

AFRICA SOUTHEAST LOCAL PAGES

AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

General Conference: A Time for Gathering and Hearing the Word of The Lord to Us

Elder S. Mark Palmer

First Counselor, Africa Southeast Area Presidency



Elder S. Mark Palmer

How marvelous it is to participate in general conference this month.

Our great hope is that members will gather together in their chapels, or if they have adequate internet access, perhaps in their homes, and watch and listen to our prophets, seers, and revelators share what the Lord would have us know.

We have a daughter who gathers her young children together and literally sets up a tent inside their house facing the computer screen where they will watch conference. They all crawl into their little tent with pens and crayons to take notes and learn together. This is what happened as the aging and ailing King Benjamin gathered his people together to declare the word of the Lord to them and each family pitched their tents with the door facing the temple from which King Benjamin would speak to them.

We do not ask our members to set up tents but have ensured within the past year that every stake center in our area (and selected additional meetinghouses where transportation is difficult) has satellite access. Now we can all gather together in

our congregations and, in a most remarkable way, watch and hear the words of our living prophets within days of when they speak. The Lord has declared that “whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38). I testify that what we hear in general conference is vital for us in our time and will bless each of us. The brethren and sisters who speak in general

conference diligently seek to know the will of the Lord through earnest prayer, fasting, and study. They spend countless hours and many sleepless nights seeking to know and understand the message that the Lord wants them to give.

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) taught: “The only safety we have as members of this church is to ... give heed to the words



Children watching General Conference at home

and commandments that the Lord shall give through His prophet. ... There will be some things that take patience and faith. You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may contradict your [personal] views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if you listen to these things, as if from the mouth of the Lord Himself, with patience and faith, the promise is that 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; ... and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you' [D&C 21:6]."¹

I marveled last April general conference at the brief but powerful message of our beloved President Thomas S. Monson. He warned us that we could no longer rely on the testimonies of others and then boldly and simply invited each of us to read and ponder the Book of Mormon daily. He also promised us that as we do so, we will hear the voice of the Spirit, resist temptation, overcome doubt and fear, and receive heaven's help in our lives.² As I write this message, I do not know what we will hear this October general conference, but I do know that we will hear the word of the Lord and we will feel the Spirit of the Lord teaching and testifying to us of truth.

Every six months I go to general conference with the following question and plea in my mind and heart: "How do I need to repent and

change? Please help me recognize those things I need to improve on." Without fail, this question is answered if I listen with a humble and teachable heart. I have come to love the scripture "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" (Hebrews 12:6). Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles teaches that "in [general] conferences we can receive the word of the Lord meant just for us" and that "the greatest blessings of general conference come to us after the conference is over. Remember the pattern recorded frequently in scripture: we gather to hear the words of the Lord, and we return to our homes to live them."³

We invite you in the months to come to read again and again the messages received in this general conference. Ponder these messages and look for how they apply in your life. Share them with friends not of our faith and those you are helping to return to activity. Especially counsel together in your families about the inspired messages and how they can bless you and your loved ones.

In the Africa Southeast Area, the general conference editions of the *Liahona* are provided without cost for families and individuals in the area. They are distributed through the wards and branches. Additionally, the conference messages can be watched, listened to, and read on **LDS.org**. We have our own website for the area

which is found at **africase.lds.org** and includes wonderful local testimonies and follow-up from general conference. Conference messages will be used for months to come in lessons and talks in our Sabbath meetings. We are making great effort to see that the words of living prophets will be available to all our members and we promise that they will bless each of us as we include these messages in our lives.

I testify of living prophets and apostles and that Jesus Christ directs and leads His Church through them. How I love general conference and the outpouring of the Spirit that always comes. I thrill to see the extraordinary efforts made by our members to come and see the Apostles whenever they visit our area and to then hear the Apostles themselves share how touched they are by the faith of the wonderful African Saints they meet. But these visits are rare, and how thankful we are that in this day the words of those we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators can be heard and read by all right here in Africa. May we heed their warning voices and may we strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ as we do so. ■

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* (2000), 84–85.
2. See Thomas S. Monson, "The Power of the Book of Mormon," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2017, 86–87.
3. Robert D. Hales, "General Conference: Strengthening Faith and Testimony," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 6, 7.

LOCAL PRIESTHOOD LEADERS

What Are These That Look Like Oxen?

Elder Tasara Makasi

Area Seventy

A few months ago my wife and I took some names of our kindred dead to the temple to do the work for them. I will never forget the experience I had as I was doing this work. The temple worker who was assisting me looked at one of the names I had and before we could go on with the ordinance, the officiator said, “Who is this?” I told him that this was my uncle, and he went on to say, “He must be very happy that you are doing this for him.” Now this uncle of mine was very close to me, and I had prayed so much that he would accept the work. This experience was so tender to me. I felt my uncle’s gratitude as his name was being called upon in the house of the Lord.

Recently while I was in the Kigali Second Branch in Rwanda, an investigator came to me with a question soon after the Sunday meetings were over. “Do you have a picture of the temple?” he asked. I pulled out my phone, went online, and showed him pictures of several temples. He then asked, “What about the inside, what does it look like?” I again showed him several pictures of the temple interior that I found on LDS.org. One of the pictures was that of a baptismal font and so his next question was, “What are these that look like oxen?” I explained a bit and quickly turned to 2 Chronicles 4:2–4. With a big smile of satisfaction on his face, he asked, “How can I get there?” Before I could

respond, he posed a follow-up question, “What do I need to do to get into the temple?”

His question, “What are these that look like oxen?” reminds me of the sacred work that goes on in baptismal fonts inside the temple. This is the part of the temple that can be accessed by the newest member in the Church (age 12 and older). New members of the Church who take their own names to the temple within a few weeks after joining the Church are more likely to remain active in the Church. Not only that, they are more likely to develop a strong testimony of temple and family history work and more likely to return to perform their own living ordinances soon after reaching the one-year mark in their membership. They are also more likely to continue frequenting the temple throughout their life. It is therefore very essential that members and full-time missionaries work collectively in helping new converts get to the temple. They do not have to wait for a year before coming to the temple; those within reasonable distance to the temple should be invited, encouraged, and helped to attend the temple and be baptized for their dead.



Elder Tasara Makasi





Prophets and apostles in our day have given us wonderful and glorious promises that are fulfilled in the lives of all those who engage in this work of redeeming the dead. Below are some of the promises:

1. Protection and Spiritual Refinement

“No work is more of a protection to this Church than temple work and the family history research that supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness.

“Our labors in the temple cover us with a shield and a protection, both individually and as a people.”¹

2. Sacred Temple Experience and Greater Blessings

“Any work you do in the temple is time well spent, but receiving ordinances vicariously for one of your own ancestors will make the time in the temple more sacred, and even greater blessings will be received.”²

3. Greater Joy

“As an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, I promise that if you look beyond the bonds of time and mortality and help those who cannot help themselves, you will be blessed with more closeness and joy in your family and with the divine protection afforded those who are faithful in His service.”³

“I invoke a special blessing on you parents, you youth, and you children that each of you will find joy and be blessed in every other aspect of your life as you fulfill the obligation that has been sent from heaven.”⁴

4. Increased Power

“You will find not only protection from the temptation and ills of the world, but you will also find personal power—power to change, power to repent, power to learn, power to be sanctified, and power to turn the hearts of your family members to each other and heal that which needs healing.”⁵

“Your testimony of and conversion to the Savior will become deep and abiding.”⁶

5. Answers to Prayer

“As you pursue family history work, you are going to find yourself running into roadblocks, and you are going to say to yourself, ‘There is nothing else I can do.’ When you come to that point, get down on your knees and ask the Lord to open the way, and He will open the way for you. I testify that this is true.”⁷

We need to claim these blessings ourselves and help others do the same. Elder Enrique R. Falabella of the Seventy reminded us that, “We cannot expect blessings to simply fall in our laps. Blessings don’t have feet! We must go to them.”⁸ This work allows us to partner with the Savior in His work and glory—“to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). As we labor with Him, He refines us and helps us to become more like Him. ■

NOTES

1. Boyd K. Parker, “The Holy Temple,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Oct. 2010, 35.
2. Richard G. Scott, “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 93–94.
3. Quentin L. Cook, “The Joy of Family History Work,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Feb. 2016, 27.
4. Quentin L. Cook, “Our Father’s Plan Is about Families” (RootsTech 2015 Family History Conference, Feb. 14, 2015), LDS.org.
5. Dale G. Renlund, “Family History and Temple Blessings,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Feb. 2017, 39.
6. David A. Bednar, “The Hearts of the Children Shall Turn,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 27.
7. Thomas S. Monson, “Hastening the Work,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Jun. 2014, 4–5.
8. Enrique R. Falabella, in “Blessings for Families Yesterday, Today, and Forever: Highlights from the 2015 Family Discovery Day,” lds.org/topics/family-history.



Family Tree Lite

New Experience to Gather Heavenly Father's Children to the Temple



Message from the Area Presidency

Technology has been a blessing for family history work. The Family Tree mobile app and the FamilySearch website have allowed members of the Church to seek out, identify, and submit to the temple names of their deceased family members in an unprecedented way. All members of the Church - youth, young adults, and adults - have embraced this wonderful technology in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

We invite all to "come and see". Access the new Family Tree Lite at lite.fs.org with any device and any web browser. Input your family names and submit them to the temple so that their ordinance work can be performed. This new technology will bless our members as they seek out their ancestors and submit their names to the temple. We are all blessed to live in an age when technology can be used to accomplish the work of salvation.



PURPOSE

Introduce Family Tree Lite, a mobile family tree experience that works in low-bandwidth environments with minimal data usage.



Family Tree Lite Enables More Family Gathering

Overcomes many technology and location challenges

- My Family Booklet and paper process work but require online data entry
- Full FamilySearch.org site is too "heavy" in some areas
- Family Tree Lite works in low-bandwidth locations and minimizes data transfer



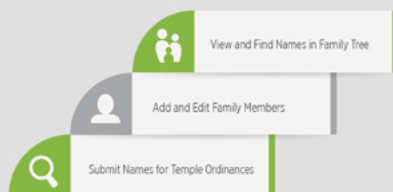
Family Tree Lite Capabilities

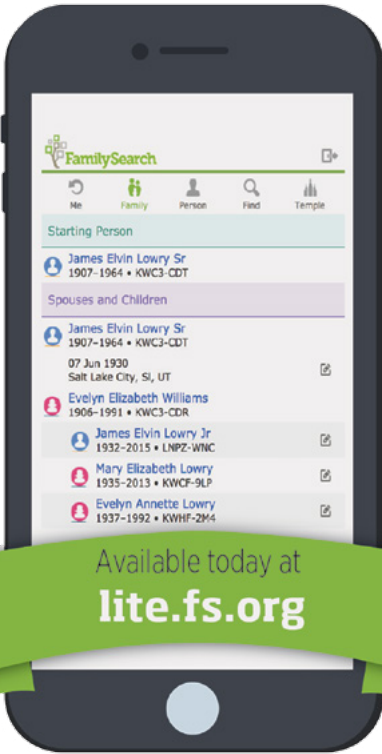
Works on Mobile Devices in Low-Bandwidth Locations

- No images or media
- Minimal data transfer

Available in Six Languages Today

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- French
- Italian
- German

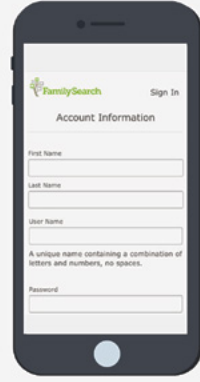




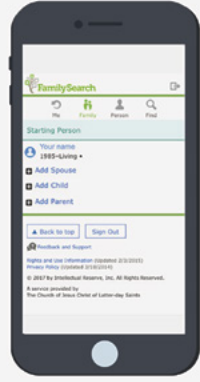
Available today at
lite.fs.org



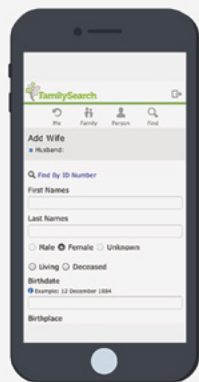
Go to
lite.fs.org
on your browser



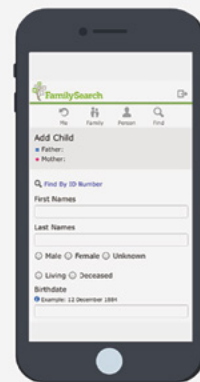
Sign up by
entering your details
and selecting a password



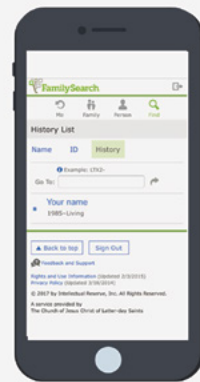
Home screen



Add spouse



Add child



Find person

Account Information

First Name

Last Name

User Name

A unique name containing a combination of letters and numbers, no spaces.

Sign up by entering your details, creating a User name and selecting a unique password

FamilySearch

Me Family Person Find

Starting Person

Your name
1985-Living •

+ Add Spouse

+ Add Child

+ Add Parent

Sign up by adding family members to your Family tree. You can select from spouse, child and parent.

Add Wife

Husband:

Find By ID Number

First Names

Last Names

Male Female Unknown

Living Deceased

Birthdate
Example: 12 December 1884

Birthplace

Easily add a spouse to your family tree by entering their details in the required various fields

Add Child

Father:
 Mother:

Find By ID Number

First Names

Last Names

Male Female Unknown

Living Deceased

Birthdate
Example: 12 December 1884

Birthplace

Add children to your family tree by entering their details in the required various fields

