

ASIA AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

## Capturing Living History—the Importance of Our Four Generations

By **Elder Robert K. William**

Of the Seventy



*Elder Robert K.  
William*

The returning of the prophet Elijah during the last days was foretold by the Lord through His prophet Malachi, when He declared, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Malachi 4:5–6). As declared,

Elijah the prophet appeared to Joseph Smith on March 27, 1836, during the dedication of the Kirtland Temple. As part of the restoration of other priesthood keys by Moses and Elias during that grand vision, the prophet Elijah restored the keys of the sealing power. The sealing power restored allows husbands, wives, and their children to be sealed together for eternity. As members of the Church, we are able to receive

all ordinances necessary for us to return to God’s presence and receive the greatest of all of His gifts—exaltation. “With the spirit of Elijah we have power to organize the patriarchal order and then seal it so that it is everlasting.”<sup>1</sup> This sacred sealing power, restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, makes it possible for us to perform all the ordinances necessary for our ancestors to be joined together in eternal



families and qualify, as they accept the gospel, to also receive the blessings of exaltation.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled the leaders of our area to make a more concerted effort in doing their personal family history work. Heeding his counsel, the area is now working on helping members to be more engaged in this work. As part of this effort, we have encouraged all active adults and youth to register a FamilySearch account, to start adding ancestors to their family tree, and to reserve names for the ordinances. We have encouraged them to complete as much of the first four generations of their family tree as possible. These efforts will bear fruit as we talk to our living parents and grandparents. Most of the information I obtained for my family history work was from my grandmother. Sustaining this effort will help all of us create our own family tree and help us see the grand picture.

One of the other ways to make the family history experience more fun is to capture the living memory of ourselves and others. On the FamilySearch website we read, “Each person, no matter how ordinary, has extraordinary memories to share. Many of the most precious, heart-changing family photos and stories are tucked away in our homes and our minds.”<sup>2</sup> The website provides

a way for us to preserve memories so that they can be shared for generations to come. Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said, “I hope to now build upon President [Gordon B.] Hinckley’s teachings about our ‘chain of the generations.’ He clearly and emphatically described what we should not do, which is become a weak link in the chain of the generations. I want to focus upon what we should do, which is become a welding link in the chain of the generations.”<sup>3</sup> As we faithfully perform our duty, the Lord will help us be a welding link that binds our generation together.

I experienced the blessings of temple and family history work firsthand as I entered the temple to do my own endowment and be sealed to my companion. Feeling the sense of eternity through the ordinances helped me better realize the need for my ancestors on the other side. An overwhelming joy filled my heart as I performed baptisms for the ancestors on my wife’s side. My

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wife, Anne, said, “It’s been many years since my grandma K. Ponnamal Sundaram passed away, but when I performed the saving ordinances for her in the temple, I saw her face as I remembered her, and I sensed the joy she felt accepting the ordinances performed on her behalf.” I know that many of you have similar and other sacred experiences doing the work for your ancestors. All this denotes that this is the work of the Lord and that our ancestors are waiting for our help. By performing these sacred ordinances, we become saviors on Mount Zion for them.

The work of salvation for our families cannot be completed just by saving ourselves. We need to do temple work for all those who have passed on to the other side of the veil. God loves all His children. Everyone born on this earth deserves our help and support. I promise you, if you anxiously engage in this sacred work, you will feel the spirit of Elijah. You will have more appreciation for them and the blessings that you can provide for them through temple and family history work. May God bless you to see the vision of this great work is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

#### NOTE

1. *Doctrine and Covenants Instructor’s Guide: Religion 324–325* (1981), 86.
2. [FamilySearch.org/photos](https://www.familysearch.org/photos).
3. David A. Bednar, “A Welding Link” (worldwide devotional for young adults, Sept. 10, 2017), [broadcasts.lds.org](https://broadcasts.lds.org).

## ASIA AREA FAMILY HISTORY INITIATIVE



# 4

## Have You Completed Your Generations in Your Tree?

*We all have ancestors who have passed on to the other side of the veil who are anxiously waiting for their temple ordinances to be performed. All of us can be gatherers of our families on both sides of the veil. As we actively focus on temple and family history work, we will feel the Spirit, and it will strengthen our families and our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Talk to Your Living Ancestors
- Fill out Four Generations on **Family History: Get Started Now** Pamphlet
- Add Names to [familysearch.org/myfamily](https://familysearch.org/myfamily) or [lite.fs.org](https://lite.fs.org)
- Take Your Family Names to the Temple for Ordinances



[familysearch.org/myfamily](https://familysearch.org/myfamily)



[lite.fs.org](https://lite.fs.org)

### Asia Area Presidency

**W**e invite our membership in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Thailand to make a concerted effort to talk to their living family members to learn about their ancestors, complete 4 generations on their family tree, and, where possible, take their own family names to the temple. ■

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LOCAL PAGES

## Water, Community Wells

By Barry and Jennifer Hubbard, Larry and Darla Newton

This project helped 11 villages with 18,000 people. In short, the people of Gubbi Taluk in the Tumkur District needed water. During the summer months, women would have to walk four kilometers to bring drinking water to their homes. The people have some wells, but they are very dirty, causing waterborne illness, diarrhea, cholera, skin diseases, etc. This area also has seen farmers commit suicide as they cannot carry on their debt and are unable to bear the sight of their starving children.

LDS Charities (LDSC) partnered with St. Thomas Mission to dig three new borewells and three new tower holding tanks along with repairing two existing towers and tanks. The contractor also enjoyed helping to create one water

tank for the farmers' livestock and several washing stations for each village. The finances came from LDSC, but the people, connections, and trust came from the Mission. Father Francis said, "We believe that you are angels sent by God to the people to quench their thirst."

The government was not able to do this project due to the scarcity of funds, and so they are thankful to LDSC for having taken up this project. When the wells were dug and the water burst from the ground, the people were leaping for joy and they said, "LDSC is a gift from God."

One village woman said, "Now I can get water every four days with many pots, instead of walking long distances every day to fill one pot." ■

