over Russia
1961	First non-English speaking stake created in The Hague in the Netherlands (Mar. 12) Language Training Institute for missionaries called to foreign countries established at BYU (Nov.); later became Language Training Mission (1963)	Bay of Pigs Invasion failed in Cuba Yuri Gagarin (USSR) became the first man in space; he orbited the earth East Germany erected Berlin Wall OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) officially organized
1962	Age of young men eligible for full-time missions lowered from 20 to 19 (Mar.) Church purchased shortwave radio station (Oct. 10); subsequently used to transmit Church broadcasts to Europe and South America	John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth Cuban missile crisis—USSR threatened to build missile bases in Cuba Telstar (U.S.), first communications satellite, launched
1963	Polynesian Cultural Center dedicated in Hawaii (Oct. 12)	Michael E. DeBakey implanted first artificial heart (U.S.) Leonid Brezhnev became leader of USSR Valentina Tereshkova (USSR) became the first woman in space U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated
1964	Home teaching program inaugurated (Jan.) Church hosted pavilion at the New York World’s Fair (Apr.)	
1965	Church first published a family home evening manual (Jan.) Missionary work resumed in Italy (Feb.), after being stopped in 1862	U.S. entered Vietnam War
1966	First stake in South America organized in São Paulo, Brazil (May 1) Granite Mountain Records Vault dedicated (June 22)	
1967	First regional representatives called (Sept. 29) Some of the Egyptian papyri Joseph Smith owned were given to the Church by New York Metropolitan Museum of Art (Nov.)	Six-day Israeli-Arab War First human heart transplant performed in South Africa
1968	Relief Society general president Belle S. Spafford named president of U.S. National Council of Woman (Oct. 17); she served two years	Martin Luther King Jr. (U.S.) was assassinated

	Church History	World History
1969		Neil Armstrong (U.S.) became the first man to walk on the moon First World Conference on Records was held (in Salt Lake City) About 100 countries signed nuclear nonproliferation treaty
1970	Church membership: 2,930,810	World population: 3.71 billion
	President David O. McKay died (Jan. 18) Joseph Fielding Smith became 10th President of the Church, with Harold B. Lee and N. Eldon Tanner as counselors (Jan. 23)	
	Monday designated for family home evening Churchwide (Oct.)	Tonga and Fiji gained independence from Britain Aswan High Dam in Egypt completed Cyclones and floods in East Pakistan killed 500,000 people Earthquakes, floods, and landslides killed 30,000 people in Peru
1971	Publication of new Church magazines began: <i>Ensign</i> , <i>New Era</i> , and <i>Friend</i> (Jan.) Medical missionary program began (July) First area conference held in Manchester, England (Aug. 27–29)	
1972	President Joseph Fielding Smith died (July 2) Harold B. Lee became 11th President of the Church, with N. Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney as counselors (July 7)	
		Earthquake in Nicaragua killed over 10,000 people
1973	Creation of Welfare Services Department announced (Apr. 7)	Vietnam War ended, U.S. troops pulled out Oil-producing Arab nations ban export of oil to U.S., western Europe, and Japan (to 1974) because of their support of Israel, resulting in energy crisis
	President Harold B. Lee died (Dec. 26) Spencer W. Kimball became 12th President of the Church, with N. Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney as counselors (Dec. 30)	
1974	Washington D.C. Temple dedicated (Nov. 19)	Author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn expelled from Soviet Union after publishing <i>The Gulag Archipelago</i>
1975	The 28-story Church Office Building was dedicated in Salt Lake City (July 24; Church departments had begun moving in Nov. 1972)	Civil war in Lebanon Pol Pot took over Cambodia Communists took over government of South Vietnam
1976	Teton Dam in Idaho burst, affecting thousands of Latter-day Saints (June 5) Two revelations accepted for addition to Pearl of Great Price (Apr. 3); later moved to Doctrine and Covenants (June 6, 1979; see D&C 137; 138) Language Training Center constructed in Provo, Utah; later became Missionary Training Center and used to train all missionaries (Oct. 26, 1978) Organization of First Quorum of the Seventy announced (Oct. 1)	Earthquakes in Italy, China, Philippines, Turkey, Bali, and Guatemala killed an estimated 780,000 people <i>U.S. Viking I and II</i> space probes landed on Mars
1977	New format for general conferences announced (Jan. 1): first Sunday in each April and October and preceding Saturday	First space shuttle flight (U.S.) U.S. confirmed testing of neutron bomb
1978	Revelation announced allowing worthy men of all races to receive priesthood (June; see Official Declaration 2) São Paulo Brazil Temple, first in South America, dedicated (Oct. 30)	
