

GLOBAL MEDIA GUIDE



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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Overview

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, directed by Jesus Christ through living prophets and apostles, carries forth the work of the Master, teaching the restored doctrines and administering, with full authority, the valid ordinances of salvation.

Apostasy and Restoration

An important component of Christ's mortal ministry on the earth was establishing a formal organization, a church. To the Apostles, Christ gave the charge and the authority to carry on the work of his ministry after his Crucifixion. Among their primary responsibilities were preaching the gospel, administering essential ordinances of salvation to those who believed, and authoritatively declaring the true and valid doctrines of the kingdom of God.

Within the first century A.D., however, the Apostles were killed, the doctrines were changed, and the truth was abandoned. A resultant

spiritual darkness covered the earth for centuries until one morning in the spring of 1820 when God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to a young boy named Joseph Smith and initiated a restoration of all the truths, powers, and priesthood authority of the ancient Church. Because of this restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

- A correct knowledge of the Godhead is once again on the earth.
- Priesthood authority to act in the name of God is once again on the earth.
- Revelation from God for the direction of mankind is again received by a living prophet.
- The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible, and other sacred scriptures lead to a knowledge of God and faith in his purposes. The scriptural canon is not closed.

- Missionaries now serve throughout the world, bringing knowledge of the Restoration of the gospel to people in many nations.
- Essential ordinances of salvation and exaltation for the living and the dead have been restored; temples are built worldwide for this purpose.
- The Church of Jesus Christ grows in strength, lending both spiritual and temporal aid to the many peoples of the earth.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was officially organized on 6 April 1830 with six members. Today congregations of the Church are found in more than 150 nations and territories. With nearly 10 million members, it is one of the fastest growing religions in the world and one of the largest Christian churches in the United States.

Media Style Guide

Use of "Mormon Church" or "Mormon" by the media in stories mentioning either The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or members of that Church is both incorrect and confusing. The following guidelines should help in your attempts to be accurate.

- You should always use the official name of the Church in the first reference, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." Note the capital letters and the hyphen.

- In subsequent references you can use "the Church," or "the Latter-day Saints."
- Do not use "Mormon," "Mormon Church," "LDS," "LDS Church," "Latter-day Saints Church," or "the Church of the Latter-day Saints" when referring to the Church.
- Use the word "Mormon" only in the context of The Book of Mormon, not as a nickname for the Church.

- The correct titles for the Church's scriptures are:

The Holy Bible (King James Version)

The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ

The Doctrine and Covenants

The Pearl of Great Price

Core Beliefs and Doctrines

Godhead

A paramount doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a belief in God the Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. The three make up the Godhead. They are one in purpose but separate in being.

Christian

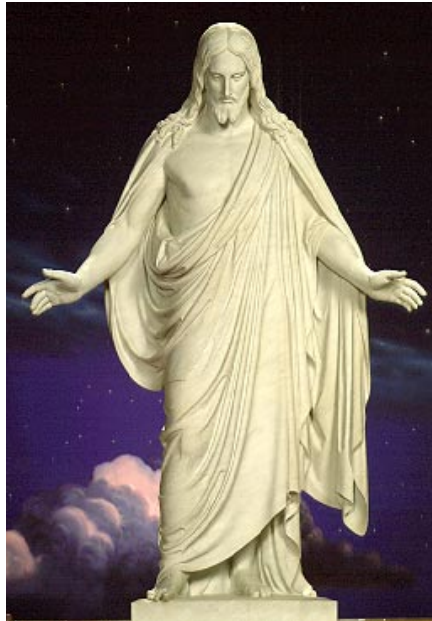
The Church is Christian but is neither Catholic nor Protestant. Rather, it is a restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ as originally established by the Savior.

Divine Priesthood Authority

The authority to act in God's name is called the priesthood. The Church emphasizes the need for divine authority. As Joseph Smith, first prophet and president of the Church, taught, "A man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof" (Articles of Faith 1:5).

Principles and Ordinances

As stated by Joseph Smith, the first principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ are, "First, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Articles of Faith 1:4), which constitutes confirmation into the Church. Baptism follows the biblical example of immersion and is for the remission of one's sins. Since young children are incapable of sin, they are not baptized until the age of eight, the age when they become accountable for their actions.



Continuing Revelation

Divine revelation for the direction of the entire Church comes from God to the President of the Church. The Presidents of the Church down through the years since it was restored in 1830 have been and are viewed by Latter-day Saints as prophets in the same sense as are Abraham, Moses, Peter, and other such biblical leaders. Parents are entitled to revelation for raising their families, and individuals are entitled to divine revelation for meeting personal challenges.

Scriptures

The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ is divinely inspired scripture, as is the Holy Bible. They are used side by side in Church curriculum with other approved scriptures: the Doctrine and Covenants, a compilation of revelations and writings given since the restoration began, and the Pearl of Great Price, a selection from the revelations, translations, and writings of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Purpose of Life

A prophet in the Book of Mormon said, "Men are, that they might have joy" (2 Nephi 2:25). Joseph Smith said, "Happiness is the object and design of our existence" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 255.) All people on earth have a physical body and a spirit body that make up the soul of each person. Spirits are literally children of heavenly parents, and they lived with them in a premortal existence. Through God's divine plan, all come to earth to receive a physical body, gain experience, and prove themselves worthy to return to live with God forever. Through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, all will be resurrected, and through his Atonement, all may partake of his love, mercy, and forgiveness. All have the potential of eternal life, conditional upon individual worthiness and obedience to the Savior's ordinances and teachings.

