



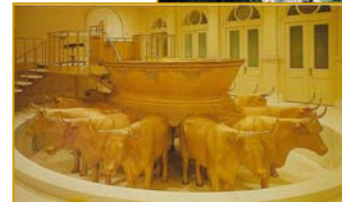
# Family History Quotes Education Week 2007

Barry J. Ewell  
bj57barry@msn.com

## Invitation

- Open your mind to ideas.
- Choose what you need.
- Use what you take.
- Share what you learn.

**A few thoughts to ponder...**

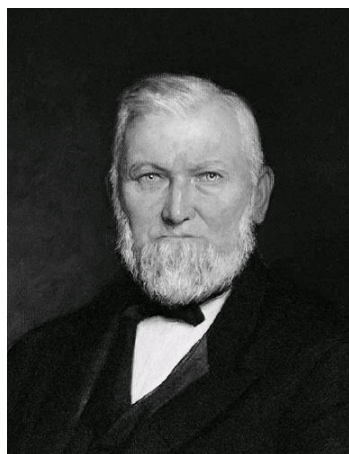




Prophet Joseph Smith

## Greatest responsibility

**“The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead”** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 356).

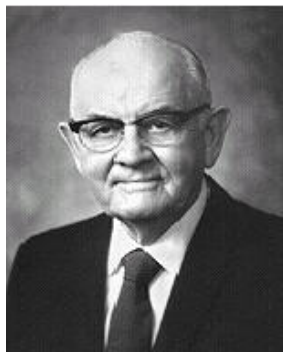


President Wilford Woodruff

## Completion of required ordinances

**“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...This is the will of the Lord to this people”**

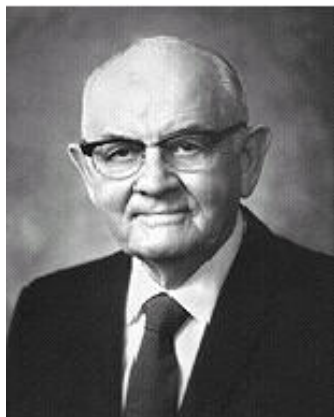
*(The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, 157).*



President Spencer W. Kimball

## Dissolve the artificial boundary line

**“I hope to see us dissolve the artificial boundary line we so often place between missionary work and temple and genealogical work, because it is the same great redemptive work!”** (The Things of Eternity—Stand we in Jeopardy? Ensign, January 1977)



President Spencer W. Kimball

## The angels may quote from it....

**“What could you do better for your children and your children’s children than to record the story of your life...?”**

**“Get a notebook, my young folks, a journal that will last through all time, and maybe the angels will quote from it for eternity. Begin today and write in it your goings and comings, your deepest thoughts, your achievements and your failures, your associations and your triumphs, your impressions and your testimonies”**

**(Kimball, “The Angels May Quote From It,” 5).**



President Joseph Fielding Smith

## Think of them as living

**“Sometimes we look at this work for the salvation of the dead rather narrowly. It is a wrong conception to think of the people for whom we are doing work in the temple of the Lord as being dead. We should think of them as *living*”** (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:130).

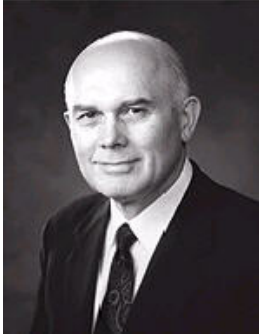


President Joseph Fielding Smith

## Seek after our immediate dead

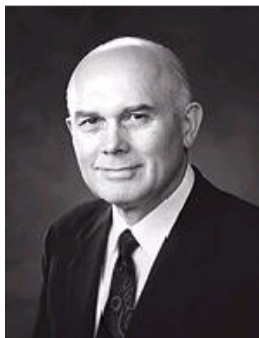
**“The Lord has given the Church the responsibility of preaching the Gospel to the nations of the earth. This is the greatest responsibility of the Church. Men are to be taught the Gospel and called to repentance and warned. When they refuse to heed the warning, they must be left without excuse.**

**“The Lord has also placed upon the individual members of the Church a responsibility. It is our duty as individuals to seek after our immediate dead—those of our own line. This the greatest responsibility that we have and we should carry it through in behalf of four ‘fathers’ who have gone before”** (Smith, “Thoughts on Temple Work and Salvation,” 42-43)



