

This presentation is intended primarily for Temple and Family History consultants, but the principles taught will assist anyone who has desires to join the Lord in his work by helping others more fully engage with their family, on both sides of the veil, progress along the covenant path

Agenda

: What is the Lord's plan for temple & family history

"Vision+ Culture+ Strategy for breakfast"

: What is our plan to act

A solid execution strategy is important in any endeavor, but without the proper vision and culture, most strategies will fail to reach their maximum potential.

The Agenda is to

- 1) Outline the doctrines related to this work (**vision**)
- 2) Define the most successful **culture**
- 3) Map out the optimal **strategy**

Vision

The Lord is Accelerating His Work

Missionary : Sanctifying : Temple & Family History

1 Nephi 14: 12 & 14

“and it came to pass that I beheld the Church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations...”

Nephi was a unique prophet in that he was allowed to look forward through the corridors of time and he saw our day. There are 7 billion people on the earth and only 15-16 million (2/10 of 1 percent) are members, in spite of the gospel flooding the whole earth (internet, satellite, translated materials, missionary efforts, etc)

The Lord is Accelerating His Work

Missionary : Sanctifying : Temple & Family History

1 Nephi 14: 12 & 14

“and it came to pass that I beheld the Church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations...”

I Nephi beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon...the covenant people of the Lord who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with power in great glory

We are not left alone. As a helper you have the right to seek and receive that “power in great glory” if you are worthy before the Lord.

The Lord is Accelerating His Work

Missionary : Sanctifying : Temple & Family History

Daniel 2: 35& 44

“And..shall the god of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever”

“And became a great mountain and filled the whole earth”

We live in an exciting time. All the prophets in previous dispensations had all their work end in general apostasy. Not so with this last dispensation. Never again will the priesthood be taken from the earth. The kingdom of God on the earth will grow to fill the entire earth and stand forever as prophesied by Daniel. We are blessed to come to the earth at a critical time and to play a critical role in bringing to pass that prophesy.

Today we will be discussing exactly what that role is, what the Lord has for us to do, and how He expects us to accomplish that mission.

It's About the Plan

plan of salvation : plan of happiness : plan of eternal progress

- Alma 12:32 “Therefore God gave unto them commandments, **after** having made known unto them the plan of redemption”.

“It’s not fair for members to be asked to do work (family history work) when they don’t understand why they are doing the work.” “To ask members to do Family History without context makes them feel like they are part a FamilySearch grinding machine”

Do you think the Lord wants 100% home teaching, or ministers that help his children progress toward eternal life?

As consultants and helpers, our first objective must be to help those we are working with understand the Lords plan and their role in it. Not “What does the Lord want for his church?”, or this ward, but for them, personally and individually. What does He want them to become through this work? We must help them appreciate the loving plan heavenly father has for their family and their role in it.



President Nelson has been very clear with the youth, and with all members, that the greatest thing happening on the entire face of the earth is the Gathering. That is our great task. The gathering started when keys were restored to the earth to carry out that work. It is more than just missionary work.

On April 3rd in the Kirtland temple, just following services with the members, Joseph and Oliver closed the curtains around the pulpit and began to pray. They were privileged with a visit from the savior in which He told them that thousands and tens of thousands would greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings to be poured out.

Moses then visited them and conferred the keys of the gathering of Israel. This represents the missionary work and gathers the Lord's children into the gospel through baptism, just as Moses took the children of Israel out of worldly Egypt and led them to the promised land.

Following Moses, Elias visited them and conferred the keys of the Abrahamic Covenant. The Abrahamic covenant promises great blessing upon the faithful and represents the sanctifying of those who were previously gathered into the church.

Lastly Elijah, visited them as prophesied by Malachi, and conferred the keys of the sealing power, gathering up all the faithful, living and dead, into celestial exaltation through temple covenants.

The gathering is NOT just the missionary work and the Lord's children are not to be gathered unto baptism alone, but into exaltation through the saving ordinances.