Family and Marriage

Family unity in this life and the potential for eternal family relationships are at the core of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Marriages performed in the Church's temples do not dissolve at death. Rather, marriage and family relationships may continue through eternity, contingent upon individual worthiness.

Morality

The Church teaches and follows the Savior's law of strict morality. The Church teaches honesty, integrity, obedience to law, chastity outside of marriage, and fidelity within marriage. It opposes abortion, pornography, gambling, and other evils.

Health Code

“The Word of Wisdom,” a health code revealed to Joseph Smith in 1833, cautions against using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, tea, and coffee and emphasizes the positive benefits of wise eating habits and physical and spiritual fitness. The Church interprets the misuse and abuse of all drugs—illegal, legal, prescription, or controlled—as a violation of the Word of Wisdom.

Tithing and Fast Offerings

The Church and its faithful members embrace the biblical principle of tithing, which is contributing one-tenth of one’s income. Faithful members also fast for two meals one day a month and donate the money

they would have spent on those meals, or more, to a fund to help the needy. The generous offerings of the members enable the Church to finance the construction, education, welfare, missionary, curriculum, humanitarian, and other programs that benefit members and others.

Individual Responsibility

The Church teaches that the responsibility for one’s spiritual and temporal well-being rests upon the individual first, then the family, and finally the Church. Church members are commanded by the Lord to be self-reliant and independent to the extent of their ability.

Missionary Work

The Church accepts the charge the Savior gives in Matthew to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (28:19) and share the blessings

of the gospel. Consequently, the Church has some 50,000 full-time missionaries serving throughout the world. Most are college-age men and women, but many are retired couples. All have accepted a call from Church leaders and serve at their own expense for a year and a half to two years.

Church Service

Prophets have taught that “when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17). Millions of faithful members of the Church serve in a wide variety of unpaid “callings,” or assignments, in local units, missions, temples, family history research centers, and other Church programs.

Structure and Organization

Ecclesiastical Organization

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints exists to bless the children of God, offering the teaching, support, and essential ordinances necessary to the salvation of each individual. Thus the individual becomes the focus of the gospel, with the family as the basic unit of the Church.

Throughout the world, members of the Church are served by a lay ministry. The only full-time officers in ecclesiastical administration are the “General Authorities.” These individuals, constituting the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Seventy, and the Presiding Bishopric, are called to full-time Church service by the Savior himself by revelation to the President of the Church. Like Peter and John of old, they leave behind their previous occupational pursuits.

Further explanation of each of these administrative levels is given below.

Global Administration

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is headed by the President of the Church. The President is a prophet. He receives revelation and inspiration directly from the Lord to guide the Church. The President of the Church and his two counselors constitute the First Presidency.

Members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles comprise the principal policy-

making and administrative officers of the Church. The Apostles also have the scriptural charge to be special witnesses of Jesus Christ throughout the world and to ensure the orderly and correct operation of the Church everywhere. At the death of the President of the Church, the senior member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (determined by length of service in the quorum, not age) becomes President of the Church.

Policies of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve are implemented mainly through members of the Seventy serving in Area Presidencies around the world.

The primary geographical subdivisions of the Church are wards (local congregations), stakes (comprised of several wards), and areas. At each level of administration, Church officers support and train those individuals over whom they preside: Area Presidencies train and support stake presidencies (a president and two counselors) who preside over ward bishops (each also assisted by two counselors). Bishops preside over the local Church congregations.

Stakes and wards have no paid ministry. The substantial volume of labor required to effectively run a stake or ward is carried out by the members, who are called by their leaders to contribute in various, specific capacities, such as in administrative, teaching, or service-oriented positions. Ample opportunity is given every willing

member of the congregation to render service, share talents, and gain new skills.

Each member of the Church has the right to sustain or not sustain all officers and administrative proposals that are presented by local or general presiding authorities. Likewise, every Church member has the right to revelation for his or her own life and particular area of Church responsibility.

Temporal Organization

The Church operates an educational system, a welfare system, and a missionary program, and formulates guidelines for local auxiliary organizations called Relief Society, Sunday School, Young Men, Young Women, and Primary.

The Relief Society is one of the oldest and largest women’s organizations in the world. It was established in 1842 to help the sick, the poor, and others in need of compassionate service. During its weekly meetings, the organization provides instruction on a variety of topics, including theology, home and family education, compassionate service, social relations, and home management. The Relief Society also administers a literacy program in several countries.

Members of the Church 12 years of age and older attend Sunday School, which provides religious teaching for the different age groups.

Spiritual training and social and cultural activities for the youth of the Church are provided by the Young Men and the Young Women organizations, and in some nations, Scouting. Youth from 12 through 17 meet in classes on Sundays for religious study. They also meet several times during the month for social, cultural, and recreational activities to build faith and character and to enhance health and physical fitness.