Elder Dallen H. Oaks

**Accomplish the work, not impose guilt**  
**“Our efforts to promote temple and family history work should be such as to accomplish the work of the Lord, not impose guilt on his children.”** (Family History in Wisdom and in Order,” Ensign, June 1989)



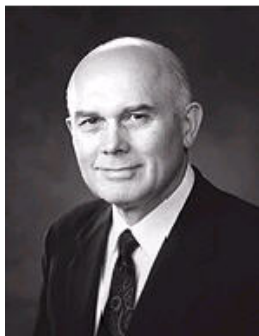
Elder Dallen H. Oaks

## Promptings of the Spirit

**“Leaders should encourage members to determine, according to the promptings of the Spirit, what temple and family history work they can do ‘in wisdom and order’ consistent with their own ‘strength and means.’ ”**

*(Family History in Wisdom and in Order,” Ensign, June 1989)*

See also Mosiah 4:47, D&C 10:4



Elder Dallen H. Oaks

## Do something

**“All members should participate by prayerfully selecting those ways that fit their personal circumstances at a particular time.”**

**“Our effort is not to compel everyone to do everything, but to encourage everyone to do something.”** (Family History in Wisdom and in Order,” Ensign, June 1989)



President Harold B. Lee

## Hearts of the fathers

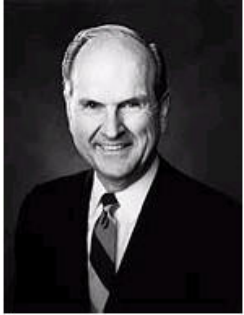
**“Most of the ills that afflict youth today are because of the breakdown in the homes. The hearts of the fathers must be turned to the children to their fathers, if this world is going to be saved and the people prepared for the coming of the Lord.”** (Teaching of Harold B. Lee, 281.)



President Charles W. Penrose

## Pray to the Lord to open the way

**“Let us think over these things, and pray to the Lord to open the way, and the way will be opened by which we will learn about our ancestors. And when the time comes that we have done all we can in a natural way, the veil will be drawn aside, and the Priesthood behind the veil will minister to the Priesthood in the flesh, and reveal many things that we could not ordinarily obtain knowledge of here; but we will get them by this kind of revelation” (Penrose, “Salvation for the Dead,” 18).**

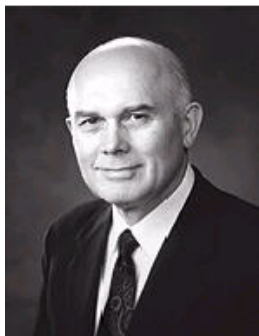


Elder Russell M. Nelson

## Spirit of Elijah

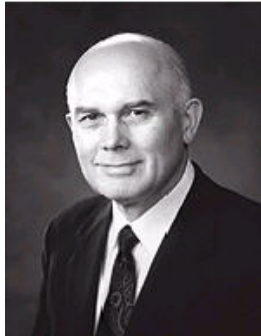
**“The Spirit of Elijah is the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family.”**

**(Missionary Training Center, August 1997)**



Elder Dallen H. Oaks

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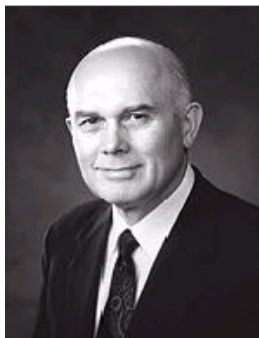


Elder Dallen H. Oakes

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Elder Dallen H. Oakes

## Promptings of the Spirit

**“Leaders should encourage members to determine, according to the promptings of the Spirit, what temple and family history work they can do ‘in wisdom and order’ consistent with their own ‘strength and means.’ ”**

**(Family History in Wisdom and in Order,” Ensign, June 1989)**

**See also Mosiah 4:47, D&C 10:4**

**D&C 128:15**

### **Pertaining to our salvation**

**“Let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and the living, that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers—that they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect.”**

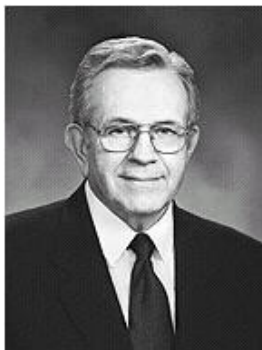


President Boyd K. Packer

## Responsibilities stay about the same

**“There are several basic component parts to the temple work.”**

**“Over the years, they may be rearranged somewhat in emphasis, or the approach in programming Church participation may change somewhat. But the responsibilities stay about the same.”** (Your Family History, Getting Started, Ensign, Aug. 2003 p. 12)

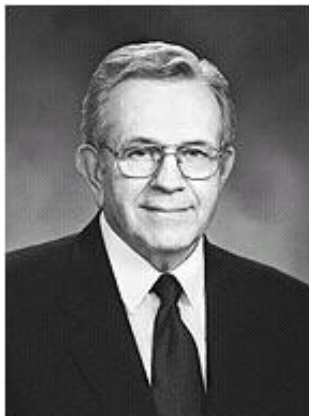


President Boyd K. Packer

## You can do this work

**“Genealogical work has, I fear, sometimes been made to appear too difficult, too involved, and too time consuming to really be inviting to the average Church member.”**

**“You can do this work. You can do it without becoming a so-called ‘expert’ in it.”** (Someone Up There Loves you,” Ensign, Jan 1977, p. 8)

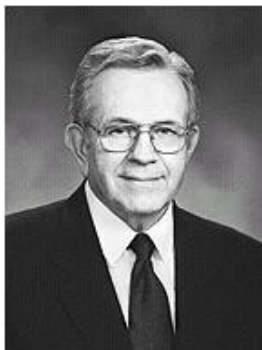


President Boyd K. Packer

## Completion of required ordinances

**“Get a cardboard box. Any kind of a box will do. Put it some place where it is in the way, perhaps on the couch or on the counter in the kitchen—anywhere where it cannot go unnoticed. Then, over a period of a few weeks, collect and put into the box every record of your life, such as your birth certificate, your certificate of blessing, your certificate of baptism, your certificate of ordination, your certificate of graduation. Collect diplomas, all of the photographs, honors, or awards, a dairy if you have kept one, everything that you can find pertaining to *your* life; anything that is written, or registered, or recorded that testifies that you are alive and what you have done.**

**“Don’t try to do this in a day. Take some time on it...Gather all these papers together and put them in the box” (Packer, *The Holy Temple*, 232-33).**

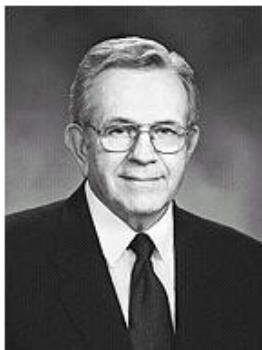


President Boyd K. Packer

## **We are to participate**

**“We are each to participate in other programs such as name extraction when asked to do so.”**

**“We are to organize our families and hold meetings and reunions.”** (Your Family History, Getting Started, Ensign, Aug. 2003 p. 12)



President Boyd K. Packer

## Seek out our kindred dead

**“Each of us is to compile his or her own life history.”**

**“Each of us is to keep a book of remembrance.”**

**“As individuals and families we are each to seek out our kindred dead, beginning first with the four most recent generations on each line, then going back as far as we can.”** (Your Family History, Getting Started, Ensign, Aug. 2003 p. 12)



President Gordon B. Hinckley

## Completion of required ordinances

**“The exaltation of our Father’s children rests upon the completion of required ordinances, if all are to move forward on the road that leads to immortality and eternal life. The determination of accurate family history records and the work which follows in the temple are basic in this vast undertaking which the Lord has placed upon our shoulders”** (Hinckley, “The State of the Church,” 52).



President Gordon B. Hinckley

## Spirit of the sacrifice

**“That which goes on in the House of the Lord, and which must be preceded by research, comes nearer to the spirit of the sacrifice of the Lord than any other activity of which I know.”** (A Century of Family History Service,” Ensign, Mar. 1995)



President Gordon B. Hinckley

**Crowning blessing the church has to offer**  
**“All of our vast family history endeavor is directed to temple work. There is no other purpose for it. The temple ordinances become the crowning blessing the church has to offer.”** (General Conference, April 1998)



President Gordon B. Hinckley

## Accelerated family history work

**“Going hand in hand with this increased temple activity is an increase in our family history work. The computer in its various ramifications is accelerating the work, and people are taking advantage of the new techniques being offered to them. How can one escape the conclusion that the Lord is in all of this? As computer facilities improve, the number of temple grows to accommodate the accelerated family history work” (Hinckley, “Welcome to Conference,” 4-5).**