

and joins in family prayer on behalf of family members, friends, neighbors, or others who are ill or in special need of the Lord's blessings.

Family prayer allows individuals and families to focus attention and affection on God. It builds faith and loyalty within the family and epitomizes Christ-centered family WORSHIP. Family prayer affords the opportunity to offer praise to God and gratitude for daily blessings as well as for the Savior's mission, example, and love. Church members believe that the benefits of daily family prayer include family UNITY, strength in the Lord, freeing the heart of evil inclinations, tender moments of divine communication, and an understanding of God's relationship to his children.

Many members who live alone participate in a family prayer experience by choosing to pray aloud for family members and others. They may also join family home evening groups or other friends and associates for regular group prayer.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Groberg, John H. "The Power of Family Prayer." *Ensign* 12 (May 1982):50-52.
- Hinckley, Gordon B. "The Force of Family Prayer." *IE* 66 (June 1963):528-32.
- Kimball, Spencer W. "Family Prayer." In *Prayer*, pp. 84-87. Salt Lake City, 1977.
- Perry, L. Tom. "Our Father Which Art in Heaven." *Ensign* 13 (Nov. 1983):11-13.

BRUCE L. OLSEN

---

## FAMILY REGISTRY™

Family Registry is a service provided by the Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to help people who are doing research on the same family lines to cooperate with one another and share results, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort and expense. This service provides a way for individuals and family organizations to ask for information about an ancestor who is currently the subject of their research or to share with others information they may have about deceased individuals.

The Family Registry has an alphabetical list of the surnames being researched, together with the names and addresses of persons who have registered. The index is updated periodically and published on microfiche. The January 1990 edition

contained 287,000 names. Those who register are expected to respond to others who wish to coordinate research efforts. The Family Registry index can be personally searched by anyone at the FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY in Salt Lake City, Utah, or at more than 1,500 FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS or other libraries that participate in offering this service. There is no charge for registration or for searching the index.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "A New Tool for Genealogists." *Church News* (Dec. 18, 1983):12.
- Nichols, Elizabeth L. "The Family Registry." *Genealogy Digest* 16 (Summer 1985):26-31.

JOHN C. JARMAN

---

## FAMILYSEARCH™

FamilySearch™ is an automated computer system that simplifies the task of family history research. The FamilySearch system includes search-and-retrieval programs designed to work on personal computers and computer files of family history information. FamilySearch was developed by the Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The information in each file is distributed on compact discs, each capable of storing the equivalent of about 320,000 pages of text. They are read by computers equipped with a compact-disc player and with the FamilySearch software.

FamilySearch is available to the public at the FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY in Salt Lake City and over time will be distributed to FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS affiliated with the library.

FamilySearch's primary purpose is to help members of the Church identify their ancestors and complete TEMPLE ORDINANCES for them. The power of the program, together with the large files available to it, make FamilySearch a valuable research tool.

When the system was introduced in 1990, it included the following files:

1. The Family History Library Catalog, which has been available for many years in a microfiche edition in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and in family history centers, describes the collection of the library and provides help in locat-

ing the book, microfilm, or other research tool a patron may need. The automated edition simplifies use of the catalog.

2. The INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI), which has been available for many years in a microfiche edition. The automated edition gives information about deceased persons for whom temple ordinances have been performed. It also lists birth, christening, and marriage dates and temple ordinance information.

3. Ancestral File™ is a family-linked file containing genealogies contributed by members of the Church since 1979. Many other genealogies have also been included, and additional contributions of family history information are welcomed.

Other files will be added to FamilySearch as they become available.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

"FamilySearch™ Software," Attachment, First Presidency Letter, April 2, 1990.

Mayfield, David M., and A. Gregory Brown. "FamilySearch." *Genealogical Computing* 10 (1990):1.

L. REYNOLDS CAHOON

---

## FARMS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

See: Business: Church Participation in Business

---

## FAR WEST, MISSOURI

Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, was settled in 1836 as Latter-day Saints sought a home and refuge from persecution in Clay County. It became the county seat, with an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 inhabitants. Far West is important to LDS history because that is where the following happened: (1) a temple site was dedicated and the cornerstones laid; (2) seven revelations now published in the Doctrine and Covenants (113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 120) were received; (3) Joseph F. SMITH, sixth president of the Church, was born (November 13, 1838); (4) the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles officially left from for a mission to Great Britain; (5) a stake of Zion was organized; (6) Joseph SMITH and his family lived (beginning March 14, 1838); (7) and for a short time the headquarters of the Church was located.

Among the notable revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants received at Far West and vicinity are: the proper NAME OF THE CHURCH was given (115:4); four new members of the Twelve Apostles were named and the Twelve as a quorum were called to serve an overseas mission (118:1–6); and the law of TITHING was explained (119, 120).

Joseph Smith and other Church leaders were arrested in Far West on October 31, 1838, by the state militia and taken to Independence, then to Richmond, and from there to Liberty, Missouri, where they were imprisoned. While the Prophet was in prison during the winter and spring of 1838–1839, the Latter-day Saints were driven from Far West and other Missouri sites under Governor Boggs's EXTERMINATION ORDER and relocated in Illinois.

The Church still has interest in Far West and has erected appropriate monuments at the temple site.

[See also History of the Church: c. 1831–1844; Missions of the Twelve to British Isles; Missouri.]

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cannon, Donald Q., and Lyndon W. Cook. *Far West Record*. Salt Lake City, 1983.

Gentry, Leland H. "A History of the Latter-day Saints in Northern Missouri from 1836 to 1839." Ph.D. diss., Brigham Young University, 1965.

LARRY C. PORTER

---

## FASTING

The practice of periodic abstinence from food and drink for devotional purposes has been documented since early times. The Bible and the Book of Mormon attest to fasting in its several forms, public or private, institutionalized or spontaneous. In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord commanded the Latter-day Saints to "continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth" (D&C 88:76).

Church members fast together generally on the first Sunday of each month, in preparation for FAST AND TESTIMONY MEETING. They usually abstain from food and drink for two consecutive meals, attend Church services, and donate a FAST OFFERING for the care of the needy. Additionally, an individual, family, or congregation may fast for a specific cause such as one who is sick or otherwise