Starting Person

James Elvin Lowry Sr
1907-1964 • KW3-CDT

Spouses and Children

James Elvin Lowry Sr
1907-1964 • KW3-CDT
07 Jun 1930
Salt Lake City, SI, UT

Evelyn Elizabeth Williams
1906-1991 • KW3-CDR

James Elvin Lowry Jr
1932-2015 • LNPZ-WNC

Mary Elizabeth Lowry
1935-2013 • KWCF-9LP

Evelyn Annette Lowry
1992 • KWHE-2M4

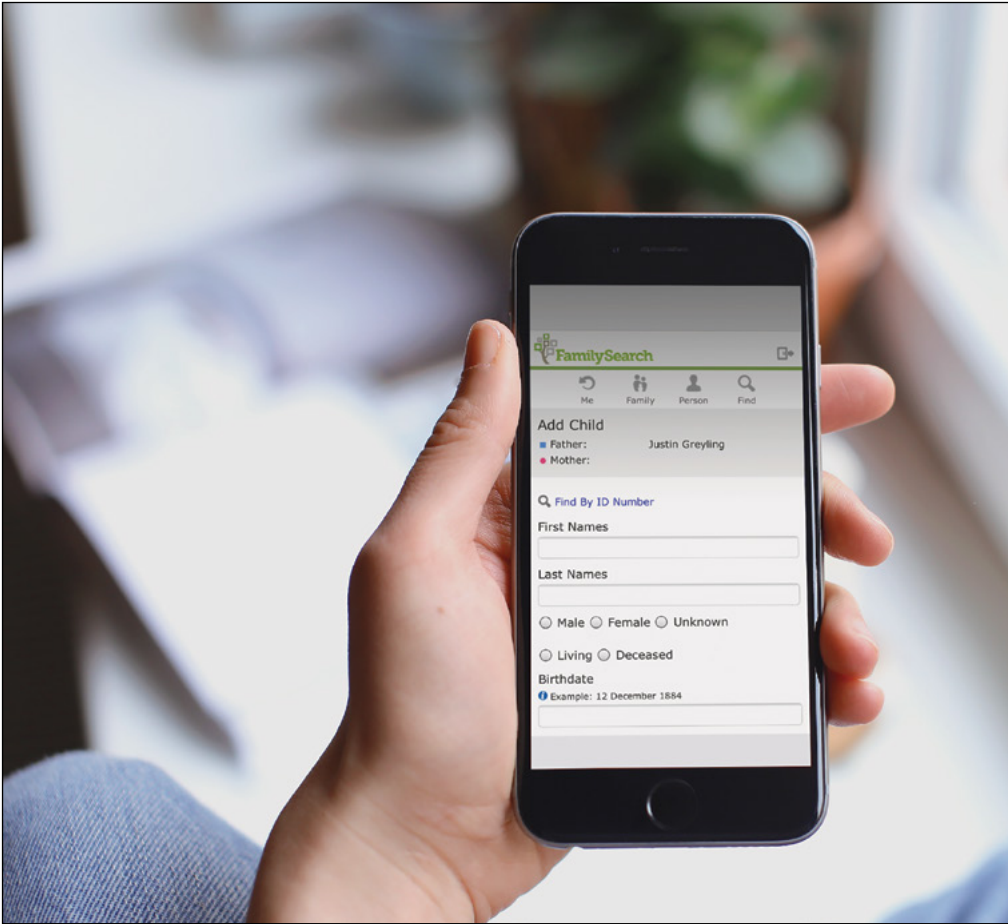
Easily access you family tree
Edit family members details and submit names for Temple ordinances

Death Date
Example: 21 June 1907

Death Place
Example: San Jose, California, United States

Submit Cancel

Easily submit to the temple
Capture and submit deceased family members names to the temple so that their ordinance work can be performed.

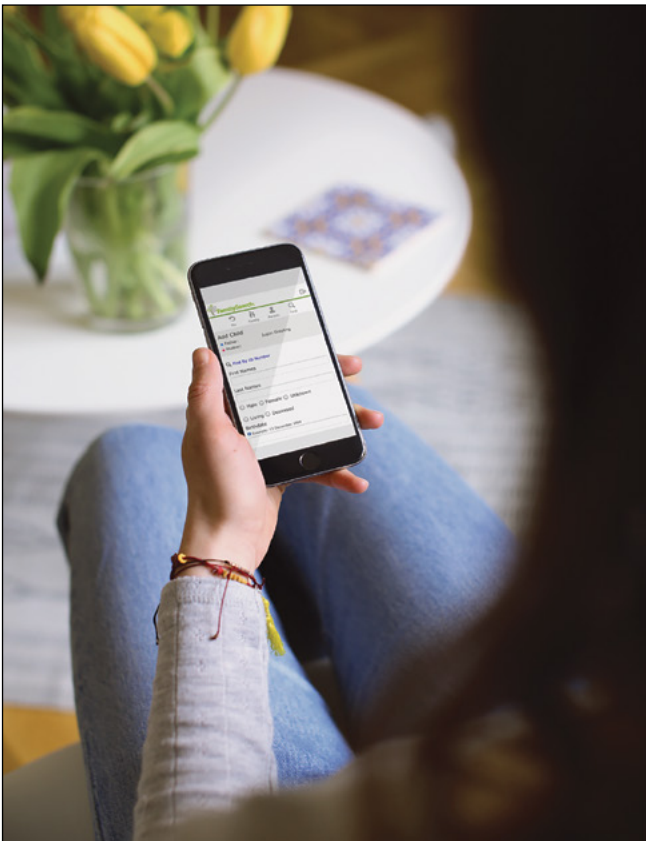


Family Tree **Lite**

Access your
family history
on your phone

Available today at

lite.fs.org



Family Tree **Lite**

New Mobi Site

lite.fs.org