1979	1,000th stake organized at Nauvoo, Illinois (Feb. 18) LDS edition of King James Bible published (Sept. 29) Orson Hyde Memorial Gardens on Mount of Olives in Jerusalem dedicated (Oct. 24)	The Shah left Iran, and Ayatollah Khomeini took over Soviet invasion of Afghanistan stirred world protests Partial meltdown at Three-Mile Island (U.S.) nuclear plant released radioactivity into the air Mother Teresa awarded the Nobel Peace Prize Margaret Thatcher became first woman prime minister of Britain

	Church History	World History
1980	Church membership: 4,639,822	World population: 4.45 billion
	Consolidated, three-hour Sunday meeting schedule began in U.S. and Canada (Mar. 2) Church celebrated 150th anniversary (Apr. 6)	Eight-year Iran-Iraq war began <i>Voyager 1</i> photos revealed other moons around Saturn Soviet cosmonauts returned to earth after 185 days on a space station
1981	Threefold mission of the Church proclaimed (Apr. 4) Elder Gordon B. Hinckley called as third counselor in First Presidency (July 23) New version of triple combination published (Sept.)	Ronald W. Reagan became U.S. President (1981–89) IBM introduced first home or personal computer AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus identified Anwar el-Sadat assassinated in Egypt
1982	Church membership reached five million (announced Apr. 1) Term of service for single elders on full-time missions reduced to 18 months (Apr. 2); later changed back to 24 months (Nov. 26, 1984)	Falkland Islands invaded by Argentina Most severe El Niño (1982–83) to date caused worldwide weather anomalies First permanent artificial heart implanted
1983	First regional conference held in London, England (Oct. 16)	Compact disk for public use launched
1984	Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City dedicated (Apr. 4) Area Presidencies appointed (June 24) 1,500th stake organized, Ciudad Obregon Mexico Yaqui Stake, 150 years after first stake was organized in Kirtland, Ohio (Oct. 28)	USSR and other communist bloc countries withdrew from summer Olympic games Toxic gas leak in Bhopal, India, killed over 2,000 people
1985	Freiberg Germany Temple, in then communist-controlled German Democratic Republic, dedicated (June 29) Revised LDS hymnbook published, first in 37 years (Aug. 2) Church Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City dedicated (Oct. 23)	Famine in Ethiopia Mikhail Gorbachev became premier of Soviet Union
	President Spencer W. Kimball died (Nov. 5) Ezra Taft Benson became 13th President of the Church, with Gordon B. Hinckley and Thomas S. Monson as counselors (Nov. 10)	
1986	Seventies quorums in stakes discontinued (Oct. 4)	Nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, Ukraine, exploded; 133,000 evacuated; clouds of fallout affected all of Europe
1987	Church members in Britain commemorated 150th anniversary of first missionary work in Great Britain (July 24–26) Church's Genealogical Department renamed Family History Department (Aug. 15)	
1988	First stake in West Africa organized, Aba Nigeria Stake (May 15) Milestone of 100 million endowments completed for the dead (Aug.) Announcement that Church granted rights for missionary work in German Democratic Republic (Nov. 12)	Earthquake in Armenia killed over 40,000 people
1989	Second Quorum of the Seventy organized (Apr.) Missionaries expelled from West African nation of Ghana (June 14); later allowed to return (Nov. 30, 1990)	Tiananmen Square Massacre in China; 300–400 prodemocracy students killed Oil tanker <i>Valdez</i> hit Alaskan reef, causing one of world's largest oil spills (11 million gallons) Berlin Wall dismantled
1990	Church membership: 7,761,207	World population: 5.28 billion
	Tallin Estonia Branch established; first in Soviet Union (Jan. 28) Church released FamilySearch software package to simplify family history research (Apr. 2)	Hubble telescope launched into space (U.S.) Soviet parliament voted to allow freedom of religious belief
1991	Russian Republic, largest in Soviet Union, granted formal recognition to the Church (June 24) 100th anniversary of founding of the Church in Tonga observed (Aug. 13–27)	South Africa repealed apartheid laws USSR dissolved; became Russian Federation Persian Gulf War
1992	150th anniversary of founding of Relief Society celebrated (Mar. 17) Literacy program sponsored by Relief Society announced (Dec. 15)	Cold War formally ended

	Church History	World History
1993	Refurbished, remodeled Hotel Utah renamed, rededicated the Joseph Smith Memorial Building (June 27) TempleReady computer software announced (Nov. 8)	Public Internet era began Militants bombed World Trade Center, New York City, killing 6 people Channel Tunnel (Chunnel) opened, linking England and France
1994	President Ezra Taft Benson died (May 30) Howard W. Hunter became 14th President of the Church, with Gordon B. Hinckley and Thomas S. Monson as counselors (June 5)	
		Rwandan genocide Nelson Mandela became first black president of South Africa
