

... the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. (D&C 2:2)

Minneola Ward Survey June 2007

Following the First Vision in 1820 Joseph Smith continued to pursue his common vocation in life until the 21st of September 1823. That night he supplicated God for forgiveness of his sins and follies and a manifestation. He was visited by the angel Moroni who said God had a work for him to do; that his name should be had for good and evil; that Joseph was to translate the Book of Mormon; and then he was taught the first principle of this dispensation – that Elijah was to return. *“If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.”* (JS history 27-39)

Of this President Gordon B. Hinckley said, *““It is tremendously significant to me that this declaration, this repetition of the wondrous words of Malachi concerning work for the dead, was given to the boy Joseph **four years before** he was allowed to take the plates from the hill. It was given before he received the priesthood, before he was baptized, and well before the church was organized. It says much concerning the priority of this work in the plan of the Lord. 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... Great is our mission and tremendous our responsibility!”*

God covenanted with Abraham and again with his sons Isaac and Jacob that we in the latter days would provide temple ordinances to their posterity. (Abraham 2:6-11, D&C 132:29-50).

Of this work the Lord has spoken plainly. In the 128th section of the Doctrine & Covenants, given the year before his martyrdom, Joseph wrote the Church and in verses 15 & 18 he again appeals for us to do this work.

We are under covenant to *turn our hearts to our fathers.*

Members should focus on Three Basic Temple and Family History **Responsibilities**:

1. Receive Their Own Temple Ordinances and Help Immediate Family Member to Receive Theirs.
2. Hold a Current Temple Recommend and Attend the Temple Regularly.
Our Stake President has asked us to attend the Temple at least monthly.
3. Accurately identify their kindred dead, request temple ordinances as needed, and provide these ordinances by proxy if possible. As a beginning, identify four generations of their ancestors.

In addition, members may participate in other aspects of temple and family history work in the following ways:

- Do research to identify ancestors beyond the first four generations.
- Volunteer to serve in the FamilySearch indexing program - www.familysearchindexing.org (computer process on the Internet you can do in your home or at the Family History Center which extracts family history information from digital images of historical documents to create indexes.)
- Participate in family organizations to identify and provide ordinances for all related descendants of your ancestors.
- Serve as missionaries in temple or family history work.
- Keep personal journals and prepare personal and family histories.
- Encourage others (including nonmembers) to prepare their family history.

Each of us should have accurate records of the first four generations of our ancestors in our personal possession as a beginning. We are going to be asked to submit our computer family history records to the new FamilySearch database within this year.

It is the desire of the ward Priesthood Executive Committee to serve this purpose.
We invite you to please complete the attached survey and return it to Terry Mason, FH consultant.

Minneola Ward June 2007 -- Family History survey

Name: _____

(Please return this sheet to Terry Mason)

1. Concerning the first four generations of your ancestors, reflect if you have *accurate* and *complete* records in your personal possession, with completed temple ordinances.
 - a. Do you have a family group sheet containing each of your immediate family members?
 Yes
 No
 - b. Do you have a family group sheet listing all members of your parents' family, including all brothers & sisters and their spouses?
 Yes
 No
 - c. Do you have a family group sheet listing all members of your Grandparents' families, including all your aunts & uncles and their spouses?
 Yes
 No
 - d. Do you have a family group sheet listing all members of your Great Grandparents' families, including all your great aunts & uncles and their spouses?
 Yes
 No
2. Do you have all of the above records in a computer family history program like PAF?
 Yes If yes, name of program: _____
 No
3. Do you have a home computer with Internet access?
 Yes
 No (If no, would you like to use one in the Family History Center? _____)
4. Have you registered on the Church family history FamilySearch.org web site?
 Yes
 No
5. Would you like to participate in FamilySearch indexing? (Explanation on other page.)
 Yes
 No
6. Would you like a family history consultant to call upon you in the next few months and help you identify ancestors that you might provide ordinances for them?
 Yes
 No

Be sure to sign your name at the top of this page and return to Terry Mason.

(Indicate additional family history needs you have or make comments on the back of this page.)