The Primary helps parents teach the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ to their children

ages 3 through 11. The children meet weekly to receive religious instruction and to enjoy social interaction. Children 18 months to 3 years may attend the Primary nursery on Sundays.

The Church's programs for singles serve unmarried adults of all ages. Participants enjoy associating together in spiritual, cultural, recreational, social, and service activities.

Home teachers and visiting teachers serve as representatives of the bishop to every individual or family within the jurisdiction of the local

congregation. Male priesthood holders go in pairs to each Latter-day Saint home once per month in a function known as "home teaching." They bring messages of inspiration, guidance, and good will to the family and render service as needed. They may help families solve financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual challenges. Similarly, adult female members called "visiting teachers" are assigned in pairs to render compassionate service as they assist the priesthood with temporal and spiritual needs of every woman in the Church.

History

Joseph Smith

After the Crucifixion of the Savior and the death of the Apostles, centuries of spiritual darkness covered the earth. Then in the spring of 1820, God appeared to a 14-year-old boy named Joseph Smith. This event started the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ to the earth.

Joseph Smith was born 23 December 1805 in Sharon, Vermont. He later moved with his family to the rural community of Palmyra, New York, where, in 1820, a religious revival occurred. Confused by the conflicting claims of the various faiths, Joseph went to the Bible for guidance and there found the challenge to “ask of God” for himself (James 1:5).

In a wooded grove near the family farm, Joseph knelt to pray for guidance. God, the Eternal Father, and his Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to him there and gave him instructions. He was commanded to join none of the existing churches and was told that through him God would restore to earth the Church originally organized by Jesus Christ, with all of its truths and priesthood authority. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was officially organized on 6 April 1830, in Fayette, New York.

The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ

In September of 1823, a resurrected being named Moroni appeared to Joseph and directed him to a hill near Palmyra, where he showed him a religious history of an

ancient American civilization engraved on metal plates and buried in the ground. Four years later Joseph translated this record, the Book of Mormon, named for one of the ancient American prophets who had compiled it. The Book of Mormon was first published in 1830.

The Book of Mormon contains religious writings of some civilizations in ancient America between about 2200 B.C. and A.D. 420. It includes an eyewitness account of the ministry of Jesus Christ on the American continent following his Resurrection in Jerusalem.

Restoration of Priesthood Authority

Apostles and prophets in all ages have had authority from God, called priesthood, to act in his name. The original Twelve Apostles received the priesthood under the hands of the Savior himself, but with their passing, the priesthood authority of the apostleship disappeared from the earth. An essential component of the Restoration, therefore, was the reestablishment of this priesthood authority, which was accomplished in 1829.

In May of that year, a resurrected being who identified himself as John the Baptist appeared to Joseph Smith and his associate Oliver Cowdery, laid his hands on their heads, and gave them the Aaronic Priesthood with the authority to baptize and perform other ordinances. Shortly thereafter, three of the original Apostles, Peter, James, and John, appeared to Joseph and Oliver and gave them

the authority of the apostleship and the Melchizedek Priesthood. With the restoration of priesthood authority, Joseph organized The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with six initial members.

Growth and Opposition

Like the ancient Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was a missionary church. In the mid-nineteenth century, converts were encouraged to gather with the Saints in America. Swelling ranks of immigrants from Europe and the eastern United States soon provided fuel for growing opposition as well.

To escape the escalating turmoil, Church headquarters moved from New York to Ohio, then to Missouri, and later to Illinois. In 1839 the Latter-day Saints established the community of Nauvoo (Illinois) on a tract of inhospitable swampland bordering the Mississippi River. Under the leadership of Joseph Smith, they drained the swamps and began erecting a community of beautiful homes, prosperous farms, and businesses. They also built a temple.

By 1844 Nauvoo rivaled Chicago in population. But mounting suspicion and anxiety within neighboring communities fed an atmosphere of extreme agitation and distrust. Newspapers in neighboring towns began to call for the Latter-day Saints' extermination.

At the height of this turmoil, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were shot to death by an armed mob in nearby Carthage, Illinois.

Brigham Young and the Westward Trek

Mobs attacked Latter-day Saint settlements in the region, burning crops, destroying homes, and threatening to exterminate the people. Church leaders knew a move was once again at hand. This one would become one of the most visionary and prodigious in American history.

As the senior member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Brigham Young succeeded Joseph Smith as the leader of the Church. In February of 1846, he led the Latter-day Saints across the frozen Mississippi River into unsettled Iowa territory. They struggled across Iowa, eventually establishing a settlement called Winter Quarters near modern-day Omaha, Nebraska. Soon the *ad hoc* community expanded to include hundreds of lodgings, many of them just dugouts or sod huts, on both sides of the river.

Pursuing a vision initially articulated by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young prepared his people—perhaps 17,000

of them by that time—for a historic trek across the vast wilderness to the Rocky Mountains, 1,300 miles to the west. The first pioneer party departed from Winter Quarters early the next spring and arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake on 24 July 1847.

During the next few years, thousands of other Latter-day Saints struggled across the Great American Plains to the newly found refuge. Some of the pioneers crossed the plains in wagons. Others were equipped with small, light-weight handcarts. Ten handcart companies crossed the American plains in the next four years. Eight made the journey with relative success, but two endured tragedy and saw hundreds perish of hunger, fatigue, and exposure.