1995	President Howard W. Hunter died (Mar. 3) Gordon B. Hinckley became 15th President of the Church, with Thomas S. Monson and James E. Faust as counselors (Mar. 12)	
	Position of regional representative discontinued; new position of Area Authority Seventy announced (Apr. 1) First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve issued "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" (Sept. 23)	Yitzhak Rabin assassinated India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons U.S. troops in Bosnia (to 1996) Earthquake in Kobe, Japan, killed over 5,000 people
1996	Majority of members resided outside of U.S. (Feb. 28)	Mad cow disease hit Britain
1997	Area Authority Seventies organized into three new quorums (Apr. 5) Church members throughout the world commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Mormon pioneers' trek west Construction of small temples announced (Oct. 4)	Scientists cloned sheep Control of Hong Kong returned to China
1998	President Hinckley announced that there would be 100 operating temples by the end of 20th century (Apr. 4)	Europeans agreed on the euro as their single currency
1999	Church launched the FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service (May 24) Last general conference held in the Tabernacle (Oct. 2–3)	War in Kosovo Panama took over control of Panama Canal from U.S. Australians voted to retain British monarchy as head of state rather than elect president
2000	Church membership: 11,068,861	World population: 6.79 billion
	First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles issued "The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles" (Jan. 1) First general conference held in new Conference Center (Apr. 1–2); Conference Center dedicated (Oct. 8) The 100 millionth copy of Book of Mormon printed; Book of Mormon printed in its 100th language Membership passes 11 million (Sept.); more non-English-speaking members than English-speaking Boston Massachusetts Temple, 100th operating temple, dedicated (Oct. 1)	
2001	Perpetual Education Fund announced (Mar. 31)	After hijacking airplanes, terrorists crashed them into World Trade Center, New York City; the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; and in a field in Pennsylvania; over 3,000 people killed
2002	Rebuilt Nauvoo Illinois Temple dedicated on 158th anniversary of martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum (June 27)	Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah
2003	President Gordon B. Hinckley and members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles conducted a first-of-its-kind worldwide leadership training broadcast	Invasion of Iraq by U.S. and Allied forces
2004	Church membership in Mexico surpassed 1,000,000	Massive 30-meter tsunami left 230,000 people dead or missing throughout the Indonesian area Massachusetts became the first state in the U.S. to offer legal marriage to same-sex couples

	Church History	World History
2005	200th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith	Death of Pope John Paul II; he played a major role in ending the Cold War and European communism Attacks on London subway trains and a bus killed 56 people, including four bombers with ties to Islamic militants Hurricane Katrina battered Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines (U.S.), resulting in \$60 billion damage and leaving 80% of New Orleans under water
2006	New FamilySearch was made available for all Church members	Violence in Sudan's Darfur region resulted in more than 200,000 deaths
2007		U.S. subprime mortgage crisis triggered financial market turmoil and recession
2008	President Gordon B. Hinckley died (Jan. 27) Thomas S. Monson ordained and set apart as 16th President of the Church, with Henry B. Eyring and Dieter F. Uchtdorf as counselors (Feb. 3)	
	Publication of Santa Biblia, the LDS edition of the Bible in Spanish	Financial crisis seriously impacted world economy
2009	Dedication of the new Church History Library	
2010	Church membership: 14,131,467	World population: 6.85 billion
	Mormon Tabernacle Choir celebrated 100 years of recording	Devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile Thirty-three Chilean miners trapped underground after a cave-in and mining accident captured global attention; an estimated 1 billion people across the planet watched their televised rescue An oil spill released 205.8 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico
2011		Existing governments toppled in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya A 9.0-magnitude earthquake off Japan's northeast coast unleashed a tsunami that left nearly 20,000 people dead or missing; the tsunami triggered the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl after waves knocked out the cooling system at a nuclear power plant
2012	Age of young men eligible for full-time missions lowered from 19 to 18; age for young women lowered from 21 to 19 (Oct.)	U.S. ambassador killed in Libya U.S. space rover <i>Curiosity</i> successfully landed on Mars