



Conference on Family History and Genealogy

July 29–August 1, 2008

Theme: Strengthening Ties That Bind Families Together Forever

The 40th annual Brigham Young University Conference on Family History and Genealogy will be held over four days, from July 29 through August 1, 2008, in the BYU Conference Center.

The 2008 conference keynote speakers will be:

President Merrill J. Bateman
Don Anderson, Family History Department Division Director, FHL/WWS
Paul Allen, CEO of FamilyLink.com, Inc.

More than 100 classes will be offered throughout the conference, allowing participants to gain new skills and helpful information. Class topics include Beginning Family History, Family History Center Support, Computers and New Programs, Europe/Nordic Research, British Research, U.S. Research, Methodology, and Publishing Family Histories. We invite you to attend the conference to learn new techniques and to build and strengthen your family ties through genealogy and family history.

Evening Classes

Eighteen popular daytime classes will be offered Wednesday and Thursday nights for those who cannot attend during the day.

Click [here](#) for the evening class schedule.

New Course for Beginning Genealogists

We have developed five new classes which will be held on Tuesday, July 29, just for beginners new to family history work. These classes will cover the basics of how to begin research, where to start, and what basic forms and programs are available to help. Seating for these classes is on a first-come, first-served basis until the class is full. **Pre-registration is required.**

New FamilySearch Classes

Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center.

(Please note: This class will enable you to experience and use new FamilySearch for the lab session only, it will not give you a permanent new FamilySearch account. Individuals and Consultants will receive their real new FamilySearch accounts when it is released in their temple district.)

Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number which are used as credentials to register for the program. We recommend that you bring a copy of your Individual Ordinance Summary to the lab class. You may obtain this from your ward clerk.

A list of all the new FamilySearch classes and other classes being offered are listed under the [2008 schedule](#) on this Web Site.

Financial aid is available to conference participants. If interested please call 801-422-4853.





CONFERENCE ON Family History & Genealogy

July 29

Food and Housing

Food

Meals are on your own. You may purchase \$25 or \$45 Signature cards to be used at any campus establishment that accepts them (e.g., Creamery, Morris Center, Wilkinson Student Center, etc.). There are modest discounts for using the Signature card at the Morris Center instead of paying at the door. You may add the Signature card option when you register.

On-Campus Housing

Individual Housing

We have a limited number of rooms available in BYU's residence halls. The cost for campus housing is \$95 for five nights of lodging. (You must pay for all five nights) Check in is Monday, July 29, 2008, and check out is Saturday August 2, 2008.

Married Couples Housing

Due to campus construction there are no married couples housing rooms available during this conference.

Off-Campus Accommodations

Hotel List

Please tell the reservation agent that you will be attending the BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy July 29–August 1, 2008.

Orem La Quinta Inn and Suites
521 West University Parkway
Orem, Utah 84058
1-801-224-0440
1-800-531-5900

Provo Best Western CottonTree Inn
2230 N. University Ave.
Provo, Utah 84604
1-801-373-7044
Web Site: www.BWCottonTreeInn.com

Provo Courtyard Marriott
1600 N. Freedom Blvd.
Provo, Utah 84604
1-801-373-2222
1-800-321-2211
Web site: cwp.marriott.com/slcpr/familyhistoryconfbyu

Provo Super 8
1555 N. Canyon Road
Provo, Utah 84604
1-801-374-6020

Provo Holiday Inn
1460 S. University Ave.
Provo, Utah 84601
1-801-374-9750
Fax: 1-801-377-1615
www.holiday-inn.com/provout



Residence Inn, Marriott
252 W 2230 N
Provo, Utah 84604
1-801-374-1000
1-866-284-8956 Toll Free
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/slcpo-residence-inn-provo/>



CONFERENCE ON Family History & Genealogy

July 29

Schedule

To print the schedule [click here](#) 

Tuesday July 29,2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote President Merrill J. Bateman		
Tracks	Preserving Your Heritage	Computer/Internet	United States/Canada
9:45 - 10:45	Photographic Treasures: Bringing Your Research Into Focus Michael L. Strauss	Ten Great LDS Family History Databases You've Got To Try Devin Ashby	Maps, Atlases, Gazetteers Mary E. V. Hill
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Humor, Drama, Suspense: Capture It All With PowerPoint Nancy Waters Lauer	Gadgetology 101: Cool Tools for Gadget Lovers Alan Mann	What is Fee Simple Absolute? How Understanding Legal Land Concepts Helps Research George R. Ryskamp
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	One Approach to Writing Your Family History David Appleton	From BLM to Google Earth - Finding Your Ancestor's Land and Land Records Terry Nels Lee	Why Look There When My Ancestors Made No Will: American Probate Records George R. Ryskamp
2:45 - 3:45	Getting More Life Out Of Your Hand-me-down Genes: Using Family Health History To Enrich Your Genealogy Records Jenny Johnson	Tips for Using the Internet More Effectively Alan Mann	Up In Smoke! What To Do When the Courthouse Burns Peggy Clemens Lauritzen
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	Tips for Making a Family History Interview Better Mary H. Slawson	A Goldmine of Data - The Family History Library Catalog Gary Bryant Pack	Homespun and Calico Peggy Clemens Lauritzen
Vendor Demos 5:15 - 6:15	Family Pursuit Demo	World Vital Records Demo	Incline Software Demo

- Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center.
- Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. **To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program.**