For years after their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley, members of the Church were commissioned by Brigham Young to establish colonies throughout the West. In all, the pioneers settled more than 600 communities in a broad swath stretching 1,350 miles from southern Alberta into Mexico.

Into the Modern Era

When Utah was granted status as the nation's 45th state on 4 January 1896, Church membership totaled a quarter of a million, the majority living in Utah, with a modest number scattered in colonies throughout the western United States, southern Alberta, and northern Mexico. By 1930, only about half of the membership lived in Utah, but the remainder was still largely North American. As the Church reached membership milestones throughout the twentieth century—1 million in 1947, 2 million in 1963, 3 million in 1971, and 4 million in 1978—the demographic makeup remained primarily American but was beginning to change markedly. Similarly, the Utah proportion became smaller and smaller.

Membership of the Church reached 9 million people in the fall of 1994. Of that total, approximately one sixth reside in Utah, and one half in the United States. In late February of 1996, Church membership outside of the U.S. surpassed Church membership within. Total Church membership is expected to reach 10 million in late 1997.

Temples and Families

Families Can Be Forever

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that each human being lived in a premortal state as a child of heavenly parents. Each one of us comes to earth to gain a physical body and to be tested through the mortal experience. By obedience to laws and ordinances of the gospel, each of us may return to the presence of God, where we will live eternally in a family organization.

A distinctive Latter-day Saint teaching is that marriage can be for eternity. Such marriages must be performed or later “sealed” (if the couple is already married) in a temple by the authority of the holy priesthood. Latter-day Saint temples are not places of regular Sunday worship. They are erected for these specific, family-centered ordinances. For sealing ordinances to remain in effect, a husband and wife must love and be faithful to each other throughout their marriage and continue Christian service and commitment throughout their lives.

Temples and Genealogy

For millions of people who lived before the time of Christ or during the intervening centuries between the death of the Apostles and the Restoration of his Church, temple and other vital ordinances were not available. Even today, millions live and die without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ or without learning the saving principles and accepting the ordinances of the gospel he taught.

Provision must be made, then, for those who have died without that opportunity. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that all saving ordinances are to be performed on earth in behalf of the dead. Latter-day Saints stand as proxies for their own ancestors in these ceremonies, including baptisms



and sealings for husbands and wives and for parents and children. All temple work is valid only if it is willingly accepted by each individual prior to the Resurrection.

Performing temple ordinances receives strong emphasis in the Church. Members are taught that they have a religious obligation to trace their own genealogies and perform temple ordinances for their ancestors.

Family History

As an integral component of this temple work for deceased ancestors, the Church operates the largest genealogical library in the world, the Family History Library™, next

to Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The Church and its members have gathered millions of volumes of birth, marriage, death, and other records. Today hundreds of millions of microfilmed records are available to the public for research at no cost. The microfilms are available at the library in Salt Lake City, or they can be ordered for use at hundreds of Family History Centers™ around the world.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has 50 operating temples and another 14 now under construction or in the planning stages. (For a complete list of temple locations, see “Temples of the Church.”)

The Church in Society The Missionary Program

The missionary emphasis of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is perhaps one of its most recognized characteristics. The program follows the biblical pattern of sending out missionaries two by two.

Missions

The Church operates more than 300 missions in the world. Each is presided over by a mission president called from the ranks of Church membership to serve for three years. The mission president directs the work of the missionaries assigned to his mission.

Missionaries

Currently, more than 50,000 Latter-day Saints are serving proselytizing missions around the world. Approximately 75 percent of the Church's proselytizing missionaries are young men between the ages of 19 and 26 and holding the priesthood office of "Elder." Yet substantial numbers of single women (18 percent) and older couples (7 percent) also serve proselytizing missions. These missionaries work long hours, seven days a week for two years (Elders) or 18 months (women and couples), teaching the restored gospel and its ordinances and engaging in community service.

In addition, nearly 5,000 individuals (including couples) are now serving Church service missions. Nutritionists or doctors serve in developing countries where the Church's expanding health

services program emphasizes preventive care. Craftsmen, artisans, and construction supervisors train and direct local members in building projects. Agricultural

experts train people to produce food more effectively and economically. Other assignments include education, family history research, and leadership training.

Proselytizing Missionaries:

Young men	75 percent
Single women	18 percent
Couples	7 percent
Total	approximately 50,000

Church Growth since 1830

Year	Members	Missions	Missionaries	Countries ¹
1830	6 ²	0	0	1
1844	26,146	3	586	8 ³
1947	1,016,170 ⁴	43	2,132	29
1963	2,117,451	77	11,653	43
1971	3,090,953	98	15,205	50
1978	4,166,854	165	27,669	54
1982	5,162,619	180	26,606	86
1986	6,166,983	193	29,265	95
1989	7,308,700	228	39,739	100
1991	8,089,540	267	43,395	130
1994	9,024,569	303	48,708	156
1995	9,340,000	307	48,631	159
1996	9,700,000 ⁵	309	53,000	160

Notes to the above chart:

1. And territories
2. At founding, 6 April
3. Estimated
4. Figures given hereafter are as calculated at year's end
5. 1996 total membership as estimated 12/96

Convert Baptisms Since 1983



Missionary Training Centers Worldwide:

Total:

15

Locations:

Provo, Utah (USA)
 Guatemala City
 Santiago
 London
 Hamilton, New Zealand
 Lima
 Buenos Aires
 Manila
 Bogotá
 São Paulo
 Tokyo
 Apia, Western Samoa
 Mexico City
 Seoul
 Nuku'alofa, Tonga

The missionaries or their families pay their expenses. After their missions, missionaries return to schooling, vocations, or family.

