

Class 10 Theme: “When thou art converted...”

“When you help a member trying to do Family History, don’t see that single person. See hundreds and perhaps thousands of their ancestors who will be praying to be found and liberated, and think of the faithful missionaries who have waited with them. As you do, you will feel not only the urgency of your service, but confidence that prayers, some from this side of the veil and more on the other will be answered.” – Elder Henry B. Eyring, *Satellite Training Broadcast*, May 2000

‘The time of harvest is come’ (D&C 101:64). A new era of family history work has arrived. As President Gordon B. Hinckley recently noted, ‘The Lord has inspired skilled men and women in developing new technologies which we can use to our great advantage in moving forward this sacred work.’ Previously, efforts have focused on gathering names and dates and organizing that information. Now, computer products are available that can actually guide you to find your kindred.” – Russell M. Nelson, *Conference Report*, Apr. 1998, 45; or *Ensign*, May 1998, 35

“...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... Members of this church have many individual circumstances – age, health, education... and many others. If we encourage members in this work without taking these individual circumstances into account, we may do more to impose guilt than to further the work.

“ In the work of redeeming the dead there are many tasks to be performed...all members should participate by prayerfully selecting those ways that fit their personal circumstances at a particular time. This should be done under the influence of the Spirit of the Lord... Our effort is not to compel everyone to do everything, but to encourage everyone to do something.

“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’ (see Mosiah 4:27, D&C 10:4).” “There are many different things our members can do to help in the redeeming of the dead, in temple and family history work. Some involve callings. Others are personal. All are expressions of devotion and discipleship. All present opportunities for sacrifice and service.” – Elder Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, June 1989, 6

“There must be this chain in the holy Priesthood; it must be welded together from the latest generation that lives on the earth back to Father Adam, to bring back all that can be saved and placed where they can receive salvation and glory in some kingdom.”

– Brigham Young, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe [1941], p. 407

“Going hand and 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 temples grows to accommodate the accelerated family History work.

– President Gordon B. Hinckley, General Conference, Oct 1999

Assignments

1. Work with others in the family to continue the work.
2. Share the blessings by sharing your information freely.
3. Help others get interested.

Discussion/Theory

Finding the histories of your ancestors.

The Mirror Is Too Small Sometimes it's hard to see the whole picture. When we look into a pocket mirror, what do we see? We see an eye perhaps, but not the whole face. By looking at just a person's eye, can we then envision the whole face accurately? We may be able to deduce that the other eye looks the same, but that may not even be true in all cases. We have to take separate looks at all the parts of the face and piece them together to get a true view of the face. With our family history, the same holds true. One document only gives us that small look at a little piece of our ancestor. For this reason, it's critical that we gather as many records on the individual as we can. Only by putting together all the pieces can we get a more realistic impression of our forebears.