Tuesday July 29,2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote President Merrill J. Bateman.		
Tracks	Beginners Tracks	Methodology	British Research
9:45 - 10:45	Beginning Basics Kelly Summers and C. Lynn Anderson	Historical Context - An Important Key in Unlocking Ancestral Mysteries Baerbel K. Johnson	Getting Started in England Research Echo King
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Let's Begin Researching Kelly Summers and C. Lynn Anderson	Effectively Tapping into Historical Societies and Libraries Barry J. Ewell	Who's the Father? Finding the Fathers of Illegitimate Children in England Dan Poffenberger
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	Looking for Clues Kelly Summers and C. Lynn Anderson	Genealogist's Cookbook: How to Ask the Right Genealogical Questions Barry J. Ewell	Tracing Elusive pre-1837 Ancestry in England Phill Dunn
2:45 - 3:45	What's Missing? What Records Will Give Me the Answers I Need? Kelly Summers and C. Lynn Anderson	Organizing Sources and Dispelling Myths Barbara J. Starkey	Surfin' Ancestry.co.uk: Getting the Most Out Of Ancestry's English Databases Dan Poffenberger
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	What if I Can't Get Vital or Church Records? Kelly Summers and C. Lynn Anderson	Becoming a Professional Genealogist: Preparation and Credentialing George R. Ryskamp	Vanishing Act! Tracing Elusive Ancestry in London & Other Big Cities Phill Dunn
Vendor Demos 5:15 - 6:15	US FamilyTree.com Demo	Life Story Productions Demo	Roots Magic Demo
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Wednesday July 30,2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote Don Anderson, Family History Department Division Director, FHL/WWS		
Tracks	Family History Department	Computer/Technology/Internet	United States/Canada
9:45 - 10:45	The New FamilySearch: Informed and Knowledgeable Jim Greene	Capturing the Image: Digital Photography and Scanning for the Genealogist Barry J. Ewell	Using U.S. Territorial Records to Expand Your Pedigree Karen Clifford
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	FamilySearch Wiki Michael Ritchey	Eleven Layers of On-line Searches Barbara Renick	U.S. Vital Records Mary E. V. Hill
12:00 - 1:30	Luncheon Speaker: Daniel Poffenberger—Funny Names and Other Funny Finds		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		

1:30 - 2:30	What's New at FamilySearch? Steve W. Anderson	Moving new FamilySearch to a Freely Editable, Freely Open, Wiki-style System Ronald M. Tanner	Justice for All: American Court Records George R. Ryskamp
2:45 - 3:45	The new FamilySearch: Informed and Knowledgeable Jim Greene	The Internet for Beginners Barbara Renick	Advanced and Expert Analysis and Use of U.S. Federal and State Censuses Stephen K. Ehat
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	Record Search Overview Tim Crabb	What's New at FamilySearch? Steve W. Anderson(Repeat)	Southern States Research Methods Combined Karen Clifford
Vendor Demos 5:15 - 6:15	Heritage Makers Demo	Incline Software Demo	World Vital Records Demo

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Wednesday July 30, 2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote Don Anderson, Family History Department Division Director, FHL/WWS		
Tracks	International	Methodology	British
9:45 - 10:45	Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research Leslie Albrecht Huber	12 Sons Named George - Naming Conventions of Our Ancestors Nancy Waters Lauer	A Comparative Look at English Research for U.S. Genealogists Nathan William Murphy
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Understanding How to Use Reference and Research Tools in German Research Larry Jensen	Genealogist's Cookbook: Planning and Preparing for Successful Research Barry Ewell	Reading the Old Handwriting Just Got Easier Vona Williams
12:00 - 1:30	Luncheon Speaker: Barbara Renick—The Perils of Pursuing Pedigrees		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	Understanding German Jurisdictions Larry Jensen	The Effectiveness of Staying Organized Karen Clifford	Basic Overview of Scottish Research Vona Williams
2:45 - 3:45	So You Think You Want to Get Married - Marriage Laws and Customs in Germany Baerbel K. Johnson	15 Minute Family History Kim Woodbury & Deb Lambert	Scotland Research on the Internet Barbara Baker
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	Internet Sources for Locating Your German Ancestor's Town of Origin Baerbel K. Johnson	Preposterous, Possible or Proved? Concepts for Evaluating Evidence in Genealogical Research George R. Ryskamp	Your Family is Scottish? Things You Need to Know Vona Williams

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- Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. **To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program.**

Thursday July 31,2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote Paul Allen, CEO of FamilyLink.com, Inc.		
Tracks	Family History Consultants	Computers/Technology/ Internet	Immigration/Emigration/ Migration
9:45 - 10:45	New Resources for Teaching Family History Classes Todd Jones & Stephen F. Anderson	Can Archiving Save Space, Time, Money, and Your Marriage? Judy Jones	The Sail Before the Trail: The Mormon Immigration Index Fred E. Woods
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Family History Consultant Training, Part 1 - Helping Family History Happen Stephen C. Young	Using Your Digital Camera to Copy Records Mary E. V. Hill	Finding the Place of Origin of your Immigrant Ancestor Ruth Ellen Maness
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	Family History Consultant Training, Part 2 - Helping Members Merrill White	Search Engines: Getting More from Google and Using More than Google Alan Mann	Tracing 19th Century Immigrants Karen Clifford
2:45 - 3:45	Help Resources for Consultants Sandra Joseph	101 MSWord 2007 Tips & Tricks for Genealogists Nancy Waters Lauer	Crossing the Ocean with the Internet Leslie Albrecht Huber
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	Bringing Priesthood Leaders and Family History Workers Together Arthur Johnson	A New Strategic Research Log: Quick Links to Documents David Perry	My Ancestor Came to Colonial America as an Indentured Servant Nathan W. Murphy
Vendor Demos 5:15 - 6:15	Life Story Productions	Ohana Software Demo	Roots Magic Demo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center. • Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program. 			

Thursday July 31,2008 8:30 - 9:30	Keynote Paul Allen, CEO of FamilyLink.com, Inc.		
Tracks	International	Methodology	British
9:45 - 10:45	Scandinavian Research (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) Part 1 Mel Stephensen	Going in Through the Back Door and Rear Window Research Techniques Virginia Ackerson	Irish Civil Registrations of Birth, Marriages and Deaths David S. Ouimette

10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Scandinavian Research (Norway, Sweden, Denmark) Part 2 Mel Stephensen	Beginner's Guide to Surnames: Their Origin and Evolution by Country Mary Slawson	Irish Censuses and Census Substitutes David S. Ouimette
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	The Handwriting Workshop - Reading the Records of Your European Ancestors Part 1 Ruth Ellen Maness	How to Organize Your Own and Extended Family Robert R. Dunford	What's New in Irish Family History on the Internet David S. Ouimette
2:45 - 3:45	The Handwriting Workshop - Reading the Records of Your European Ancestors Part 2 Ruth Ellen Maness	Evaluating What You Have Found: The Third Stage of Research Barbara Renick	Church of Ireland Records David S. Ouimette
3:00 - 4:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
4:00 - 5:00	Understanding Your Western European Ancestors Leslie Albrecht Huber	Citing Sources for Beginners Barbara Renick	Eighteenth Century Record Sources in Ireland David S. Ouimette
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center. • Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program. 			

Friday August 1 ,2008			
Tracks	Preserving Your Heritage	Computer/Technology/Internet	United States/Canada
8:30 - 9:30	Creating, Improving and Publishing Your Family History Lorinda Mann	Getting the Most Out of the Family History Library Catalog: A Professional Researcher's Tips and Tricks Dan Poffenberger	Researching Your Civil War Ancestor - A Comprehensive Study Michael L. Strauss
9:45 - 10:45	Creating a Family Archive Stephen F. Anderson	Online Resources for Scandinavian Genealogy Jennifer Hansen	Research Helps for U.S. Research: How to Recognize Your Ancestor C. Lynn Anderson
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	Using the Internet to Create and Support a Family Archive Stephen F. Anderson	Capturing the Interest of Your Family with Fun Photo Presentations Raymon Naisbitt	The National Archives - A Wealth of Information Barbara J. Starkey
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	Organizing a Family Reunion that Strengthens Family Ties CindyLee Butler Banks	How to Use Free or Low-Cost On-Line Meeting Services Robert R. Dunford	Draper Manuscripts: A Million Names in the South and Midwest Mary E. V. Hill

2:45 - 3:45	New Ways to Publish Your Family History Fran Jensen	Will Your Work Survive the Digital Age? Janet Hovorka	Little Known Mid-West Records and Where to Find Them Virginia L. Ackerson
4:00	Conference Concludes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center. • Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program. 			

Friday August 1,2008			
Tracks	Immigration/Emigration/ Migration	Methodology	British
8:30 - 9:30	Voyage to America Leslie Albrecht Huber	Doing Family History from Home CindyLee Butler Banks	A New Look at English Research on the Internet Alan Mann
9:45 - 10:45	Do People Leave Home When Times Are Good? Barbara Hovorka	All in a Day's Work: Occupational Genealogical Research Michael L. Strauss	Using English Court Records Katy Naef
10:00 - 11:30	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
11:00 - 12:00	U.S. Naturalization Records Carol E. Smith	Using Indirect Evidence and the Genealogical Proof Standard to Solve Tough Research Problems James Ison	The Heralds' Visitations: An Often Overlooked Genealogical Resource David B. Appleton
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch (On Your Own)		
12:45 - 2:15	* Family Search Hands-on-lab		
1:30 - 2:30	Migration Trails to the Ohio Peggy Clemens Lauritzen	The Big Family Reunion: A Look at Descendancy Research Kelly R. Summers	Solving Research Problems Using Probate Records Eva Benson
2:45 - 3:45	Is There an Index to THE Index of the Immigrant Index Barbara Hovorka	How to Use Today's Modern Miracles, Electronic Media - an Overview Robert R. Dunford	British Census Research and Civil Registration Online Lorinda Mann
4:00	Conference Concludes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wondering what the new FamilySearch looks like and how it works? Experience it in our hands-on new FamilySearch classes taught in computer classrooms. These labs will be in the Harold B Lee Library, not the Conference Center. • Each conference participant is invited to choose and attend one lab that fits their schedule. These labs must be registered for before the conference begins. If a lab is full please select another time. To register for these classes you must have an LDS membership number and your confirmation date which are used as credentials to register for the program. 			

EVENING COURSES

Wednesday July 30, 2008			
5:30 - 6:30	The New FamilySearch: Informed and Knowledgeable Jim Greene	Ten Great LDS Family History Databases You've Got to Try Devin Ashby	Understanding How to Use Reference and Research Tools in German Research Larry Jensen

6:45 - 7:45	Record Search Overview Steve W. Anderson	Gadgetology 101: Cool Tools for Gadget Lovers Alan Mann	15 Minute Family History Kim Woodbury & Deb Lambert
8:00 - 9:00	What's New at FamilySearch? Jim Greene	Photographic Treasures: Bringing Your Research Into Focus Michael L. Strauss	Who's the Father? Finding the Fathers of Illegitimate Children in England Dan Poffenberger

Thursday July 31, 2008			
5:30 - 6:30	Family History Consultant Training, Part 1 - Helping Family History Happen Stephen C. Young	Search Engines: Getting More from Google and Using More than Google Alan Mann	Eleven Layers of On-line Searches Barbara Renick
6:45 - 7:45	Family History Consultant Training, Part 2 - Helping Members Merrill White	Getting the Most Out of the Family History Library Catalog: A Professional Researcher's Tips and Tricks Dan Poffenberger	Doing Family History from Home CindyLee Butler Banks
8:00 - 9:00	Using Indirect Evidence and the Genealogical Proof Standard to Solve Tough Research Problems James Ison	101 MSWord 2007 Tips & Tricks for Genealogists Nancy Waters Lauer	Researching Your Civil War Ancestor - A Comprehensive Study Michael L. Strauss



CONFERENCE ON Family History & Genealogy

July 29

Registration

Noncredit

\$175—includes a paper syllabus

Credit

\$322—includes a paper syllabus (2 credits of History 481R—Family History Directed Research)

Syllabus Only

Paper, \$45

CD, \$25

The syllabus will be mailed three weeks after the conference.

Options

Signature Cards: \$25 or \$45

Extra Printed Syllabus: \$40

Extra Printed Syllabus Mailed: \$46

Extra Syllabus CD: \$20

Box lunch: \$6.50—includes a hoagie sandwich, chips, cookies and a drink.

You can register in any one of the following ways:

1. **Online:** Register over the Internet and pay with your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover

Online Registration Information Coming Soon

[Manage My Continuing Education Information](#)
[Create a Continuing Education Login](#)

2. **By Phone:** Call (801) 422-8925 and pay with your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If you have questions about program details, please call (801) 422-4853.
3. **In Person:** Register at 120 Harman Continuing Education Building, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. At-the-door registrations are accepted on a space-available basis.
4. **At-the-door:** registrations are accepted on a space-available basis.

We cannot reserve program space without full payment. Registration is limited and no overflow will be offered. We encourage you to register early.

FERPA Policy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of your educational record. In order to be in compliance with FERPA, we require verification of your identity before releasing any personally identifiable or educational information to you. Please do not ask spouses, friends, or siblings to request this information for you.

Admission and Standards

Participants of any race, color, creed, and ethnic or national origin are accepted for admission to this program provided they maintain the university standards while on campus. These include modesty in dress and conduct and abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee, tea, and harmful drugs.

We are committed to providing a learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates persons with disabilities who are otherwise qualified. Prior to registration, applicants with disabilities are invited to discuss the program content and available facilities with the program director.

Substitutions and Cancellations

A \$10 fee will be assessed for each refund requested. All refunds must be requested in writing and received no later than one week before the conference begins (July 22, 2008, by 5:00 p.m.). Please submit your request in writing by e-mail at cw136@byu.edu or mail it to BYU Conferences and Workshops, 136 Harman Continuing Education Building, Provo, UT 84602. You may at any time arrange for a substitute to come in your place without penalty. After July 22, 2008, no refund can be



given. Participants will receive a full registration refund if the program is canceled for any reason. However, the university cannot be responsible for any cancellation or change charges assessed by airlines, travel agencies, or other institutions.



CONFERENCE ON Family History & Genealogy

July 29

Requirements and Information for Credit Registrants

History 481R (Family History Directed Research)

Two hours of university credit are available to those who register by July 29, 2008 and complete the following 2 requirements:

- I. **Attend 19 separate family history classes. You may count the 8:30 a.m. devotionals in this total.**
 - A. Attend 7 classes from ONE of the following geographic tracks concentrating on one region or country within the track as much as possible:
 1. United States
 2. United Kingdom/British
 3. International
 - B. Attend 12 elective classes. These do not have to be part of your specified geographic area.
- II. **Submit two papers to BYU Conferences and Workshops, 136 Harman Continuing Education Building, Provo, UT 84602, by Friday, October 10, 2008.**



Paper #1

After attending the conference, write a paper (3-4 pages) discussing your conference experience. In the paper:

- Identify the geographical area you studied.
- Indicate the classes you attended and the hours spent in each.
- Write a brief paragraph for each class, giving the main points learned in the class.

Paper #2

On your own, conduct 25 to 30 hours of research on a pedigree problem pertaining to your geographic area. Write a scholastic paper (about 5+ pages) explaining your experience, your project you should include:

- A pedigree chart and family group sheet(s) showing the family with the information you had at the beginning of the project.
- A pedigree chart showing the family on whom you conducted research.
- Family group sheet(s) which include all the information you have found on the family AND notes documenting the sources where you found each event (e.g. birth, marriage, death) or relationship.
- Research log listing ALL the sources you searched during this project (including those in which you found nothing), the order in which you searched them, and the time spent.

If you are enrolled in the Family History Certificate Program offered by Independent Study, there are two parts necessary to satisfy the requirements of History 481R Directed Research in Family History.

1. **Attend the conference and complete the assignments listed above (2 Credits).**
2. **Enroll with the Independent Study in History 481R, Section 2 and complete those requirements (1 Credit).**

Grades

Grades should be processed on a BYU transcript January 2, 2009. We will return your papers with a grade on them, but will not send any other grade notification. You may get official grade information or order a BYU transcript by calling the BYU

Records Office at (801) 422-2631. You may check you grade on www.byu.edu by going to "Route Y".

Contact information:

BYU Conferences and Workshops
136 Harman Continuing Education Building
801-422-4853
<http://familyhistoryconferences.byu.edu>

Call for Papers
2008 BYU Family History and Genealogy Conference
“Strengthening Ties That Bind Families Together Forever”
29 July – 1 August 2008

Proposals are now being accepted for the 2008 BYU Family History and Genealogy Conference, which will be held Tuesday–Friday, 29 July–1 August at the Conference Center, BYU campus, Provo, Utah.

Each presentation will be 60 minutes in length, which includes time for questions and answers. Each presentation should reflect the latest status of research and publication on this topic. **Please do not submit more than eight proposals.**

The deadline for proposals is Monday, 3 March 2008. We welcome proposals that allow participants to gain new skills and helpful information in the following areas of family history and genealogy:

- Getting started in family history
 - Classes specifically designed for those never having done research
 - Other beginner topics
- Using computers and new software to simplify research
- Using new technologies for family research
- Research methodology: using BCG standards, research process, pedigree analysis, evidence evaluation, tracing immigrants, etc.
- Beginning, intermediate, and advanced research methodology in:
 - England
 - Ireland
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - Germany
 - Scandinavia
 - United States
 - Canada
 - Other world areas
- Presentations for expert and professional researchers
- Writing and publishing family histories, journals, articles
- Family organizations and collaboration
- Family History Center support and family history consultant training

Presentations should not only inform, but should provide **step-by-step instructions** to help the participants use the class materials. **All syllabus materials should reflect the content of classes, both in detail and in sequence of instruction.**

Presentation style must be PowerPoint, lecture, or Internet. Conferences and Workshops will provide PC laptop computers with wireless Internet connection. Speakers should plan to bring their PowerPoint slide show on a flash drive, CD-ROM, or DVD-ROM. Be sure to have available a backup copy of your presentation. If yours is an Internet presentation, you must have screen shot backups in case of Internet failure.

Proposals should include:

- Full name of presenter
- Title
- Brief description of presentation for advertising brochure and Web page (50 words maximum)
- Audience skill level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced)
- Medium of presentation
 - PowerPoint
 - Lecture
 - Internet—Requires screen shot backup in case of Internet failure.
 - If it is necessary to make an overhead presentation, overheads must be created using at least a 20-point font and contain updated information
- Requested audio/visual equipment in addition to computer and LCD projector which will be in each room
- Current e-mail, mailing address, telephone number(s), and fax number (if any)
- List your previous experience presenting at conferences or workshops in the past three years, including titles of presentations
- Brief biographical sketch for the syllabus (50 words maximum)

Compensation: Speakers participating in the Conference will receive:

- Complimentary registration
- Conference syllabus
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ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS
THE TIES THAT BIND
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A few years ago, I was scanning the obituaries in a local newspaper and came across one that was particularly expressive of the love that family members had for their deceased father. It was obvious that the family circle was one in which parents and children enjoyed warm, loving relationships and the father had been at the center. The obituary concluded with this statement, “We look forward to being with you again, dad.” I then noticed that the funeral was being held in a Church not of our faith.

Initially, I was taken back. I knew that the Church in question did not teach that families would be together in the eternities. And yet I understood how natural the feelings and desires of the family were. One could tell from the statements that this family had developed bonds of love that they did not expect to be broken. It was obvious that they hoped for and even expected the familial joys of this life to exist in the world to come. I wondered then and have wondered since about the relationships they will have in the hereafter. I suspect they will be close as they inherit a realm of glory. But the reality will be different from their expectations unless they find and embrace the gospel.

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught two powerful truths. The first is “that same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory” (D&C 130:2). This statement refers to the faithful who inherit the Celestial Kingdom. The second is that family relationships are preserved through faithful adherence to gospel truths combined with the sealing ordinance of the temple. The Lord revealed that unless “a man (and woman) enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage] ... they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity ...” (D&C 131:2; 132:17). In other words, ordinances

influence the relationships we have both in this world and in the world to come.

As President Henry B. Eyring stated in a recent general conference, "... it is through the Church and the ordinances which are in it that the blessings of the sealing power reach into the spirit world ... It is the sealing power and our knowledge of it which changes and transforms our family life here and our expectations for the joy of family life in the world to come."

As I read the obituary, I doubted if the family knew of these powerful truths and the sacred rites of the temple. My hope then and now is that they will learn about and embrace the Restored Gospel and its priesthood ordinances. Righteous living and the ordinances will help them realize their hopes for the future.

In the Father's Plan of Salvation, eternal progress is achieved through faithful adherence to gospel principles and acceptance of priesthood ordinances. Why are the ordinances so important? Ordinances are critical because they have the power to change our nature, to change us from telestial to celestial beings. The Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph that "in the ordinances thereof [i.e., the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood], the power of godliness is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh" (D&C 84:20-21).

From the beginning, the Father has used priesthood ordinances and covenants to build relationships with His children and to prepare them to return to His presence. One of the earliest taught to man was the law of sacrifice. Soon after Adam and Eve entered mortality, the Lord spoke to them and commanded that they should offer the firstlings of their flocks as an offering unto the Lord. The scriptures state: "Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord" (Moses 5:4-5). Later, an angel appeared unto Adam and asked, "Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him: I know not, save the Lord commanded me. And then the angel spake, saying: This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth" (Moses 5:6-7).

Through the ordinance, Adam was not only taught the meaning and purpose of the Savior's atonement, but received blessings that would change his life. He learned that the Lord should come first, that he should seek the kingdom of God before all else. The ordinance taught him humility, unselfishness and a love for God. Covenants were an integral part of the sacrificial ordinance. Through the sacrifice, Adam expressed his faith in the Lord and his obedience. In return, God gave Adam, just as he did Abel, a witness of his righteousness and acceptance with the Lord (Hebrews 11:4).

Adam also participated in the ordinance of baptism (Moses 6:52-53). Again, these ordinances brought to Adam and Eve the power to change their lives. The power emanating from priesthood ordinances is real, not imaginary. This power combined with the Holy Spirit transforms men's hearts and orchestrates a rebirth. The Prophet Joseph Smith said that the process of "being born again comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances." When a person is prepared, participation in an ordinance is a spiritually transforming experience.

Each ordinance of salvation and exaltation includes covenants that activate the Lord's blessings as we abide our portion of the contract.

Ordinances

What is an ordinance? Elder Bruce R. McConkie differentiates between two types. The first type he calls "ordinance-commandments." These are all of God's decrees, laws, commandments, statutes and judgments. The Lord revealed to the Prophet Brigham Young that the saints are "to keep all the commandments and statutes of the Lord our God... And this shall be our covenant – that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord" (D&C 136:2-4). As Elder McConkie states, this is "the larger circle of ordinances."

The small circle consists of rites and ceremonies within the gospel such as baptism, laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost, the sacrament, priesthood ordinations, temple ceremonies, etc. Most ordinances are essential for salvation and exaltation. The

blessing of children and dedication of graves are given for the comfort and encouragement of the saints.

Covenants

As stated earlier, the ordinances pertaining to salvation and exaltation include covenants as an integral part of the ceremony. Gospel covenants are agreements, contracts, or mutual promises between God and His children. Since gospel covenants originate with an all-wise God, He sets the terms and conditions of the contract. As we perform the ceremonies, we make covenants with him in an exchange of promises.

The “new and everlasting covenant” is the fulness of the Restored Gospel and includes all of the covenants God has made with man and, therefore, all of the mutual promises between Him and man.

In order to appreciate the relationship between ordinances and covenants and understand the “power of godliness” inherent in them, we will examine three types of ordinances.

Baptism

The first is baptism, an ordinance of salvation. The Savior told Nicodemus that “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God” [John 3:5]. One might ask, “Why is baptism necessary to enter God’s Kingdom and what is the “power of godliness” in baptism?”

The “godly power” in baptism is the power to cleanse, the power to make clean. Baptism provides a conduit for one’s faith and repentance to access the Lord’s atoning powers of mercy and forgiveness. Cleanliness is an essential condition for entry into heaven. As the Lord taught Moses, “Wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God, for no unclean thing can dwell there...” (Moses 6:57).

Thus, baptism is essential because it activates the Lord’s atoning power in our lives to remove the stain of sin and opens the gate into the Celestial Kingdom. In the words of Isaiah, “... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like

crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). Cleansing is essential as it prepares us to be made holy, to be purified or sanctified.

Through its cleansing power, baptism prepares one to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit brings the baptism of fire by which our sins are burned away (2 Nephi 31:13-14).

It is important to note the covenants associated with baptism. What do we as mortals promise God when we are baptized? First, baptism is a symbol of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. Through baptism we express our faith in Jesus Christ and his atonement. We promise that we will take upon us His name and “come into the fold of God.” We commit to increase our faith through righteous living and repentance. We commit to “bear one another’s burdens ... to mourn with those that mourn ... to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” (Mosiah 18:8-9).

What are the promises God makes to us when we are baptized? First, he promises to apply the atoning blood of Christ and cleanse us from sin as we exercise faith in the Father and the Son and repent. The Savior promises to draw us to Him, to redeem and sanctify us through the Holy Ghost that we may be lifted up by the Father and changed into Celestial beings [3 Nephi 27:14]. He promises to number us with those of the first resurrection, that [we] may have eternal life” [Mosiah 18:9].

What an incredible set of promises baptism puts in place! Baptism opens the gate and puts us on a path leading to the Celestial Kingdom. Baptism by water and by the Spirit has the godly power to cleanse.

With the Gift of the Holy Ghost come other powers as well. The Holy Ghost has the power to guide us into truth, the power to sanctify us and change us into holy people, the power to comfort and teach, the power to testify that Jesus is the Christ. Faithfulness on our part coupled with these ordinances put us on the strait and narrow path leading to the presence of God.

Priesthood Ordination

The next ordinance to be examined is the priesthood ordination. What are the powers conferred in a priesthood ordination? It depends on the office! As we know, priesthood is the power of God delegated to man to act in His behalf.

In its fulness, the priesthood contains all of the powers God has seen fit to delegate including those of the temple ordinances. The priesthood has the power to direct the affairs of God's kingdom on earth, the power to administer the ordinances to others. It has the power to bless and heal both physically and spiritually. It has the power to command the elements. Above all, the priesthood has the power to bind a man and a woman and their children into a family unit beyond the veil.

What are the covenants associated with the priesthood ordination? Man promises to live a faithful life and to "magnify" his calling, to use his priesthood to bless others. He promises to honor and sustain those called by the Lord to direct the Kingdom. He promises to receive Christ as his Savior and the Father as the God of all (D&C 33:37).

What are Deity's promises in the priesthood covenant? He promises the faithful man that he will become a son of Moses and Abraham and the elect of God. As such, they become inheritors of the promises made to the patriarchs and the prophets. Ultimately, the Father promises to make man a king and a priest to receive all that the Father has (D&C 84:38; 76:56).

Temple Ordinances

The ordinances associated with the temple constitute the third area we will review. President Gordon B. Hinckley was not only the great temple builder of this dispensation, but was intimately acquainted with the ordinances. He was selected in the 1950's by President David O. McKay to develop an approach that could be used in presenting the temple ordinances in temples that serve many languages. He directed the work that led to the films first used in the New Zealand and Swiss temples. Today's presentation of the endowment is based on his work.

At the beginning of his ministry as prophet, President Hinckley stated that the temple and “ordinances administered therein, represent the ultimate in our worship” and “the most profound expressions of our theology.” It is interesting to me that such profound expressions have been lost to most of Christianity even though there are numerous references to them in the scriptures. Temples and temple work are among the great evidences of the apostasy and the need for a Restoration of the Gospel. Nineteenth century Christendom had few doctrines or practices like it. As I have wondered why there was so little knowledge of temple ordinances in the Christian world, I have come to the conclusion that the world knows little about them because these truths were among the first to be lost. Temple ordinances and the doctrine associated with them were lost very early in the apostasy. Temples and temple ordinances are the direct prerogative of the prophet who heads the Church. Peter, James and John participated in the transfer of these keys from the Prophet Elijah (Matthew 16:18-20; 17:1-3; 18:18; John 1:14). Once the apostles were gone, these keys were withdrawn and associated ordinances effectively ceased.

In fact, the Apostle John, the last apostle in the Meridian of Time, tried to forestall the apostasy and reclaim members of the seven churches in Asia by reminding them of the blessings of priesthood ordinances. He wrote the following to them:

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Revelations 1:5-6).

It is clear that John used the blessings that come from baptism and the temple to remind the saints of what they will give up if they continue in their wayward pursuits. Unfortunately, most of the people in these branches had become apostate and did not respond to his plea. Within a short time, all of the apostles were gone and temple work with them.

Just as baptism, the Gift of the Holy Ghost and the priesthood are meant to bring us to Christ, so the main purpose of the temple is to sanctify and prepare us to stand in the presence of the Father and the Son and to create eternal families.

Temple ordinances instruct us in the purposes of the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement. From them we learn why this earth was created, why we are here and what lies beyond the veil. They are the most sacred ceremonies on earth.

Again we ask, “What is the power in these ordinances and what are the covenants associated with the temple?” Although we do not talk about the ordinances outside the temple, there are some general statements that can be made with regard to the power in temple ordinances and the blessings that flow from them.

First, baptism opens a gate that puts us on a path into the Celestial Kingdom. As we travel this strait and narrow path, we eventually come to a fork in the road and additional choices are required. These choices involve the temple. If we choose to enter the temple and partake of its ordinances, another gate is opened which leads to an even higher path. Faithful adherence to temple ordinances, including the sealing ordinance of marriage, leads to the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom. Without the highest ordinances, a person inherits a lower degree (D&C 131:1-4).

Temple ordinances have additional powers. These powers include cleansing, the power to resist Satan’s temptations, an increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, the power to discern truth, blessings of health, the power to sanctify, the power to make us “kings and priests unto God,” the power to bind men, women and children into families forever (Revelations 1:6; D&C 132:19). Through temple ordinances, we are promised the power of eternal increase in the resurrection (D&C 131:4; 132:19). Temple ordinances bring a “fulness of the Holy Ghost,” a “fulness of the Priesthood,” and a “fulness of glory” (D&C 109:15; 124:28; 132:6, 19).

In order to receive these blessings, we promise to be faithful and loyal to the Lord, to be faithful to our companions, to dedicate our lives as individuals and as families to the building up of the Kingdom

of God on earth. We promise to become a Zion people with the “fire of the covenant” burning within us.

Faith, Power and Hope in the Ordinances

One of the ways in which the doctrine and the ordinances bring power into our lives is through the hope they engender. A few months ago in a sacrament meeting, a priesthood leader shared an experience he had as a young missionary in Brazil. As I listened, the Spirit reconfirmed my feelings of the power, of the hope, of the faith that comes with an understanding of the gospel plan and its priesthood ordinances.

While serving in Brazil, the young missionary and his companion met a wonderful, young family who were second generation Japanese-Brazilians. They had three young children at the time and invited the missionaries into their home.

On the third discussion, the missionaries began teaching them about the Savior’s atonement, the resurrection and the Plan of Salvation. During the presentation, the mother began to cry. Initially, the missionaries were concerned that they had offended her in some way and inquired as to her problem. She then shared the following story.

“Their first child was a beautiful little girl who had brought joy and happiness into their young married life. Suddenly, she became sick and died and they were heart broken. A year after the death and burial of the young child, the couple received a notice that the cemetery was being moved and that they would have to retrieve and relocate the casket. Because of the mother’s desire to see her angel daughter one more time, she asked that the casket be opened. As she looked at her daughter’s degenerated remains, she was shocked. The experience was so devastating that it destroyed any hope of a future reunion and association. Since then, she had lived in complete despair, devoid of any hope.”

As the missionaries explained the Plan of Salvation, the mission of the Savior, and the reality of the resurrection, the mother was touched by the Spirit and became overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation. As the couple learned more about the Savior, the

blessing of eternal families and the restoration of the sealing power, hope returned and they were baptized. When the missionary was released from his mission, the family gave him a picture of the family as a memory of the special time when hope returned to their lives.

Ordinances and Spiritual Experiences

Participation in the ordinances is meant to be a spiritual experience. This is true for all ordinances, but especially for the rites of the temple. Think of the experience that the children of Israel might have had as they were offered the fulness of the gospel including the temple ordinances.

Once Moses had brought the children of Israel to the foot of Mount Sinai, the Lord called him to the top of the mountain in order to give him instructions. The Lord told Moses that if Israel would obey the covenants the Lord desired to make with them, He would cause Israel to become a “peculiar treasure ... a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” Moses returned to the camp and called the elders of the people together and asked if they wanted to make covenants with the Lord. The people answered, “All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.” Moses returned to the Lord with the people’s report. The Lord instructed Moses as to how he should prepare the people. The Lord said, “Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And be ready against the third day: for the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.” (Exodus 19:5-11). Can you imagine the spiritual feast that was offered to Jacob’s posterity.

Moses went down from the mount and sanctified them and had them wash their clothes. On the third day, the Lord came to the top of the mount in fire. There was thundering and lightning and a thick cloud that fell upon the mount. The Lord divided the mountain into three parts: the foot, the mid-point and the top. The children of Israel were brought to the foot of the mountain, Moses and 70 elders of Israel were called to the mid-point and Moses again returned to the top. The mountain had become a temple.

Moses was given a pair of tablets to take down to the people. The first set contained the fulness of the gospel and the the covenants

the Lord wanted to make with Israel. Unfortunately, when Moses returned the people were worshipping a golden calf and living far below the standards set for the blessings offered. The tablets were broken and eventually Moses was given another set containing the lesser law, a schoolmaster designed to bring them to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

The lesson learned is that people need to prepare themselves and remain clean in order for one to receive a spiritual experience as one participates in a priesthood ordinance. Fasting and prayer are helpful in this regard. It also helps if one understands the ordinance. For example, temple ordinances are more than a story, more than instruction. They are designed for individuals to engage the Holy Spirit, to deepen their faith, and to make covenants with the Lord.

A few months ago, a sister came to the Provo Temple with a box of family file cards. As she crossed the threshold of the temple, she received an impression to look at the cards once more. There were many cards containing information on her ancestors covering a period of three hundred years. As she looked at the cards she noticed the oldest relatives were at the bottom with the youngest on top. The impression came to reverse the order. Her impression was that those who had waited the longest should be first. She felt a strong interest from the other side of the veil given the significance of what was about to take place.

Many years ago while fulfilling an assignment in West Africa, I met a wonderful, LDS woman. She had retired from Brigham Young University and was developing a Home Economics program at the University of Ghana. During the summer, she told me the story of her life and her goals upon her return home.

As a young woman in her twenties, she had received a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and had married a man from Sandy, Utah. He was a farmer and they had begun what they hoped would be a long life together. After a year or so, a young baby boy came into their home. A few months later she realized that she was expecting again. One day her husband came in from the farm very ill. Within a short time, the pain was intense and by nightfall, he had passed away. He died of a ruptured appendix.

A few months later, a second son was born. With two children to care for, Virginia Cutler knew that she had to find work. She spoke with the bishop. He told her to seek out her professors at the University of Utah and see if they had any counsel for her. As she talked with the professors, they said, "You were an excellent student. What you need is a master's degree. We believe Stanford would admit you and provide financial assistance. Sister Cutler applied and was accepted. As she told the story, she indicated that it took longer to obtain the master's degree than normal because she wanted to be with the children as much as possible. After some time she finished the degree and her professors at Stanford said, "You have done so well here we believe you should seek a Ph. D. It will increase your earning power. If you apply to Cornell, there is a good chance that they will admit you and provide financial assistance. Sister Cutler thought about the suggestion and decided to apply. She was accepted and aid was proffered.

Again, it took her longer than normal to finish the doctorate because she wanted to spend time with her sons. Eventually, she finished and obtained good employment. When the boys had grown, she decided to accept an assignment with the Ford Foundation in Asia and then with other international organizations. For a few years she taught at the University of Utah and eventually became dean of the College of Family Living at BYU. Through most of her adult life, however, she had not lived near a temple and temple worship had not been a key part of her life.

One evening, just prior to her leaving Ghana, she and I had dinner with a few friends. During the evening she shared with me her goals upon returning to Provo. She said, "You know I have not lived near a temple most of my adult life. I have just learned that the First Presidency has announced a new temple in Provo that will be completed in about three years. I have thought about my life and I now desire to become a faithful temple patron. In fact, I want to do as many endowments for my sisters on the other side of the veil as there have been weeks since I received my first temple recommend." It had been fifty years.

She returned to Provo and I spent a number of years working for international businesses and other organizations. I returned to Provo in the summer of 1980, more than a decade later. Soon after my returned, I was called to be a stake president in the Provo Utah Sharon East Stake. One of the first persons to come for a temple interview was Sister Cutler. As we finished the interview, she said, “President, do you remember our conversation that last evening in Africa? Do you remember the goal I set. I answered that I did remember and asked, “How are you doing?” She responded, “I have almost finished. I will surpass the 2,500 mark in a few weeks time.

She then looked me straight in the eye and said, “May I share with you a special experience I had a few weeks ago? I was in the temple in an endowment session. I closed my eyes and began thinking about all of the sisters for whom I had done the work. As I thought about them, I said to myself, ‘I wonder if they know what I have been doing? I wonder if they will be on the other side of the veil to greet me when I pass on? I hope so!’ And then the thought came, ‘I wonder if my husband knows what I have been doing? I wonder if he has been an instrument in teaching them the gospel and preparing them for the ordinances?’” She then said, “As this thought came to me, I suddenly, in my mind’s eye, saw the veil part and a man’s hand reach through the veil to me. It was a young man’s hand. It was my husband’s hand. I had not seen it for more than 60 years! I knew he was there! I knew he knew what I was doing! He had been preparing them! I believe many of them will be with him at the veil to greet me when my time comes.”

Sister Cutler died a few years later. I have thought often of the wonderful assembly of sisters that greeted her. I have little doubt but what her husband was there to introduce them. What a wonderful day that must have been.

Yes, ordinances are designed to provide a spiritual experience and the blessings promised are real. The ordinances prepare us to enter the presence of Deity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is my hope that all of us will appreciate the great Plan of Salvation and the blessings it provides. In the Lord’s

perfect plan, there is opportunity for everyone in that those who did not receive the opportunity to hear the gospel in this life are not forgotten. It behooves all of us to become Saviors on Mount Zion (Obadiah 1:21; D&C 103:9-10). Missionary work, family history and temple work are the keys.

Everyone must partake of the ordinances in order to receive a fulness. As the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph, "... in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest" (D&C 84:29). The ordinances have the power to cleanse, the power to sanctify, the power to lift us up to the Father. In the sealing ordinance, eternal families are created.

As stated earlier, the saving and exalting ordinances include covenants. If we are true to these covenants, if we do not defile our garments, the blessings offered the saints in Sardis will be ours. The Savior will be able to say to us as He said to them, "... they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Revelations 3:4).

It is my prayer that we will appreciate the power of priesthood ordinances and the covenants associated with them. May we undertake our family history work with even greater zeal and then perform the ordinances for them that will bring them the "power of godliness." In doing so, we and they will "walk with [the Lord] in white."