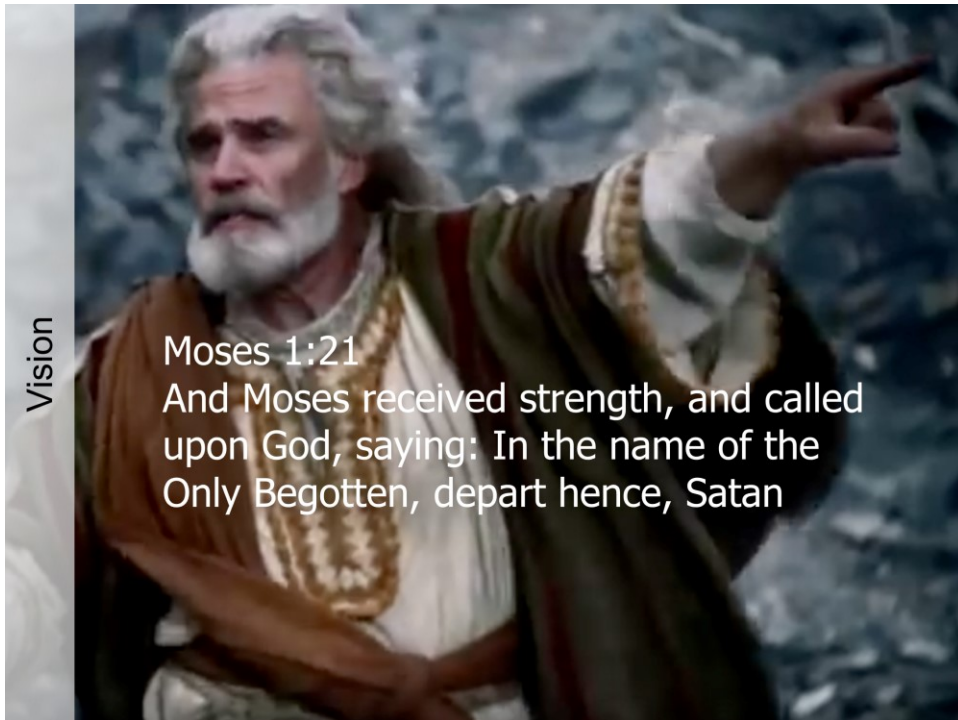
Lucifer will be Bound

D&C 45:55

And Satan shall be bound that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men.

When we think about that future time when the Lord reigns personally on the earth and all are gathered and sanctified, the scriptures teach us that it will be a culture where Satan will be bound.

Many have a conception that he will be physically chained up, cast into a pit and not allowed to tempt the children of men. It is possible that these words are figurative. Satan will be bound figuratively not literally. He will still be allowed to roam the earth whispering and muttering and trying to deceive. However, he will have no power to do so because he will have no place in the hearts of the children of men. They will have dismissed him from their lives and tuned out to his temptations. They will no longer hear his voice, nor fall for his deceptions.



Moses 1:21
And Moses received strength, and called
upon God, saying: In the name of the
Only Begotten, depart hence, Satan

How do we accelerate that great coming day by dismissing Satan from our lives?

Moses gives us an example. Moses is my hero. Too often, when I have been confronted with Satan tempting me to worship him and his falsehoods, I have found myself dabbling. Moses had a great vision in which the Lord taught him amazing things. When the vision withdrew, it took him several hours to recover his strength, but when he did, he came face to face with the destroyer.

Satan came saying "Moses, son of man, worship me". Moses didn't dabble. He went on for a dozen verses lecturing Satan. "Where is thy glory that I should worship thee?, Thy glory is darkness unto me... I can judge between thee and God...I will not cease to call on God, I have other things I want to learn from him. Moses commanded Satan to "get thee hence and depart three times and Satan just got angrier and ranted and raved until Moses was scared. Moses couldn't get him to leave under his own power. However, Moses "called upon God and saying: In the name of the only begotten, depart hence Satan." With that Satan had to leave.

If we want to dismiss Satan from our lives we must do it in the name of the only begotten. However, that probably has less to do with pointing and commanding in aloud voice like Moses ... and probably has more to do with this...

Vision

D&C 20:77

...that they are willing to take upon them
the name of thy Son, and always
remember Him...

Each Sunday we covenant to take upon us the name of Christ. As we live up to that covenant, Satan loses power over us and we tune out of His whisperings and mutterings and temptations.



So what does it mean to take upon us the name of Christ?

It means that we always Think, Speak and Act as Christ would act in every circumstance. That is a tall order!!! Sometimes Christ comforted and blessed. Other times he commanded and counseled. At times he rebuked and condemned. Several times he even grabbed a whip and drove out the wicked.

If we want to always know what we should think, say and do in every circumstance (with family, with friends, at work, with neighbors, etc) the only way we will be able to do that is through personal revelation. President Nelson has even said that we will not be able to withstand the events of the last days unless we increase our ability to receive personal revelation. It is a requirement if we wish to to fully take upon us the name of the savior and to dismiss Satan from our lives.



Receiving revelation is a skill. It takes time to learn a skill and we would be unwise to wait until a spiritual or physical crisis to learn that skill. How do we learn any skill?

If you want to be great at basketball you need to be on the court a lot. You need to shoot thousands of free throws and practice continually.

If you want to be an expert pianist, you need to be at the keys a lot and invest the time learning that skill.

If you want to learn to receive personal revelation, learning that skill will be easiest in a place where the veil is thin and where revelation flows freely.

Each time you go to the temple you will take more of that spirit with you and you will grow in the spirit of revelation. In the temple we attend once for our own ordinances and thereafter for our ancestors and relatives...which brings us back to Family History work.

A Shield and a Protection

"No work is more of a protection to [us] than...genealogical research. ...
No work is more spiritually refining.
No work we do gives us more power.
No work requires a higher standard of righteousness. Our labors...cover us with a shield and a protection."

Boyd K Packer
The Holy Temple



Boyd K Packer has said...





How does family history work act as a shield and a protection.
We all need that shield and protection from the world. It is critical that
we understand how that doctrine works.

Vision

Help from Beyond the Veil

"Whoever seeks to help those on the other side receives help in turn in all the affairs of life...Help comes to us from the other side as we give help to those who have passed beyond the veil."

John A Widtsoe
July 1931

Elder John A Widstoe taught....

Many of us have experienced or heard of near miraculous assistance in finding ancestor records, and it is true that the veil is particularly thin when doing Family History work...however, that is not the full message of Elder Widstoe.

He says that we will receive help in ALL THE AFFAIRS OF OUR LIVES. At work, at home, with friends, in all our temptations, and challenges.

I think it is also important to understand that "Helping" those on the other side is likely more expansive than just providing temple ordinances. When we learn about them, document their lives, share their stories, learn to love them, when they become real to us and not just a name on the paper ... Then they can help us.

"Helping them" may be less about providing something FOR them and more about 'Joining them in their work'

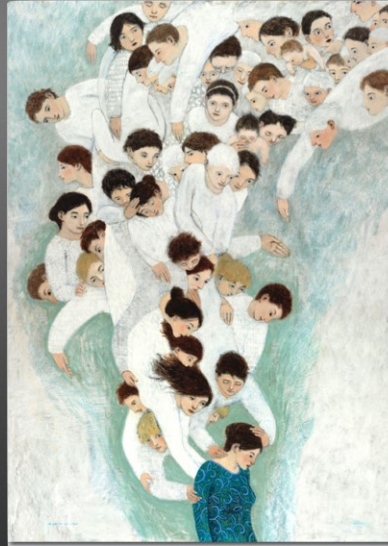
Story of a 12 yr old who did the ordinances for her great grandmother.

"I went to the temple with my great-grandmother and we both had a great time" she didn't "take a name", she went to the temple with her great grandmother.

Helpers Known to Us

"When messengers are sent to minister to the inhabitants of this earth, they are not strangers, but from the ranks of our kindred, friends, and fellow-beings and fellow-servants"

Joseph F Smith
Gospel Doctrine p.435



Who are the "They" whom we are to "help"
President Joseph F Smith explained that...

I do not know all the ways that our "kindred and friends" from the other side can "minister to the inhabitants of the earth". Perhaps they inspire, protect, strengthen, etc. I suspect that when we walk through the veil, we will likely be shocked at all the assistance that we received, and the involvement our family had in our lives, and we never realized it.

I desire that shield and protection for my children, and family, for my wife and I, for all those around me who struggle with "the affairs of life".

Agency is a Law of Heaven

“the Lord will force no man to heaven”

D&C 121:37

“when we undertake to...exercise **control**, **dominion** or **compulsion** upon the souls of men...the heavens withdraw themselves and the spirit of the Lord is grieved.”

There is one additional principle that we must understand, however.

There is no control or compulsion in the Lord's kingdom. He respects our agency perfectly....and all those in His service, including our kindred and friends who are in His service, will not be allowed to coerce or influence us against our agency.

If we want the shield and protection, the inspiration, the guidance and encouragement...or whatever they can do to bless us...we must first exercise our agency. We must first “help” them.

Those who are engaged in this work, collaborating across the veil with their extended family in the great gathering work of salvation; who are documenting, sharing and loving their ancestors stories...are the ones who will receive all the great blessings of the plan.

The Plan

Multi-generational families,
on both sides of the veil
working together...

...so each family member is
identified, sanctified, and
sealed up unto exaltation
through the saving
ordinances and covenants.

All are gatherers



We are not intended to walk through this life and confront all of it's challenges alone.
We are not meant to confront Satan and all his temptations by ourselves.

Both sides of the veil – We are the only organization on the earth that explains the plan
for Heavenly Father's children on both sides of the veil.

Getting through this life is meant to be a collaborative family affair with people on both
sides of the veil working together to gather up all of their family members unto the
saving ordinances and covenants and eternal life.

Culture



Watch the first part of the online video: Begin at the beginning: Helping others to love family history” by Mike Sandberg.

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/beginatthebeginning/>

Missionaries Invite all to come unto Christ, Help recognize the converting spirit, (Baptism=1st step)
 We Invite all to become engaged in Family work, Help recognize the converting spirit (Temple=next step)
 We have 80,000 – 90,000 consultants. We need them to be proactive. (Elder Foster)

Referring to Elder Bednar’s talk about calling youth consultants. This was the resulting behavior:

- We called youth as FH consultants.
- They were provided minimal training.
- We did not set expectations that they would function like real consultants.
- They had a bad experience.
- These consultant are now serving missions and have not been replaced.

A Servant Missionary Culture		
Culture	Proselyting	Temple and Family History
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively seek investigators • Facilitate spiritual witness • Point toward baptism • Invite to come unto the Lord • Companionship teaches family • Law of harvest nurturing • Conversion pattern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively seek to help • Spiritual exp w/ ancestors • Point toward the temple • Advance toward exaltation • Companionship teaches family • Repeated member assistance • Conversion pattern
	<i>Moses</i>	<i>Elias & Elijah</i>

Compare the qualities and behavior of a proselyting missionary with the desired qualities and behavior of a “Temple & Family History Servant Missionary”

Law of the Harvest

- 1 day to plant
- 2-3 months to nourish, water, grow
- 4 days to harvest
- Don't rush the harvest & neglect the nurture

The Conversion Pattern

1. Help them feel the spirit
2. Invite them to come to the Lord.
3. Share with them the promised blessing the Lord has in store for them (eternal families, eternal life with

We focus too much on the harvest, without acknowledging or engaging in the steps leading up to the harvest. We hurriedly work with them and then say, "Oh they're not ready . . . we need to move on." Take time, follow up, be patient.

No one has ever been converted to this work through understanding the Genealogical Proof Standard or the mechanics of how to use the FamilySearch website. Our initial and primary goal with those we help is to facilitate them having a spiritual experience with their ancestors. (All that other stuff will come later). People are converted to this work through the spirit.

Help them feel the spirit. When they do, help them recognize what they are feeling is the spirit of the Lord testifying to the eternal nature of families. In that moment, invite them to participate regularly so they can realize the promised blessings of the Lord.

Strategy

Helping Others to Love Family History

- 1) Prepare Spiritually
- 2) Discover Family Goals
- 3) Request Access
- 4) Explore the Family's tree prior to visit
- 5) Prepare a personalized plan
- 6) Point people to the temple
- 7) Ask for referrals

Watch the remainder of Begin a the Beginning: Helping Others to Love family History by Mike Sandberg at RootsTech 2017

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/beginatthebeginning/>

Mike led a research effort wherein underperforming wards were compared with highly successful wards. After researching what the highly successful wards were doing it was found that:

- 1) The helpers were first ensuring those they helped understood the doctrine and blessings (the plan)
- 2) They had implemented a servant missionary culture
- 3) They followed a series to 7 steps outline int he later half of this presentation.

Month 1:

Help a fellow consultant

Each of us choose one from among us, ask for access, prepare a lesson and make a visit.



If you are working with new consultants you will need to conduct multiple training sessions to get them consciously competent. We recommend that you spin them up in their duties incrementally:

Month 1: Consultants help each other and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

Month 2: Consultants help someone they know well and are comfortable with and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

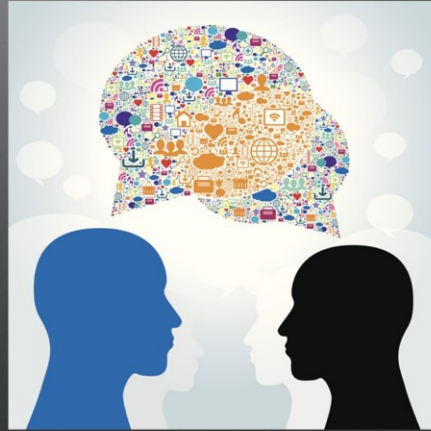
Future Months: Consultants try to add one new person to their teaching list each month until all ward members are being helped.

Month 2:

Help someone you know well in the ward

Choose someone that you are comfortable with in the ward (family friends, etc) and help them.

Report on experiences in monthly in consultants mtg



Month 1: Consultants help each other and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

Month 2: Consultants help someone they know well and are comfortable with and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

Future Months: Consultants try to add one new person to their teaching list each month until all ward members are being helped.

Ongoing:

**Help someone
new each
month**

Let the spirit guide you to a new
person/family each month and



Month 1: Consultants help each other and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

Month 2: Consultants help someone they know well and are comfortable with and FOLLOW the 7 step plan

Future Months: Consultants try to add one new person to their teaching list each month until all ward members are being helped.

Home Visits:

Sign Up & 1-on-1

Pass around a signup sheet

Contact those people during the week

Prepare 1-on-1 experiences

Teach lesson as directed by spirit



This sign up sheet DOES NOT replace the spiritual preparation and reaching out to new people that should take place each month. It does however represent the low-hanging fruit and makes it easy for them to get going the first few months of doing this by having willing helpees

Adult and Youth Temple Trips

Regular Self-Organized Youth Temple Trips

Adults trip planned monthly on regular date



Encourage the youth to self organize regular temple trips with friends in the ward (the older youth can drive). This doesn't need to be a planned church activity – then can act rather than be acted upon and will receive additional blessing because of it.

Adults should also have regularly planned ward temple trips on at least a quarterly basis. We typically do several things prior to these events:

- 1) We pass around a sign up and help people identify ancestors to attend with.
- 2) We work with the youth presidencies to ensure every youth has ancestors to attend with
- 3) We have several consultants speak in church on the preceding Sunday

Youth Indexing Breakfast

Consider a monthly youth indexing breakfast @ the church or a members home and spend 2 hours indexing groups

Use the 2 flat panels and the projector to share screens and make it social and collaborative



The more you make this a casual social collaborative experience with screen sharing and proper expert assistance nearby if needed, but not organizing it, the better received this will be