Missionary Training Centers

Each missionary, when first called, is assigned to one of 15 missionary training centers around the world. Those required to learn another language spend eight weeks in training before traveling to their assigned mission. If the missionaries do not need to learn a new language, they attend only two or three weeks of basic orientation.

Preparation

Aside from their brief training in a missionary training center, missionaries receive little formal training for their ministry. Those who are raised in the Church benefit from the extensive efforts contributed by Church auxiliaries and from gospel training in the home. For the many thousands of missionaries who have converted to the faith in late teen or early adult years, preparation comes primarily from personal study and conviction.

Number of languages taught at the Missionary Training Center in Provo, Utah, USA:

44

The Church in Society

Welfare and Humanitarian Service

The current welfare program of the Church was organized in 1936 to supplement the efforts of individual members and ecclesiastical leaders in helping the needy to help themselves. Welfare services are carried out in accordance with principles set forth in scripture. Financing comes through voluntary contributions by members of the Church who fast one day each month and donate the value of the meals missed or more for the care of the poor and needy. A substantial amount of work in the program is done by volunteers, totaling more than 150,000 man days of donated labor in 1995. The average length of assistance is about four months and is provided primarily to low income families and the elderly.

At the heart of Church welfare are individual members who practice self-reliance, doing all they can to provide for themselves before calling on others for help. Those who need additional help turn to their families. When members and their families have done all they can and still have welfare needs, the Church steps in to provide temporary, life-sustaining assistance. Local congregational leaders determine needs in consultation with the individual or family and seek to remedy those needs. The bishop gives those who are assisted a work assignment tailored to their abilities. They may work in a Church welfare operation, beautify the meetinghouse grounds, give service to other needy members, and so forth. Working for what they receive preserves dignity, self-respect, and the desire to be self-reliant.

Welfare assistance is provided to Church members and others, dignifying and ennobling lives worldwide. Services include employment rehabilitation, employment placement, commodity assistance, adoption or foster care placement, clinical therapy, and education. In 1995, Church employment centers placed more than 36,000 people in jobs. Service locations in the United States and Canada include: storehouses (99), canneries (78), employment centers (94), Deseret Industries thrift stores (44), LDS Social Services offices (62), farms and other production facilities (107).

Many lives are blessed by opportunities to give and serve within the welfare system. Nearly a thousand welfare missionaries currently serve without compensation in 36 countries, sharing their skills in production, employment, education, social, and medical services. The Church and its members have assisted in 73 major disasters since 1985.

Welfare Principles

1. *Maintain dignity and self-respect while providing assistance.* People maintain self-respect by receiving according to their needs and working according to their abilities. Assistance should be coupled with a plan for becoming self-reliant.
2. *Strengthen the family.* Welfare needs may be the result of disintegration within the family. Strengthening family relationships helps to prevent welfare needs and

helps families find solutions to welfare problems. Strong families tend to care for one another and require less welfare assistance.

3. *Meet welfare needs at the level closest to where they exist.* Welfare should be administered by someone close to the people, who knows their needs and is in a position to determine the nature, quantity, and duration of welfare help. The help given should be adapted to specific needs and applied with regard for the individual.

4. *Foster community support.* Community involvement leads to more rapid rehabilitation of the needy. A support system of friends and neighbors not only speeds recovery, it tends to instill values and practices that prevent further need. Helping others builds character, emphasizes the importance of education, engenders compassion, and strengthens the work ethic.

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance rendered since 1985 has reached 109 countries and is valued at tens of millions of dollars annually. In 1995, more than 10 million pounds of donated clothing were processed and shipped to needy people around the world. Humanitarian assistance is given without consideration of the recipient's religious affiliation and without the encouragement that recipients work for what they receive.

The Church in Society

Church Educational System

The Church Educational System (CES) operates in the United States and in over a hundred other countries and territories. Where public and private schools provide secular education, CES emphasizes religious instruction. It serves high school-aged students who enroll in seminary classes and college students and young adults (18–30) who enroll in institutes of religion. These programs offer weekly religion classes in Church meetinghouses and in

buildings owned and operated by the Church that are adjacent to school campuses.

In addition, the Church operates several institutions of higher learning: Brigham Young University, with its main campus in Provo, Utah, and another campus in Laie, Hawaii; the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies in Israel; Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho; and LDS Business College in Salt Lake City,

Utah. Brigham Young University is the largest private university in the United States.

The Church also operates elementary or secondary schools in Mexico, Kiribati, New Zealand, Tonga, Western Samoa, and Fiji.

Many thousands of individuals are also involved in adult continuing education programs sponsored by Brigham Young University and the Church Educational System.

