

Please feel free to use these quotes in your work with Family History Patrons or as quotes for your Ward bulletin along with your contact information.

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"The process of finding our ancestors one by one can be challenging but also exciting and rewarding.  
We often feel spiritual guidance as we go to the sources which identify them. Because this is a very spiritual work, we can expect help from the other side of the veil. We feel a pull from our relatives who are waiting for us to find them so their ordinance work can be done. This is a Christlike service because we are doing something for them that they cannot do for themselves."  
James E. Faust, "The Phenomenon That Is You," Ensign, Nov. 2003, 53.

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"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 temples grows to accommodate the accelerated family history work."  
Gordon B. Hinckley General Conference, Oct 1999

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"Now, all you children, are you looking to the salvation of your fathers?... For our fathers did obtain promises that their seed should not be forgotten. O ye children of the fathers, look at these things. You are to enter into the temples of the Lord and officiate for your forefathers."  
-- President Brigham Young J.D. 18:213, August 15, 1876

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"The gospel is now preached to the spirits in prison, and then the time comes for the servants of God to officiate for them, the names of those who have received the gospel in the spirit will be revealed by the angels of God and the spirits of just men made perfect; also the places of their birth, the age in which they lived, and everything regarding them that is necessary to be recorded on earth, and they will then be saved so as to find admittance into the presence of God, with their relatives who have officiated for them." --President Brigham Young J.D. 9:317, July 13, 1862

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"There are evidences that the dead are interested. If we will go forward with the research work the way will be opened on the right and on the left. You will be astonished to find avenues open. The dead know where their records are, so you are to search until you have gone as far as you can.  
When you have done all you can do and have reached the limit, what will happen? As always in the past, man's extremity is god's opportunity. The Lord never helps us while we can help ourselves.  
This is our day. We don't expect Him to do miraculous things that we can do ourselves. When we have done our utmost, then will come God's opportunity. Don't think for a moment that the temples will close. They will go on all through the millennium. Great hosts of the dead in the Spirit World are waiting for this work. Should it not stir us to do everything to relieve them of their distress? I surely should. When we have done our utmost, then will come the day when the authorities that preside on the other side will come and make known all who have received the

gospel in the Spirit World, and everyone entitled to have their temple work done. That is the simplest thing in the world.  
When the Lord is ready, it will be a very simple and very easy. We can speed that day by doing now the work that we can do."

-Melvin J. Ballard, Council of the twelve, Discourse on "The Inspiration of Temple Work."  
" The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, Vol. 23, October, 1932, pp. 148-149

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"Those who give themselves with all their might and main to this work receive help from the other side, and not merely in gathering genealogies. Whoever seeks to help those on the other side receives help in return in all the affairs of life."

(John A. Widstoe, Utah Genealogical & Historical Magazine July 1931 pg. 104)

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From the lesson manual "The Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff"

"Do what you can in this respect, so that when you pass to the other side of the veil your fathers, mothers, relatives, and friends will bless you for what you have done and in as much as you have been instruments in the hands of God in procuring their redemption, you will be recognized as Saviors upon Mount Zion in fulfillment of prophecy." (p. 185).

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President Howard W. Hunter, "We have a work to do,  
Family History Fireside, November 13, 1994

"In recent years we have begun using information technology to hasten the sacred work of providing ordinances for the deceased. The role of technology in this work has been accelerated by the Lord himself, who has had a guiding hand in its developments and will continue to do so. However we stand only on the threshold of what we can do with these tools. I feel that our most enthusiastic projections can capture only a tiny glimpse of how these tools can help us - and of the eternal consequences of these efforts.....

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"You can fulfill your obligation to your kindred dead and to the Lord without forsaking your other Church callings. You can do it without abandoning your family responsibilities. You can do this work. You can do it without becoming a so-called "expert" in it."

Boyd K. Packer, "Someone Up There Loves You," Ensign, Jan. 1977, 8.

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"Every thought or word or act we direct at this sacred work is pleasing to the Lord. Every hour spent on genealogical research, however unproductive it appears, is worthwhile. It is pleasing to the Lord.

It is our testimony to Him that we accept the doctrine of the resurrection and the plan of salvation. It draws us close to those who have gone before. It welds eternal links in family associations and draws us closer to Him who is our Lord."

Elder Boyd K. Packer - The Holy Temple p. 25

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I have a strong feeling that when this life is over, our personal and family histories and the influence they wield will be of much greater importance than we now think. Brethren, this is the work of the Lord.

I testify that he lives and that he has great influence in our lives. May we have this understanding of eternity and see and feel and record his influence in our lives, I do humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen."

John H. Groberg, "Writing Your Personal and Family History," Ensign, May 1980, 48

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Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve said: "In the work of redeeming the dead there are many tasks to be performed, and ... 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: Wisdom and Order," " Ensign, June 1989, 6).

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President Hugh B. Brown declared to a group of us when the Priesthood Genealogy Committee was first organized that missionary work is going forward in the spirit world at an accelerated pace, compared to how it is going forward in our earthly existence...."Through our efforts in their behalf their chains of bondage will fall from them, and the darkness surrounding them will clear away, that light may shine upon them and they shall hear in the spirit world of the work that has been done for them by their children here, and will rejoice with you in your performance of these duties."

Thomas S. Monson, "The Key of Faith," Ensign, Feb. 1994, 2.

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"It was hard to get excited about genealogy work, with its many rules and regulations about commas, periods, and capitalization. The new family history service is quite another matter. It deals with loving, caring, feeling ancestors beyond the veil. Now, Richard Talbot, John Dunkerson, and Abraham Salee are not just names on a slip of paper for me to receive their temple ordinances. These are ancestors I love through temple work. They, in turn, have influenced my life. I find traits displayed in their purposeful lives woven into the fabric of my own character. Begin this work, and you will know why the Lord said, 'The hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.'" (D&C 2:2.)

Richard G. Scott, "Redemption: The Harvest of Love," Ensign, Nov. 1990, 5.

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"In the past, motivated by a deep conviction of the sanctity of the work, individuals have valiantly faced a challenge that seemed like single handedly endeavoring to harvest all the grain in Nebraska.

Now, many mighty combines are at work. Together we will accomplish the work. ... Perhaps you have been prompted to look for ancestors but feel that you are not a genealogist. Can you see that you don't have to be anymore? It all begins with love and a sincere desire to help those who can't help themselves."

Richard G. Scott, "Redemption: The Harvest of Love," Ensign, Nov. 1990, 5.

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President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve:

"No work is more of a protection to this church than temple work and the genealogical research that supports it. No work is more spiritually refining.

No work we do gives us more power"  
("The Holy Temple," Ensign, Feb. 1995, 36).

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"My grandfather's watch reminds me that our grandparents watch-and wait-for us to identify them, be linked to them, and provide temple ordinances for them."  
Russell M. Nelson, "A New Harvest Time," Ensign, May 1998, 34.

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"Ordinances and covenants become our credentials for admission into His presence. To worthily receive them is the quest of a lifetime; to keep them thereafter is the challenge of mortality. Once we have received them for ourselves and for our families, we are obligated to provide these ordinances vicariously for our kindred dead, indeed for the whole human family. Now, there are those who scoff at the idea of vicarious ordinances performed for the salvation of souls.

They think it all to be very strange. No thinking Christian should be surprised at such a doctrine. Was not the sacrifice of Christ a vicarious offering for and in behalf of all mankind? The very Atonement was wrought vicariously. The Lord did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Is it not Christ like for us to perform in the temples ordinances for and in behalf of those who cannot do them for themselves?"

Boyd K. Packer, "Covenants," Ensign, May 1987, 22.

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"The Lord in his wisdom has provided a way for man to be happy on this earth, and to continue that joy on through all eternity; the greatest joy and happiness comes through the family unit. It has been so through all mortality. Then why will it not be so in the next life? This family unit is so important that the Lord has made it known to us that all the families of the earth must be sealed together. By the time of the end of the millennium, all of Adam's posterity who accept the gospel must be sealed together as one family by the power of the priesthood, which is the power to seal on earth, and it shall be sealed in heaven, and to bind on earth, and it shall be bound in heaven."  
Eldred G. Smith, "Family Research," Ensign, Nov. 1975, 106.

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Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve.... Thinking of our task of saving the billions of souls who have lived on the earth, he said: "One day while pondering prayerfully on this matter I came to a realization that there is something that any one of us can do for all who have died. I came to see that any one of us, by himself, can care about them, all of them, and love them. That came as a great inspiration, for then I knew there was a starting point."  
("That They May Be Redeemed," Regional Representatives' seminar, 1 April 1977.)

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"This work, unselfishly given in behalf of those on the other side, comes nearer to the unparalleled vicarious work of the Savior than any other of which I know.... by making available, to those in another sphere, those gospel ordinances required of all if they are to move forward on the way of eternal life."

(President Gordon B. Hinckley, November Ensign 1985 pg. 60.)

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"The responsibility of doing work for our dead rests with equal force on all. It matters not else what we have been called to do, or what position we may occupy, or how faithful in other ways

we have labored in the church, none is exempt from this great obligation. It is required of the apostle as well as the humblest elder. Place, distinction, or long service on the church, in the mission field, the Stakes of Zion, or where or how else it may have been, will not entitle one to disregard the salvation of one's dead." (President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation* vol. 2 pg. 148-149.)

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"Our members need to be taught that it is not sufficient for a husband and wife to be sealed in the temple to guarantee their exaltation-they must also be eternally linked with their progenitors and see that the work is done for those ancestors. They without us,' said the Apostle Paul, 'cannot be made perfect-neither can we without our dead be made perfect' (D&C 128:15). Our members should therefore understand that they have an individual responsibility to see that they are linked to their progenitors" (Ezra Taft Benson, regional representatives' seminar, 3 Apr. 1981, 2).

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Boyd K. Packer, ""Someone Up There Loves You," *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 8  
There somehow seems to be the feeling that genealogical work is an all-or-nothing responsibility. Genealogical work is another responsibility for every Latter-day Saint. And we may do it successfully along with all the other callings and responsibilities that rest upon us.

The bishop can do it without neglecting his flock. A stake missionary can do it without abandoning his mission. A Sunday School teacher can accomplish it without forgetting his lesson. A Relief Society president can do it without forsaking her sisters. You can fulfill your obligation to your kindred dead and to the Lord without forsaking your other Church callings. You can do it without abandoning your family responsibilities. You can do this work. You can do it without becoming a so-called "expert" in it.

Many members live far from a temple. Some are not able to attend, ever, and others only rarely. And yet Latter-day Saints have a feeling for the word temple and are drawn to it. Somehow temples and temple work are such a part of us that we find very few, if any, who object to the work, who resist it, or who are against it.

It is not likely that you need to be converted to genealogical work. There are very few in the Church who need to be converted to it. Most of us really don't understand the procedures, but somehow we sense that it is an inspired, spiritual work.

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They will continue to stand in jeopardy until the gospel is taken to them in such a way that they are willing either to receive it or reject it. This responsibility also places us in jeopardy so far as missionary work is concerned if we don't share the gospel with them. At the same time, we as members of the Church also stand in jeopardy if we do not do our temple work. Much of our time is taken up with the mundane details of everyday living, which must be done, of course; but those who are members of His kingdom at this critical time should endeavor to give much time and effort to this important work.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, Jan 1977, 3

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I testify that when we do all we can to accomplish the work that is before us, the Lord will make available to us the sacred key needed to unlock the treasure which we so much seek. **-President Thomas S. Monson**

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President Henry B. Eyring, "Hearts Bound together" Ensign May 2005  
"Your opportunities and the obligations they create are remarkable in the whole history of the world. There are more temples across the earth than there ever have been. More people in all the world have felt the Spirit of Elijah move them to record the identities and facts of their ancestors' lives.  
There are more resources to search out your ancestors than there have ever been in the history of the world. The Lord has poured out knowledge about how to make that information available worldwide through technology that a few years ago would have seemed a miracle."

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***"Oh I wish we could see and know the things of God as they do who are laboring for the salvation of the human family who are in the Spirit World; for if this were so, this whole people, with very few exceptions, would lose all interest in the riches of the world, and instead thereof their whole desires and labors would be directed to redeem their dead." Wilford Woodruff***

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***President Hinckley said, "In this work there must be commitment. We are engaged in a great eternal struggle that concerns the very souls of the sons and daughters of God. We are not losing. We will continue to win if we will be faithful and true. We can do it. We must do it. There is nothing the Lord has asked of us that in faith we cannot accomplish." (Ensign June 2007)***

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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 2:13).

