



Come and See / Come, Follow Me



“There are many members of the Church who have only limited access to the temples. They do the best they can. They pursue family history research and have the temple ordinance work done by others. Conversely, there are some members who engage in temple work but fail to do family history research on their own family lines. Although they perform a divine service in assisting others, they lose a blessing by not seeking their own kindred dead as divinely directed by latter-day prophets.

“I have learned that those who engage in family history research and then perform the temple ordinance work for those whose names they have found will know the additional joy of receiving **both halves of the blessing.**”

President Howard W. Hunter

We have reached another Temple milestone. The exterior is complete! The final inscription plaques and final stone have been installed and the scaffolding and cranes have been removed. The photo above is not an artist's rendering! With the announcement of the temple in 2008, the ground-breaking on September 17, 2011, and now this milestone, we are getting close!

Come and See: Temple Open House

As mentioned before, in May we will distribute Member Invitation Cards (English and Spanish) that you can use to invite friends and family to the Philadelphia Temple Open House. These invitations will have a picture of the Philadelphia Temple on the front. Inside will be the dates and times of the tours as well as a map of the area surrounding the Temple. On the back will be some additional information about the event. The invitation will include a website where visitors can get tickets for a specific time slot to tour the Temple. Some tours will be offered in Spanish. An electronic version of the invitation will also be available for you to use.

In the meantime, start thinking about who you might invite. Make a list. A neighbor; a co-worker; a friend at school; someone you home or visit teach; someone you haven't seen at Mutual for a while. Then, think about the questions you might be asked and how you might answer them. Ask the missionaries in the ward to help you. The simplest answer is often the best.

Here is how Elder Boyd K. Packer explained the difference between a temple and a regular meetinghouse.

*“In the Church we build other buildings of many kinds. In them we worship, we teach, we find recreation, we organize. We can organize stakes and wards and missions and quorums and Relief Societies in these buildings or even in rented halls. But, when we organize families according to the order that the Lord has revealed, we organize them in temples. Temple marriage, that sealing ordinance, is a crowning blessing that you may claim in the holy temple.” [Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*, pg 8]*

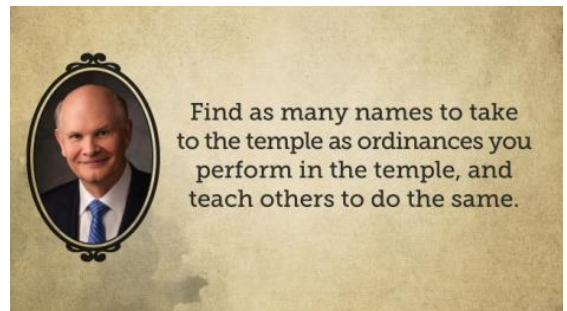
Come, Follow Me: Temple and Family History Work

During the Family Discovery Day held in Salt Lake City on February 6, Elder Dale G. Renlund, his wife, Ruth, and their daughter, Ashley, taught of the power that comes from combining Family History and Temple Service.

Elder Renlund further extended Elder Neil L. Anderson's Youth Temple Challenge of 2014 and 2015 to include ALL members.

He further went on to promise tremendous blessings when we make our best efforts to find our ancestors who are living on the other side of the veil, and then take their names to the temple to receive those eternally uniting ordinances of the Priesthood.

Listen to a summary the Renlunds' discussion and a list the promises an Apostle of the Lord has made.



<https://www.lds.org/topics/family-history/familydiscoveryday/renlund/create-your-own-spiritual-dynamite?lang=eng>



Young Women and Young Men: Get involved in the Youth Cultural Celebration!

Join in with youth from the 11 stakes in the Temple District and participate in the Youth Cultural Celebration! Ask your friends to join in with you: active, less-active, and non-members! Celebrate the blessing of our own Temple!!

Practices will begin in mid-July. Most will be held at the stake level. On the day of the performance, September 17, there will be a full day of rehearsal with the performance that evening. More information will follow.

President Monson related the following (October 2012 General Conference) of one Youth Cultural Celebration:

As with all cultural events held in conjunction with temple dedications, the youth in the Kansas City Missouri Temple District had rehearsed the performance in separate groups in their own areas. The plan was that they would meet all together in the large rented municipal center on the Saturday morning of the performance so that they could learn... details which they would have to grasp... so that the final performance would be polished and professional.

There was just one major problem that day. The entire production was dependent on prerecorded segments that would be shown on the large screen known as a Jumbotron....And the Jumbotron was not working.

Technicians worked frantically to solve the problem while the youth waited, hundreds of them, losing precious rehearsal time. The situation began to look impossible.

The writer and director of the celebration, Susan Cooper, later explained: "As we moved from plan A to B to Z, we knew that it wasn't working. ... As we were looking at the schedule, we knew that it was going to be beyond us, but we knew that we had one of the greatest strengths on the floor below—3,000 youth. We needed to go down and tell [them] what was happening and draw upon their faith."

Just an hour before the audience would begin to enter the center, 3,000 youth knelt on the floor and prayed together. They prayed that those working on the Jumbotron would be inspired to know what to do to repair it; they asked their Heavenly Father to make up for what they themselves could not do because of the shortage of time.

Said one who wrote about it afterward, "It was a prayer the youth will never forget, not because the floor was hard, but because the Spirit melted their bones."

It was not long before one of the technicians came to tell them that the problem had been discovered and corrected. He attributed the solution to luck, but all those youth knew better.

Here are some links that will give you an idea about what these Youth Cultural Celebrations are:

Kansas City Temple: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-01-005-kansas-city-missouri-temple-cultural-celebration?category=topics/temple&lang=eng>

Laie Hawaii Temple: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-06-010-the-laie-hawaii-temple-youth-cultural-celebration?lang=eng>

Kyiv Ukraine Temple: <https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-01-001-kyiv-ukraine-temple-youth-cultural-celebration?lang=eng>

Philadelphia Temple District

These are the 11 stakes that form the Philadelphia Temple District:

Cherry Hill, NJ	Dover, DE	East Brunswick, NJ	Harrisburg, PA	Lancaster, PA	Philadelphia, PA
Reading, PA	Scranton, PA	Valley Forge, PA	Williamsport, PA	Wilmington, DE	

INVITATIONS

- Start making a list of people you would like to invite to the Temple Open House
- Set a personal goal, based upon your individual and family circumstances, regarding how often you will attend the Philadelphia Temple when it opens
- Accept Elder Renlund's Challenge to find as many names to take to the temple as ordinances you perform in the temple, and teach others to do the same