Enrollment in Church Educational Programs (January 1997)

Countries and territories:	135
Seminaries (secondary school level):	363,202
Institutes (college level):	221,849
Colleges and universities (U.S. and Canada) served by the institute program:	1,136

Enrollment at Church-owned Colleges and Universities:

Brigham Young University (Utah):	26,553
Brigham Young University (Hawaii):	2,414
Brigham Young University (Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies):	172
LDS Business College:	823
Ricks College:	7,755
Other Church schools:	8,838

The Church in Society

Tabernacle Choir



The world-renowned Tabernacle Choir is a 325-voice group that began shortly after the Latter-day Saint pioneers first arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847.

The Tabernacle Choir is best known for its Sunday radio broadcast in the United States, *Music and the Spoken Word*, which originates from Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

This program has been a radio tradition in America since 1929 and is also carried on scores of television stations.

The choir is also known for its recordings, among them a Grammy award-winning rendition of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” The choir has recorded with some of the world’s great orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Concert tours over the years have taken the choir around the world where choir members have sung in the great concert halls of Europe, Mexico, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Australia, Israel, Russia, and the United States. The choir has also performed for several United States presidents, both at inaugural ceremonies and in the White House.

Church Finances

Faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints practice the law of tithing as it was taught and practiced in the Old Testament. The word “tithe” means “tenth” and connotes a tenth part of something given as a voluntary contribution.

Church President Gordon B. Hinckley said, “Tithing is the Lord’s law of finance. There is no financial law like it. It is a principle given with a promise spoken by the Lord Himself for the blessing of his children.”

An earlier Church leader, President N. Eldon Tanner, said, “The financial foundation of the Church is its faithful, devoted membership. The great majority of Church income comes from the tithes and offerings of these faithful members.”

Expenditures

The greatest portion of Church expenditures goes toward meetinghouse construction and maintenance (375 chapels were under construction in 1995) and to the education system, which includes Brigham Young University (all campuses), Ricks College, LDS Business College, seminaries and institutes of religion, and the limited number of Church schools in less-developed countries.

The remainder is spent on other activities, including missionary and temple work, curriculum materials, and global administration of the Church.

“It should be recognized,” said President Gordon B. Hinckley in 1985, “that all of these are money-consuming assets and not money-

producing assets. They do not produce financial wealth, but they do help to produce and strengthen Latter-day Saints. When all is said and done, the only real wealth of the Church is the faith of its people.”

All of the funds of the Church are considered sacred and dedicated to furthering the Lord’s work on the earth and are managed prayerfully and with inspiration by the general officers of the Church.

Commercial Properties

The Church also has a limited number of commercial properties and investments, which contribute funds to a number of community arts, education, and charitable groups. Income from Church business operations also permits participation in local community causes.

Key Facts and Figures

Preliminary membership data estimated to 1 January 1997:

Worldwide:	9,700,000
U.S.:	4,800,000
Non-U.S.:	4,900,000
Female	53 percent
Male	47 percent

Number of Church units worldwide (congregations):

23,200

Nations and territories with Church units:

160

Languages in which the basic Church curriculum text is available:

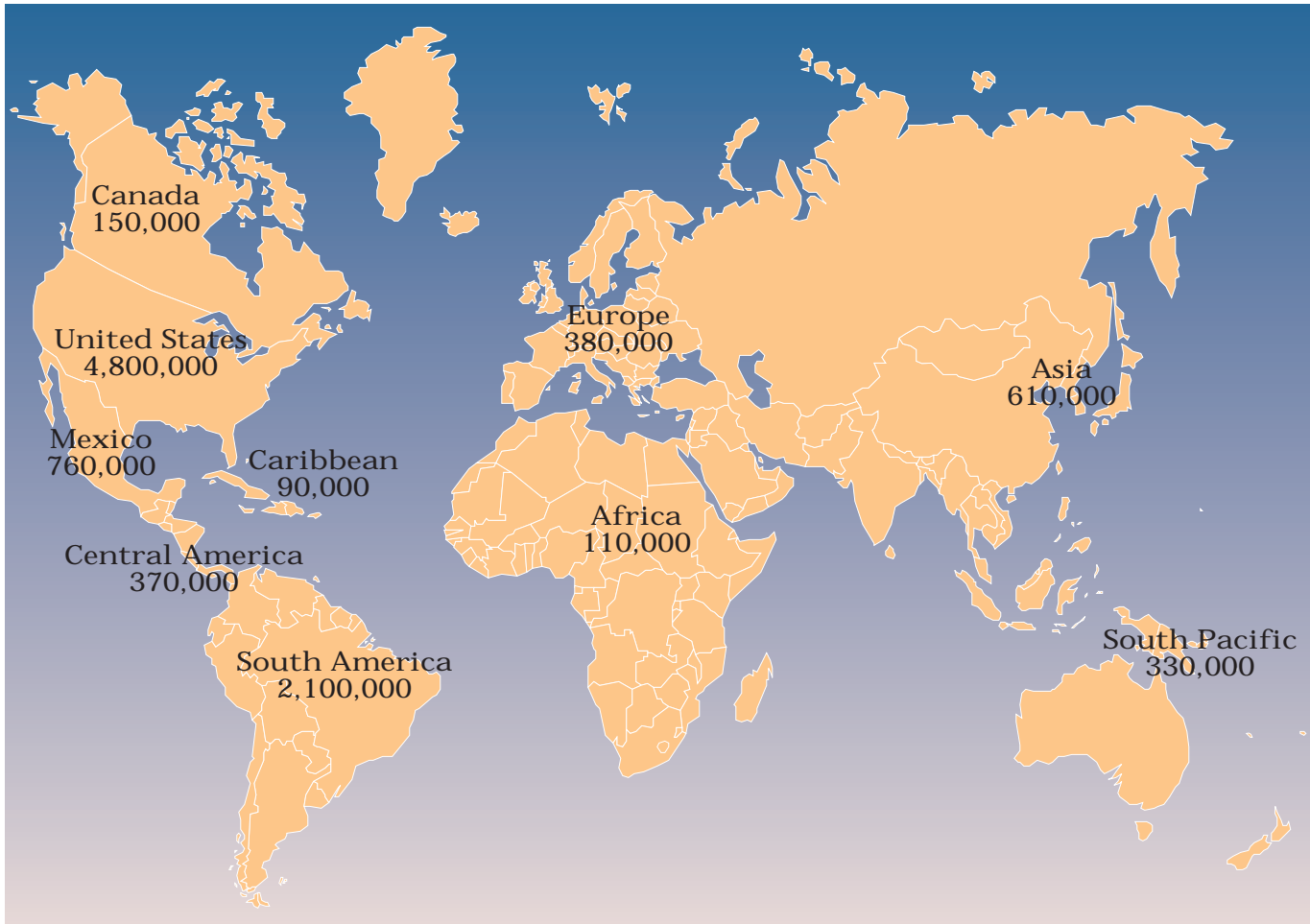
145

The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ

- 78 million copies published since 1830
- Approximately 4.5 million copies distributed in 1995
- 90 languages in print*

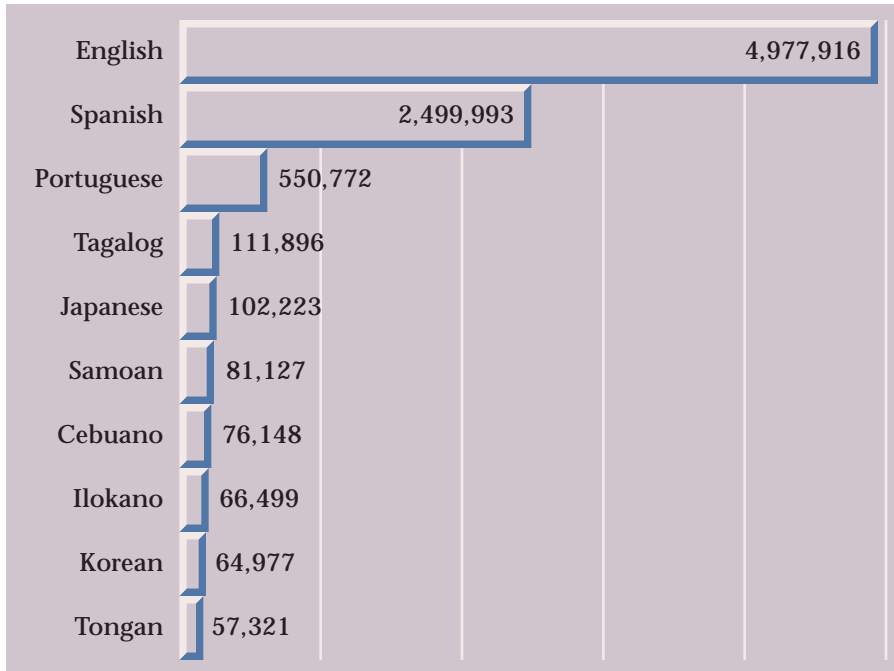
* Out-of-print editions not retranslated are Armenian–Western, English Deseret, Welsh, and Turkish.

Membership Distribution



Preliminary membership data estimated to 1 January 1997

Top Ten Languages Spoken by Church Members



Temples of the Church

United States Location	Temple Name	Year of Completion or Dedication
Arizona Mesa	Arizona Temple	1927
California Los Angeles Oakland San Diego	Los Angeles Temple Oakland Temple San Diego California Temple	1956 1964 1993
Colorado Littleton	Denver Colorado Temple	1986
Florida Windermere	Orlando Florida Temple	1994
Georgia Atlanta	Atlanta Georgia Temple	1983
Hawaii Laie	Hawaii Temple	1919
Idaho Boise Idaho Falls	Boise Idaho Temple Idaho Falls Temple	1984 1945
Illinois Nauvoo (no longer stands) Glenview	Nauvoo Temple Chicago Illinois Temple	1846 1985
Maryland Kensington	Washington Temple	1974
Nevada Las Vegas	Las Vegas Nevada Temple	1989
Ohio Kirtland (no longer owned by the Church)	Kirtland Temple	1836
Oregon Lake Oswego	Portland Oregon Temple	1989
Texas Dallas	Dallas Texas Temple	1984
Utah American Fork Bountiful Logan Manti Ogden Provo Salt Lake City South Jordan St. George	Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple Bountiful Utah Temple Logan Temple Manti Temple Ogden Temple Provo Temple Salt Lake Temple Jordan River Temple St. George Temple	1996 1995 1884 1888 1972 1972 1893 1981 1877
Washington Bellevue	Seattle Temple	1980