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"Among the first in this dispensation to sow seeds of interest in family history were the brothers Orson and Parley P. Pratt, members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Their efforts resulted in a Pratt family genealogy and the performance of temple ordinances for about 3,000 of their ancestors.

"Yet there were many Church members who did not fully understand the responsibility for their own kindred. President Wilford Woodruff was so concerned that he made the issue a matter of fervent prayer. Then, at April 1894 general conference, he presented a revelation to the membership of the Church. From it I quote: '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 his people' (The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, sel. G. Homer Durham [1946], 157)."  
Russell M. Nelson,, "A New Harvest Time," Ensign, May 1998, 34

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The Lord through his servants has invited each of us and our families to see that the temple ordinances are performed for our ancestors.

Elder Mark E. Petersen has emphasized: What is our obligation then? Each one of us if we pretend to obey the gospel at all must search out our dead and have these saving ordinances performed for them.

Many suppose that they are discharging their responsibilities by simply going to the temple. But that is not wholly true. We must go to the temple, of course, and often. If we do not as yet have the records of our own dead kindred, then while we search for them, by all means let us help others with theirs. But be it understood that if we go to the temple, and not for our own dead, we are performing only a part of our duty, because we are also required to go there specifically to save our own dead relatives and bind the various generations together by the power of the holy priesthood.

We must disabuse our minds of the idea that merely going to the temple discharges our full responsibility, because it does not. That is not enough.

God holds each of us responsible for saving our own kindred specifically our own. (Ensign, May 1976, pp. 1516.)

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President Joseph Fielding Smith, discoursing on this subject at one time, said:

It matters not what else we have been called to do, or what position we may occupy, or how faithfully in other ways we have labored in the Church, none are exempt from this great obligation [of performance of temple work for the dead].

It is required of the apostle as well as of the humblest elder, Place, or distinction, or long service in the Church, in the mission field, the Stakes of Zion, or where or how else it may have been will not entitle one to disregard the salvation of ones dead.

Some may feel that if they pay their tithing, attend their regular meetings and other duties, give of their substance to feed the poor, perchance spend one or two or more years preaching in the world, that they are absolved from further duty.

But the greatest and grandest duty of all is to labor for the dead. We may and should do

all these other things, for which reward will be given, but if we neglect the weightier privilege and commandment, notwithstanding all other good works, we shall find ourselves under severe condemnation. (Seeking after Our Dead, Genealogical Society of Utah, 1928, pp. 3536.)

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"Family history work has the power to do something for the dead. It has an equal power to do something to the living. Family history work of Church members has a refining, spiritualizing, tempering influence on those who are engaged in it. They understand that they are tying their family together, their living family here with those who have gone before."  
Boyd K. Packer, "Your Family History: Getting Started," Ensign, Aug. 2003, 12

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"It does not matter whether your computer is able to compile all the family group sheets for everyone that ever lived on the earth, it remains the responsibility of each individual to know his kindred dead. . . . Even if the work is done, then it is still each persons responsibility to study and become acquainted with his ancestors."  
(Joseph Fielding Smith, Hearts Turned to the Fathers, page 184)

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"The Lord will not tamper with our agency. If we want a testimony of family history and temple work, we must do something about that work."  
" Boyd K. Packer, "Your Family History: Getting Started," Ensign, Aug. 2003, 12.

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"Furthermore, the dead are anxiously waiting for the Latter-day Saints to search out their names and then go into the temples to officiate in their behalf, that they may be liberated from their prison house in the spirit world. All of us should find joy in this magnificent labor of love."  
Howard W. Hunter, "A Temple-Motivated People," Liahona, May 1995, 3.

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"Jesus had not finished his work when his body was slain, neither did he finish it after his resurrection from the dead; although he had accomplished the purpose for which he then came to the earth, he had not fulfilled all his work. And when will he? Not until he has redeemed and saved every son and daughter of our father Adam that have been or ever will be born upon this earth to the end of time, except the sons of perdition. That is his mission. We will not finish our work until we have saved ourselves, and then not until we shall have saved all depending upon us; for we are to become saviors upon Mount Zion, as well as Christ. We are called to this mission." Joseph F. Smith - New Era, March 2005

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