

## **Class 6 Theme: Personal Responsibility To Be of Service**

DO TEMPLE WORK IN AN ORDERLY WAY. The kingdom of God is a house of order because all things therein obey the law. The temple of the Lord on earth should also be orderly for the same reason. Temple work should not be done in a haphazard or disorderly way. Those who labor for the dead should endeavor to prepare their records in an orderly and systematic manner.

When names are copied in an improper way and incomplete records are sent to the temples, but one thing will be the result - - confusion. The compilers of records should try to find the information so that records can be made in family groups with all the necessary data for correct identification. When names are taken out of books without any accompany information that will identify them, or show relationship to parents and other members of the family, little, if any, good can follow.

If work in the temples is done for such individuals, it is very incomplete and questionable. When the temple work is limited to baptizing and endowing because other ordinances cannot be performed for lack of information, it will more than likely have to be done over again. In this way the records are burdened with unnecessary matter which cannot be properly arranged.

One of the important phases of gospel living is to involve ourselves in temple and genealogical effort. We know full well that the spirit world is filled with the spirits of men and women who are waiting for you and me to get busy in their behalf. It is a grave responsibility that the Lord has placed upon our shoulders, one that we cannot avoid and for which we stand in jeopardy if we fail to accomplish it. – President Spencer W. Kimball, “Living the Gospel in the Home,” Ensign, May 1978, 100

“That which goes on in the House of the Lord, and which must be preceded by research, comes nearer the spirit of the sacrifice of the Lord than any other activity of which I know. Why? Because it is done by those who give freely of time and substance, without any expectation of thanks or reward, to do for others that which they cannot do for themselves and for which they expect no thanks or recompense: – Gordon B. Hinckley, in “*President Hinckley: Work for Dead Is Essential to Earth’s Purpose*” Church News, 19 Nov. 1994, p. 4.5

“Although temple ordinance can be performed when only the minimum information is available, try to provide as much information about an ancestor as possible. More complete information identifies your ancestor uniquely so that he or she cannot be confused with another person.” A Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (1993) p. 10

### **Assignments**

1. Pray about the completeness of your data and the readiness of the ancestor on the Family Group Sheet you printed.
2. Pray for inspiration in your family history work.
3. Bring PAF backup to next class.

## Discussion/Theory

### **Print out a Family Group sheet for the family you want to work on.**

Do you have sufficient data to properly identify each individual? What else is needed?

### **Really look at data**

Does your timeline reveal missing data. If so where can you locate the needed information? Think this through very carefully. Is all of your information consistent. Is there at least 8/9 months between the births of children or large time gaps between the births of children? Children are generally born about 2 years apart. Is the marriage date of parents on your sheet? Are there any places missing? Have you checked to see if any previous temple work has been done by others or by the family in life? Think of places you can look for records.

### **The Five Step Research Process**

As you do family history research, you will typically follow five steps. These steps, taken in sequence, are called the **research process**. They are:

#### **Step 1: Identify What You Know About Your Family**

- This step includes filling out a pedigree chart and family group records with what you already know about your family.
  - Gathering additional information from home sources and relatives.
  - Organizing your records for easy access.
  - d. Use your PAF file to compile this information.

#### **Step 2: Decide What You Want to Learn About Your Family**

- This step involves selecting a specific ancestor about whom you would like to know more.
- Determining what you would like to know about that ancestor
- Preparing a research log.

#### **Step 3: Select Records to Search**

- This step involves identifying the category of record you need to search in order to find out what you would like to know.
- This record category might be a compiled record.
- Original record.
- A reference source.
- The step then involves identifying the specific record to be searched. Where will I find the record and what information will it give me?
- Describing it in your research log.

#### **Step 4: Obtain and Search the Record**

- This step involves obtaining the record from the Family History Library, or another repository.
- Searching it.
- Recording the results of the search on your log.
- You may also make an extract or photocopy of that information.

### **Step 5: Use the Information**

- This step includes submitting names for temple ordinances.
- Submitting information to Pedigree Resource File.
- Posting information on the Internet.
- Writing a family history.
- Other uses of the information.

Repeat these 5 steps as you continue doing research. The sources below will assist you.

### **3. What records might be available to find the information to fill in the blanks**

The records that are available vary by time periods. It is important to know what years a locality began its record keeping and the type of records they kept. Many foreign countries have State churches where everyone is a member. Parish records are available in those areas, as early as 1545, but in the United States that is not the case. Vital Records for the U.S. did not begin until after 1900, but the census records did— as early as 1790. When one record is not extant another one can be used.

Books and internet sites are available that can give answers about the records available for time periods and localities. Ancestry's *The Source* is very good for the U.S. In our FHC Center we have a good collection of how to books for many countries.