International Location	Temple Name	Year of Completion or Dedication
Argentina Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires Argentina Temple	1986
Australia Carlingford, New South Wales	Sydney Australia Temple	1984
Brazil São Paulo	São Paulo Temple	1978
Canada Cardston, Alberta Brampton, Ontario	Alberta Temple Toronto Ontario Temple	1923 1990
Chile Santiago	Santiago Chile Temple	1983
England Surrey	London Temple	1958
Germany Freiberg Friedrichsdorf	Freiberg Germany Temple Frankfurt Germany Temple	1985 1987
Guatemala Guatemala City	Guatemala City Temple	1984
Hong Kong Kowloon	Hong Kong Temple	1996
Japan Tokyo	Tokyo Temple	1980
Korea Seoul	Seoul Korea Temple	1985
Peru La Molina	Lima Peru Temple	1986
Mexico Mexico City	Mexico City Temple	1983
New Zealand Hamilton	New Zealand Temple	1958
Philippines Quezon City	Manila Philippines Temple	1984
South Africa Johannesburg	Johannesburg South Africa Temple	1985
Sweden Vasterhaninge	Stockholm Sweden Temple	1985
Switzerland Zollikofen	Swiss Temple	1955
Tahiti Pirae	Papeete Tahiti Temple	1983

International Location	Temple Name	Year of Completion or Dedication
Taiwan Taipei	Taipei Taiwan Temple	1984
Tonga Nuku'alofa	Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple	1983
Western Samoa Apia	Apia Samoa Temple	1983

Temples Announced or Under Construction

Bogotá, Colombia
 Boston, Massachusetts, USA
 Cochabamba, Bolivia
 Caracas, Venezuela
 Guayaquil, Ecuador
 Madrid, Spain
 Monterrey, Mexico

Nashville, Tennessee, USA
 White Plains, New York, USA
 Preston, England
 Recife, Brazil
 St. Louis, Missouri, USA
 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
 Vernal, Utah, USA
 Billings, Montana, USA

“Myth-Conceptions” about the Church

Myth: *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not a Christian church.*

The very foundation, history, and name of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints bear ample testimony that God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sins of mankind and died on the cross, are the center of Church theology and worship.

Myth: *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a Protestant church.*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a restoration to the earth of the original Christian Church, which was abandoned through apostasy during the early centuries of the Christian era. Its organization and theology are not the result of reformation or protest. Rather, God sent divine messengers to earth to give the young prophet Joseph Smith the keys, powers, and authority from God to reestablish, or restore, the Church of Jesus Christ again on earth.

Myth: *Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are polygamists.*

Some early leaders and members of the Church entered into plural marriages (polygyny) during the latter half of the nineteenth century. After receiving a revelation, Church President Wilford Woodruff declared that the practice should be discontinued. That position has been reaffirmed by every President of the Church since. Members of the Church who enter into plural marriage today face Church disciplinary action, including excommunication.

Myth: *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is also correctly called the “Mormon Church.”*

Referring to the Church as the “Mormon Church” is incorrect. The term “Mormon” derives from the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ, named for a prophet of ancient America who compiled that record. The correct name, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was given by revelation from God to Joseph Smith in 1838 and should be used whenever possible in referring to the Church.

Myth: *“Mormon fundamentalists” are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who still practice polygamy.*

Any member of the Church today known to enter into polygamy is excommunicated. Since those who practice polygamy cannot be members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is inappropriate to refer to them as such in any way.

Myth: *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is racist with respect to blacks.*

Until 1978, black male members of the Church were not ordained to the lay priesthood. That position was changed by revelation on 8 June 1978, when Spencer W. Kimball, the twelfth President of the Church, announced that the “long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priesthood” (Official Declaration 2).

The Church views all humankind as children of the same Heavenly Father, literally brothers and sisters. As stated by the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1987: “We repudiate efforts to deny to any person his or her inalienable dignity and rights on the abhorrent and tragic theory of the superiority of one race or color over another.”

Services Offered to the Media

Print Media

News and Feature Services: Newspaper, wire service, feature story, feature story assistance, interview, and news magazine queries are welcomed; call 1-800-453-3860, extension 4377 or extension 4391.

Broadcast Media

Television News and Feature Service: Three-quarter-inch, broadcast quality videocassette programs on a variety of subjects are available free of charge. Each videocassette includes two-channel audio, so the program can be used as is or edited to conform to the requesting station's format. Call 1-800-453-3860, extension 1977.

Radio News Service: This weekly newscast covers the ongoing news of the Church and is available free to radio stations. For information on receiving audiocassettes or satellite transmissions, call 1-800-453-3860, extension 4397.



The Family Edition: These public affairs radio programs (30 minutes) are broadcast quality and deal with contemporary moral and social issues facing the family. For more information, call 1-800-453-3860, extension 4397.

Other Programming Available

Family Times: This informative program (30 minutes) for the whole

family discusses ways families have dealt successfully with the challenges of our times.

Center Street: This television news magazine (30 minutes) for youth explores issues and concerns facing teenagers today. Call 1-800-453-3860, extension 4397 for information on these and other programs.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS