

Class 3 Theme: Blessing and Strengthening Living Family

“The temple becomes... the bridge from this life to the next. The temple is concerned with things of immortality. We wouldn't have to build a temple for marriages if we didn't believe in the eternity of the family. We build it so the family may be eternal. All of the ordinances which take place in the house of the Lord become expressions of our belief in that fundamental and basic doctrine.” – President Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign, Apr 2002, 3

“I promise you that all who faithfully attend to temple work will be blessed beyond measure. Your families will draw closer to the Lord. Unseen angels will watch over your loved ones when Satanic forces tempt them. The veil will be thin and great spiritual experiences will distill upon this people.” – Vaughn J. Featherstone

“The family is most important in our quest for exaltation in our Heavenly Father's kingdom ... You've had recalled to you something that you've applied only to temple work – the mission of the prophet Elijah where Malachi said, and it has been repeated in a modern revelation: ‘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.’ (D&C 2:1-3)

“Today that scripture undoubtedly has a more significant meaning. Unless the hearts of the children are turned to their parents and the hearts of the parents are turned to their children in this day, in mortality, the earth will be utterly wasted at His coming. There was never a time when so much was needed as today in the homes of the Latter-day Saints and the world generally. 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 their children and the children to their fathers, if this work is going to be saved and the people prepared for the coming of the Lord.”— Harold B. Lee, Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee, -. 129

“The doctrine of the eternal nature of the family is one of the most important and sacred of our teachings. As I learn more about my own ancestors who worked so hard, sacrificed so much, it increases my sense of identity and deepens my commitment to honor their memory. Perhaps there has never been a time when a sense of family, of identity and self worth has been more important to the world. Seeking to understand our family history can change our lives and helps bring unity and cohesion to the family.” – President Gordon B. Hinckley, Deseret News, “Unveiling of a Heritage”, 17 Apr 2001

Assignment

1. Interview a living relative. The older the better.
2. Contact a living relative. Ask about PAF databases, ask for copies.
3. Bring a PAF backup to next class.

Discussion/Theory

How is the living family strengthened by this work? Discussion

Interview a living person

Telephone and ask permission to interview him/her. Before leaving home test the tape recorder and make a list of questions you want to ask. Make an appointment and arrived at their home on time.

Tips for Interviewing

1. Interview your oldest living relatives as soon as possible.
2. Ask “open-ended” questions about family memories, parents and grandparents, school days, vacations, dating, marriage, children, military service or wars, hobbies, and so forth.
3. Preserve the audio or video tapes in a safe place, type a transcription, and share copies with family members.

Interview Methods

Many of us live a considerable distance from these family members, and an immediate trip is not always possible. We shouldn't wait in these cases. A phone call, letter, or e-mail with your questions are other options that can save you from losing the precious memories of older family members who might not be around when the opportunity finally arrives for a trip.

Share Something It can also be helpful to bring along or send copies of the information you have gathered. The benefits of this are threefold. First, you will warm the person to the interview with the gift. Second, it can be a great icebreaker. And third, it can help stir up memories and let the person easily see what you need to find out. Copies of photographs of shared ancestors, ancestral homes, heirlooms, and other “memory triggers” can also help.

Interview a deceased relative.

In order to interview a deceased relative you must search the records they left. Diaries and Journals are wonderful if they can be located. Wills, land deeds, court testimony, statements made for various reasons such as in a census, church record, etc.

THREE WAYS TO SAVE A PAF FILE

•**Backup**- A condensed copy of your entire file. Make a backup every time you add new information to your file.

- a. In **File Menu**, click **Backup**
- b. Save In: 3 ½ floppy (A:)
- c. Click **Backup**

Tip: a Backup file must be **Restored** to use in PAF. A restored file replaces any file by the same name.

•**GEDCOM** - A computer program designed to help one software program read information that was created in another program. You can GEDCOM a whole file or just part of a file. Make a GEDCOM if you wish to share information with relatives or submit information to Pedigree Resource File.

- a. From the **File Menu**, click **Export**.

2. Select an Export To option. If you are sharing with a friend who has PAF, click the version he or she uses. The program will automatically create the best type of GEDCOM for that program.

- c. Click Include options that you want.

- Select Individuals - All if you want to send the whole file. (If you wish to send a partial list, read in the Help screens about GEDCOM and also Focus Lists to better understand that process.)
- Click **Export**
- Save in: 3 ½ floppy (A:) and name file
- Click **Export**

Tip: A GEDCOM file must be **Imported** to use in PAF or another program. A good rule of thumb is to always import into a **New** file. After you have checked the information, made corrections, etc., you can **Export** part or all of it to the A: Drive, then **Import** it into an existing file if you desire to do so.

3. **Save As** - Saves a PAF file on a floppy in the same full-size format as on the hard drive and can be read and edited from floppy drive. Use Save As if the computer you are using will not allow you to put your personal information onto the hard drive.

3. In the **File Menu**, click **Save As**.

4. Save In: 3 ½ floppy (A:) and name file

5. Click **Save**

Tip: A saved file must be Opened to use in PAF

Note: Be sure to check and see if your floppy disk contains the file that you hoped to save

- a. Go to Desktop
- b. Double click on My Computer
- c. Double click on 3 ½ floppy (A:)
 - Backup will have a file extension of .zip
 - GEDCOM will have a file extension of .ged
 - Save As will have a file extension of .paf