

Highlighting the Lives of Latter-day Prophets

Summarizing Points from the Writings of
Madsen & Haycock on Stories of the Lives
of Presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ



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Highlighting the Presidents of the Church Lectures by Truman G Madsen

Madsen: Joseph Smith

-Joseph Smith said were he the emperor of the world he would guarantee all people religious rights. (He wanted to give to others what we have sometimes been denied.)

-You think of me as a boy like one of you, Joseph said to Zion's Camp members, but I'm in a position where I'm governed and controlled by the Lord.

-If they send us to hell we'll turn the devil out and make a heaven out of it. (This is basically what happened when leaders of the Church were sent to prisons.)

-Madsen says that people say there are 2 Joseph Smiths and that Madsen only teaches of the good one. Well, the truth is that all the firsthand accounts speak of Joseph Smith as being a good man. The second Joseph Smith is fictitious and a fabrication of evil conspiring men.

-They were strict to keep journals from the beginning days of the Church for they knew that they were making history and that one day people would refer to those as scripture.

– If they take his rights, fine, but if they go after those of the Saints, he would stand for them. He said with sword in hand

-The Smith family had verbal threats for their lives. Hence Emma Smith must have wanted to stay back so as to not jeopardize the entire camp going west.

-Joseph Smith was said by another prophet to manifest the power of all the prophets.

-The revelation said his life wasn't YET as Job, and it increasingly came to be as time went on.

-He was kissed by a man who would betray him.

-People broke the law to slay him.

-People met in secret to plan his death.

-About 150 people were ready to swear with their hand on a bible to not rest until he was killed.

-Joseph gave Hyrum a blessing of long life and what would come. But Hyrum forfeited that blessing in order to go with Joseph.

-The relationship between Joseph and Hyrum surpasses anything you'll read of any two mortal people in history.

-Joseph walked CALMLY toward the window, knowing that whether inside or outside of the jail he would be killed. He was shot in the back and pulled himself through the window, and fell down; in so doing, he managed to save two other people who were in the jail, for once Joseph had fallen out the window, they yelled "he's out!" and left.

-Hyrum made a covenant with the God of Israel to be where Joseph was, and to die where he died.

-Joseph told some with him near his death: don't worry, they

cannot do to us more than they did to the Master. They can only kill our bodies. We and our message will live on.

-He said Hyrum demonstrated the very meekness and love of Christ.

-One of the prophets said soon the church would be 10 million then one hundred million, in an extension of Joseph Smith's words that the church would grow to fill North and South America, and eventually to fill the world.

-All truth belongs to Mormonism; that if there is any truth in hell, it belongs to the Mormons. That the devil has no attractive kingdom, the devil merely distorts truth. The devil has NOTHING.

-Another prophet said that WHEN (not if) the law fails to avenge the blood of Joseph Smith, leave it to God.

-The day will come, another prophet said, that Joseph will be known as a temporal and spiritual deliverer of this dispensation like Joseph in Egypt was in his.

-When asked "who are you?" He said, "Noah came before the flood. I have come before the fire."

-At the time when things were tense and Joseph was about to be killed, Joseph saw some packing their wagons and leaving the gathering of the Saints. He said as he watched them leave, "there go the cowards."

-No one was convicted for any crime in the murder of Joseph Smith.

-The murder of Joseph Smith was an obvious conspiracy.

-After Joseph Smith was killed, mobsters continued to rape and plunder the Saints.

-Joseph said he doesn't care what they do to him so long as they don't hang him. Hearing this, a 300-pound man (a close associate George Smith I think) offered to be hung in the stead of Joseph Smith.

-If you can get the LDS to agree on any matter, you can know that such a matter is of God.

-He and Emma moved about 14 times.

-He revealed to Eliza Snow that we have a Mother in Heaven.

-He said once when strongly influenced by the spirit, that it's as though we were in the presence of The Father and the Son and others who have given their entire lives to build up the Kingdom of God and heal and seal family relationships.

-He believed we likely have relatives (now dead) who are our guardian angels who care more for us than we can for them and they have influence in our lives and aren't far from us.

-He spoke of the Godhead as the matchless governing quorum over all the creations of the Father.

-He taught earnestly against using black and mourning clothes at death and funerals; instead wear white! Eliza Snow said he taught her this.

Madsen: Brigham Young

-When God calls a man to a work, nothing can stop it.

-He said “now we are to rest here” while on the trail. Then he said, “now we dance”. Porter Rockwell said “first he tells us we can rest, now he tells us we must dance!”

-A person full of the Holy Spirit never grows old.

-Brigham Young as a young man learned to care for horses, clear timber, and work in the cold (they would often milk their cows in 30 below zero in a T-shirt) as those of Vermont, “the final frontier of the yankee” were common to do. They were fiercely independent people there. There the Constitution and rights were strongly respected, and Brigham was sad to see those be violated against him and the Saints through his life.

-One missionary was asked how many wives Brigham Young. He had yelled it over and again in a congregation. It was relentless so the missionary said, “I don’t know I’ll have to ask him when I get to heaven.” The man responded, “oh no, he’s not going to heaven”. Then the missionary said, “Then you ask him!”

-He said at his baptism he felt like fire was running through his body and he couldn’t help but get up and preach.

-On the night Joseph Smith went with his wife Emma to the Hill Cumorah and received the plates that would become the Book of Mormon, it was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year holiday. This record signified the beginning of a new dispensation, the restoration of the knowledge of the days of old. Brigham Young at this time didn’t even know who Joseph Smith was, but he and Heber C. Kimball went outside because a woman beckoned them to come see the stars, and they went and saw in the sky armies of soldiers dressed in American

revolution clothing with guns, and they were marching toward the west. It went on for about an hour. They could hear the marching. They seemed intent about something, concerned about something, and were preparing to participate in a great battle.

-Many of the Saints had to burn the very homes and bridges they built to protect the Saints from an army coming to get them though they lived in peace in the west where no one else wanted to be.

-Joseph Smith heard him pray for the first time when they first met and said that he would be one of the greatest teachers of redemption this world has ever seen.

-He preached that Jesus went beneath all things so that no person, no matter how sin stained, could be out of the reach of Christ

-He taught that human kind are generally good, doing away with the doctrine of original sin, which he had also heard Joseph Smith preach. Most of the falling of the human race came at the time of Cain. Adam and Eve didn't fall very much, and they knew what they were doing. Yes there are consequences of that action but it's what we need. He taught that humans are generally good in nature, all with the candle light of the Lord in them, even the worst of people having some of that. In other words, people are inherently good, not inherently bad.

-He taught that we should picture Christ in our minds, and that in doing so, it makes every part of our lives spiritual. When we involve God in every part of our lives, even the

menial parts of life become hallowed. This thinking of Christ will ALLOW (not make) our spirits to become hallowed and holy.

-In England many were baptized into the Church. One prophet said that the forefathers in Israel had prayed for their families that they would get the gospel. The reason that there were many baptisms in England was fulfillment of the prayers of their forefathers, that they would one day find the fullness of the gospel. Many of these people are the blood of Israel, and it's their forefathers that prayed for them. They baptized all day long, and more than 6 thousand baptisms were performed.

– In response to others who say that they couldn't have endured what the pioneers did, he said that he was at the very heart of those trials, and that he had never felt better in his life. The spirit of God was poured out upon them so heavily during those times, and it was exquisite and precious.

-We will put in our roots here (in the Utah area) so deep that not even the devil himself will be able to drive us out.

-One saint was barefoot and in scraggly clothes and standing outside of a conference the Church was having, too embarrassed to go inside because of how he looked for it was all he had. He learned that in that conference President Young had asked for men to go and get more stone for the Salt Lake Temple, this man said yes I will go!

-He told one man that his calling was to "go and colonize Mexico. You'll be released when you're dead. God bless you!" The man went and eventually died colonizing Mexico.

-At one time he had 7 counselors to him as President. Not all of them had to be Apostles.

Madsen: John Taylor

-John Taylor came from England.

-He felt that he was to come to America to preach the gospel.

-He organized a group of people called the Seekers who were looking for New Testament Christianity. They were taught about the Church by Parley P Pratt and joined.

-At one point Pratt spoke bad of Joseph Smith, and John responded, although a new convert, that if Joseph Smith was a prophet at first, he still is now, and that Pratt was out of line. Pratt later came back into good terms with Joseph Smith and did more great missionary work.

-John went on an 8 year mission and only got to return to visit his wife very seldomly. When he did return from those 8 years she was ill.

-He liked to debate with people as a missionary, particularly that this Church is the only one with the authority, offices, miracles, and spiritual gifts of the New Testament. He didn't avoid debate and this sort of contention.

-Take care to nourish the smaller roots and the bigger ones will take care of themselves.

-Tithing was given in kind in those days. He would look at the baskets of his fruit and see the best one and say, "There,

that is the tithing for the Lord.”

-He was known to say the Kingdom of God or nothing. He searched for the New Testament Church until he found it.

-He translated the Book of Mormon into French and German.

-Joseph Smith told him he needed to give his wife to Joseph for sealing. John responded that if it is the Lord who wants her in this thing, ok the Lord can have her in this way as asked, but that if it's merely Joseph's desire then no. Joseph wept and told him that the Lord was only trying him as Abraham, asking for what he held most dear and seeing if he and his wife were willing to give everything up for God and His Christ.

-He only did the plural family principal because it was from the Lord, otherwise he wouldn't. It was to raise more righteous prosperity to go preach the gospel.

-He would not be a slave to anything, so he quit tobacco and alcohol.

-He would not be a slave to anyone, not even to God. He would be a servant to God and the son of God, but not a slave to anyone. He would die first.

-He wrote the Times and Seasons which is the newspaper they had, the Deseret News of the time for the church.

-He was a very skilled writer.

-At Carthage, as mobbers were shooting through the door at Joseph Smith, John used a stick to whack the pistols up into the air from the crack in the door. Joseph said that is right, parry them off as long as you can. Those are the last words he heard from Joseph.

-When it comes to the gospel and eternity, our nation knows about as much as an iron railing.

-The phrase “the Lord suddenly appears at his temple” means the Jews await his appearance at the Jerusalem temple, it will happen.

Madsen: Wilford Woodruff

-Hugh B Brown was asked who he would deem a Saint based on the regular qualifications in Catholicism of devotion to the Church, radiance ,and being productive. He said Wilford Woodruff.

-He was a miller in Connecticut

– Plead to God to find someone who can say like the characters in the bible, they don’t just know of Christ, rather that they KNOW Christ.

-He felt prompted to go to Rhode Island but didn’t go. If he had gone he would have heard the preaching of the LDS missionaries there. But later in the next year he did go, and a missionary Pulsipher went there, and felt impressed to go directly to Wilford’s house. Wilford went to a church meeting then was baptized in icy water with clothing on but he said he didn’t feel the cold.

-A friend of his called “Father Mason” had a vision before his death that the New Testament Church would return and he would not get to see it, but that Wilford would be a large

participant in it.

-A small number of choice spirit sons and daughters of God have been kept to come to earth now and inherit this Church. They've been kept in store for 6,000 years (that's when Adam was in Eden) to come forth in this time to build up and organize this Church, to receive the Everlasting Priesthood.

-He had many injuries growing up; he felt like a marked man, partly because he was a very avid journal keeper. He took notes of the Joseph Smith sermons and couldn't rest until he went and put them from shorthand into legible prose.

-His daily journal is over 7,000 pages.

-Unless we have the spirit, our religion is a farce.

-Those with the spirit can see whether others they meet with have the spirit. You'll feel safe in their atmosphere.

-He was told he would be numbered with the 144,000 who will sing the new song on Mt. Zion.

-He was a president of a horticultural society.

-Everything that brings joy and gladness is for us, if we use it well.

-There is no singing or dancing in hell; no joy there. There is only singing and dancing in heaven.

-You can build all the buildings you want but there will never be enough to hold the LDS.

-He was visited by the founders of the USA and those who put their lives on the line to sign the Declaration of Independence In the temple of St. George, Utah. They "pleaded" with him as a man pleading for his LIFE that he would do their temple work, so they could have those

blessings. They said, “We did not apostatize from the form of government that God gave us, but we have no form of earthly representatives for us to do this temple work, please help do this for us.” George Washington and Benjamin Franklin “argued with me and said they were choice spirits not wicked men.” Woodruff did their temple work, and loved the Constitution and the American way, partly because he spoke to those who created them.

- He did some reading in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew; he was well read.

- He would say things in public meetings regardless of how it would affect him personally or affect the audience.

- Rather than troubling the government, they stopped plural marriage.

- He founded Utah Power and Light Company.

- He was a statistician and at the end of each year said the number of people he visited, number of sermons he had preached, etc. We know of at least 4367 baptisms and confirmations he did, 817 administrations of the sick via the Priesthood, sealing 11,388 couples (living and dead) in the temple. That is an average of administering 2 ordinances per day of his life. Said he never did an ordinance without the Holy Ghost.

- He dedicated a railroad. He believed that temporal and spiritual things are tied to each other.

- He constantly spoke of the spirit world (Madsen calls him a spiritual amphibian, spending as much time in the world of spirit as the temporal world). One example of this is that he

said to one man “Hello Mr. Jones. (a pause). You know, I don’t think I’ve talked to your father since he died!”

-As we dedicate and shout “Hosanna” at temple dedications, they also do so in heaven, and it echoes to the very throne of God.

-Isaiah speaking of the house of the Lord in the mountains: he was seeing and referring to the Salt Lake City, Utah LDS Temple!

-There have been 2 powers: one to slay me and one to spare me.

-The Lord used me because he couldn’t find a weaker vessel.

-We must read novels, but we can’t call the bible a mere novel; it contains revelation.

-He said that Joseph Smith will be crowned as a martyr in the presence of God and the Lamb.

-He bore his testimony into a talking machine (voice recorder).

-At his death he wanted no one to wear mourning clothes because he was a faithful person and for those types of people, death is a good thing.

-He said he would try to attend his own funeral.

Madsen: Lorenzo Snow

-Lorenzo Snow is a descendant of Sephardic Jews who, at the time of Spanish inquisition, were told they had to leave or die.

- He came from a family of 9.
- At his school, one had to do 3-4 hours of manual labor a day. They were geared toward language study, and he was interested in Hebrew. However, he was not impressed by the religion he saw. He said “If this is all there is in religion, then goodbye to religion!”
- He didn’t believe in Joseph Smith at first, having heard bad rumors of him.
- He was stunned at promises Joseph Smith Sr. was giving to people in Patriarchal blessings. He told Lorenzo “You’ll become as great as God and you couldn’t wish to be greater.”
- He gave up his military ambitions and his plans of further education to set out on his first mission for the Church.
- After some time in the jail (at present day Sugar House SLC) for polygamy, one thought he would be full of wrath and a spirit of rebellion. Rather he was calm like a saint. The saints held in this prison taught math lessons to each other, art lessons, and enjoyed each other’s association. They held church, including the sacrament and sermons, on Sundays. They wore black and white striped outfits common to prisons. He led them in a Hosanna Shout which they did at the top of their lungs.
- He had a vision he went to Kolob (the star nearest to the throne of God, see the Pearl of Great Price), and was clothed with a celestial body. The joy that came from that was beyond description.
- He went with 4 women to be sealed in the temple.
- He colonized Brigham City, Utah. He told the Saints that

they would indeed return to Jackson County, Missouri (Where the New Jerusalem will be built), but not today or tomorrow, so they should build in Utah for now.

-He healed a dying child in Italy.

-He converted a group of people in Italy who were rebelling against the current protestant churches. This group of people was living in strict adherence to the New Testament despite the protestant ideas that were going around.

-He translated the Book of Mormon into Italian.

-After the death of President Wilford Woodruff, he came home and woke all his children and family. He knelt in prayer with them so that they would be able to understand what he was about to testify to them. He had seen Jesus Christ! When praying in the temple about how to organize the Church upon the death of the President, Christ appeared to him in the hallway of the temple. Christ stood on something a little above the floor, similar to the Kirtland temple account of Christ standing on a paved breastwork of pure gold when Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry saw him there. Christ told him how to lead the Church, to reorganize it straightway and be President. Christ also told him plainly whom his councilors were to be.

-If we knew all our trials in advance it would discourage us. God ever helps us in the time of our greatest need; whenever we are threatened with discouragement. He saw glorious blessings awaiting.

-He had 41 children and adopted 3 more. His youngest child was born when he was 81 years old.

-He was away from home often, sometimes several years at a time.

-“As man is, God once was, and as God is, man may become.” He taught this, and after that revelation, he saw it in the scriptures as well, in the writings of Paul and John. The early Christian Fathers also taught that doctrine.

-In Hebrew it says we are created “a little lower than the Gods (Elohim is the word)” not angels (melak is the word for that).

-Jesus was a God before he came here to this earth. Knowledge of that was taken from him when he was born. Similarly, knowledge of who we were before we were born is withheld from us in this life. Jesus in pre-mortality (who was Jehovah) knew of the mission he would perform during mortality. We also knew the mission we would perform in mortality while we were still in the premortal world.

-Being like Christ means suffering for others rather than dominating over them. This is how we access the ultimate power in the universe, the Priesthood.

-There is no God in eternity that has any governmental rights except over his own children.

-Being the president of the church meant nothing to him in comparison of what his calling would be in the next life.

-He raided a girl from the dead after she had been dead for 2 hours.

-He was 5’6” and 140 lbs. He also had respiratory problems.

-If we are faithful, we will at some time be doing our own work, but for now we are doing the work of our Father in Heaven.

-A mother who has brought up faithful children should be saved even if she does nothing else.

-He had a diplomatic, friendly, scholarly, gentle and Christlike appearance.

Madsen: Joseph F Smith

-Joseph F. Smith is the son of Hyrum Smith, and nephew of Joseph Smith Jr.

-When JFS was a little boy of 6, Hyrum and Joseph were going to Carthage Jail where they would be murdered. Hyrum pulled JFS up onto his horse and gave him a big hug. JS said, "Hyrum, he looks pale. Have you been feeding him skim milk?" It wasn't that, it was because of the sorrow in seeing his father leave, and that they had been living in hiding because of the death threat for any Smith to be found.

-His mom, Mary Fielding Smith, prayed in faith over an ox and it healed. She died when he was 14, so he was sort of an orphan.

-There are more than 6,000 righteous posterity that have come from the lineage of JFS.

-He was self-taught after his mother taught him to read. All he had to read from was the bible. He became a master of the English language. When his children who were on missions would write home to him, he would send their letters back to them marked with red pen in places where they had misspelled

things.

- Schools were maintained in the covered wagon trail.

- He had a fiery temper in his early life; a school teacher threatened to whack his sister, and he threatened the teacher. The teacher came after him, and he beat up the teacher. He was expelled.

- The leaders of the Church decided to channel this energy in another direction, and sent him on a mission to Hawaii at age 15. He received his endowment before leaving.

- He was promised to master the language, but it came at great struggle for him.

- That mission was so challenging that even the mission president gave up, but others did not and had great success.

- At one point on this mission he became very ill and was taken in by a lady who nursed him for 3 months like a mother would have. Later as president of the church, he returned to Hawaii at around age 90 and saw her there and ran to her hugging and kissing her calling her “mamma, mamma!” over and over.

- When he was leaving to go on this mission he wouldn’t get on the small dingy boat unless they commanded him in the name of the Lord to do so. They did, and he did.

- a woman was seizing up and having contortions from an evil spirit. He said, “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rebuke you.” She fell down and later recovered.

- His first wife was barren. She divorced him.

- Later he married 6 others, and had many children. (Plural marriage was still current.)

-In a vision, he saw JS and touched his bosom as he went to take a child JS had blessed and return the child to its mother. He said that the contact with JS brought much excitement, discerning that it was a life form of a perfect order. (*this is after the death of JS, perhaps suggesting he is resurrected now, or an illustrative vision to teach of the future, or of the nature of spirits.)

-He had all his children call him papa. The most affectionate term he had for his wife was mama.

-Having children gave him a deeper appreciation for everything about life. He was very affectionate with children.

-In the tradition of his father, he kissed all his children on the lips with a quick smack whether they were adults or not.

-He was made an apostle at age 27.

-Carthage jail has a blood stain on the floor of Hyrum Smith, his father. When he saw that he sat on the bed there, put his hands in his face, and wept uncontrollably until water came pouring out of his hands. He said "Charlie take me out of here." On the 20-mile buggy ride back to where they were staying not a word was said.

-Every morning the JFS family had prayer together then he kissed each one of the children.

-One morning JFS got a copy of a mean note his son had written to a bully who had beaten him up and almost drowned him in a puddle of water. The letter had every cuss word his son had ever read or heard in it. That morning JFS gave a kiss to all of his children except this one. To him he said, "See me in my office." He opened the scriptures, pointed to one and

said, “Now what does that say?” He did this showing passages of forgiveness and “swear not at all” for 20 minutes. Then he said come here and he gave him a hug and a kiss then said no more of it. The boy never swore again.

-He shook hands with people from newspapers who had written bad things about him and the Church. One man said of him that he would shake hands with the devil himself. He was able to make better relations with people, and those who wrote ill of him often later wrote good of him because of these things.

-With some people you feel an instant trust. With some songs they strike you so deeply as if you knew them from somewhere before. We knew some people and songs in pre-mortality, that is why. At times when we are close to the spirit, celestial memories fill us with the spirit and feeling of pre-mortality.

-He taught that Jesus Christ didn't visit people in the spirit world other than the worthy. These were to be the missionaries to the other spirits. This implies that no one can see Jesus without being ready or it's terrible for them. On a similar note, his sister sees his parents after their death and they are veiled. He asks why and is told by them that it was because she couldn't endure their presence.

-Teaching the gospel is the primary activity in the spirit world for the righteous. (This shows that you can't escape. You go on doing what you do in this life in the next life, you keep being who you are even after death.)

Madsen: Heber J Grant

-He had a summer cabin in Brighton.

-Jedediah Grant, his dad, said the USA is the best place and the best people under the heavens. He died when Heber was a baby.

-His mother went to an LDS sermon on a Sunday out of a dare then went home and prayed to God for forgiveness for breaking the Sabbath by going to a congregation of false doctrine on the Sabbath. Then she went to church and her pastor told her that if she did that again she would lose a seat in his church. She said, "how do you know they aren't right?" being upset and defending herself. This caused her to be curious and really investigate the LDS faith, and then she was baptized into the LDS faith.

-When he was 2 years old, Eliza Snow told him, "You will grow to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ." His mother heard this and always told him growing up that if he would behave himself he would be a leader in the Church. He said he did not want to, that he wanted to do other things.

-He grew up in severe poverty.

-When he was a lad, his family home had six leaks in the roof. A bishop came and told his mother that she should not give fast offerings, that those fast offerings should be for her to fix her leaking roof. She said who are you to deny me the blessings of obeying this commandment of God to give fast offerings? She said, "If I need my roof fixed, my son will do

it.” The bishop said Heber was lazy and wouldn’t do it. Heber was angry about this and built his mother an entire new home, and invited that bishop over to do the dedication prayer over it, and thanked him for his motivating statement earlier which inspired the project.

-He was called to be a stake president at age 23.

-His mother wept at the idea of him going off to school at the prestigious universities he was offered to attend. He prayed all night about it and thought it would be a good thing. In the morning he saw that his mother’s eyes were bloodshot, she had been crying all night at the idea. He decided not to go but to stay and take care of his mother who needed him there.

-He wanted to go on a mission, but President Brigham Young said no, stay and take care of your widow mother.

-He turned down a position as Senator since he realized he only wanted that position for pride to prove to someone who had called him stupid that he could do it. He was already deeply involved in the Church and wanted to stay in that.

-As a stake president he was asked if he absolutely knew the gospel and the Church were true. He said, “No.” Some said he can’t be a stake president then. President John Taylor said that Heber was the only one in the room that didn’t know he had an absolute witness. Pres. Taylor said, “Heber does have one, he just doesn’t know that he does yet.” As he did his calling, he realized that he indeed did have an absolute witness.

-Once he had some beer and the bartender asked him, “Do you keep the word of wisdom?” He responded, “Yes.” The bartender said, “Really?” He said, “Yes, as of right now.” And

he never had any more alcohol.

-He had an obvious stock trading opportunity to get rich with. He was afraid of how riches could corrupt him so he prayed about what to do. He asked God which stocks to sell and God told him. He didn't make a lot of money. He was glad about that and saw it was from the Lord.

-Even as a boy he was good at business. He was good at playing marbles, and for every ten marbles he won he would only lose one. He took the marbles he won and sold them and used that money to hire others to do his chores.

-In his patriarchal blessing it was said that the spirit of his heart is integrity and for that reason the Lord honors him and that he would be blessed because of that all of his days.

-He had many prophetic insights throughout his life. For instance, the spirit would tell him which callings he would get.

-He tells the story of a man who was asked by his bishop to give his best ham at a church banquet. He thought to himself "If I don't give my best ham, who would know?" He realized that was the devil speaking and he said, "Shut up Mr. Devil, or I'll give two hams!" Then the man was troubled no more.

-One day he was fasting before attending his Thursday temple meeting with the rest of the apostles. He was in the car on the way to the meeting when a man came to him with cold fresh frosted cherries on that hot summer day. The man put them through the window and said, "you want some?" Heber's eyes raised, and he was excited and reached out for some then said "oh no!" and didn't take any, and explained to the man why he had to refuse. Heber then turned to the empty seat next to him

in the car and said, “Knocked you out there, didn’t I Mr. Devil!”

-as an apostle he had not had an open vision of Jesus Christ. Later he did, but before that he had to push away the devil who tempted him by saying “you lie, you have no absolute witness”.

-He felt so unworthy and unqualified to be an apostle. He had a vision of Christ in heaven with his father and Joseph Smith and other righteous men counseling in heaven about who would fill the vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They said they would have the son of Jedediah Grant do it because of the faith of Jedediah Grant. He saw this vision not with his eyes but with spiritual eyes like Lehi who said, “I thought I saw God on his throne surrounded by concourses of angels praising him”. He then wept for joy for he felt so small compared to the others in the Quorum and rejoiced to see this was a big part of why he was called to this office.

-There was a time when several councils decided a certain way on an issue twice. He was in charge of the decision, however, and decided to do it the other way, contrary to the counsel of the council. He said when he thought of doing it the way they said, he only saw darkness, and only saw light when thinking of doing it the way he felt it should be done. He decided to do it his way and it worked out for the best in the long term.

-One time he offered his life if it could somehow save the credit of the church. He prayed all night. One person came

through and saved the banks.

-Get out of debt and stay out.

-He saw it as dishonest to declare bankruptcy. To him, he owed that money and he was going to pay for it. He had all his children work menial jobs to help pay for things.

-Pres. Taylor told Heber Grant that in accepting a mission call to preside in Japan despite his financial difficulties, he had made a financial sacrifice comparable to Abraham, and it was acceptable to God. Pres. Taylor said to him not to plan how to get out of debt but to wake each morning and ask the Lord what to do and He will put ideas in your head of what to do. He did this and his 13-year plan to get out of debt was done in 6 months. Pres. Taylor said he would be able to go on his mission, be helped in paying for the mission expenses, and return a free man, and so it was.

-He was tone deaf (standing at the piano facing away from it, if you played the top key and the bottom key, he would not be able to tell the difference between the two), but he wanted to learn to sing because he knew the song of the righteous is a prayer unto the Lord, and he wanted to pray. He sang 5,000 times the hymn "Oh My Father", and 5,000 times the hymn "The Flag Without a Stain". He was able to master these songs and sing them with great feeling and power.

-He had chicken scratch handwriting and was criticized for it, so he went on to master it and taught penmanship.

-The 3 Nephites would help carry the gospel to the Japanese.

-He had a vision of his son being taken to heaven by his deceased wife and a church leader interpreted it for him. One

night his son was ill, and he asked his current wife if she felt something strange. She said yes, she felt like his first wife was in the room to come take the son to heaven. Heber was so filled with peace that he didn't shed a tear as the son died.

-In those days, when one was about to die they spoke of death intimately and said tell such and such person this and that message when you get to the other side.

-He didn't have much grammar skills.

-We didn't need to get involved in WW2 the way we did. If the leaders of the country were better it wouldn't have been the way it was. He said this on record in a Conference Report.

-He sustained the US Constitution as well as anyone ever did.

-He spoke so much of the word of wisdom commandment that people wrote him letters to ask him to stop talking about it and go on to something important.

-He didn't want alcohol to be legal in Utah. People in that day had all the same arguments for legalizing alcohol as people do today for legalizing marijuana. Heber felt that alcohol needed law force against it or it would get out of hand and be a plague. When news came to him that alcohol had become legal in Utah, he slammed his fist against the table and said we will pay in misery and sorrow for this!

-When he became President of the Church, he chose Melvin J Ballard to be an apostle rather than one of his lifelong friends to fill the position. This helped him see that the Church is led by God and not by him, for he didn't even know who Melvin J Ballard was.

-He had an LDS friend who started with a little alcohol and

ended up dying with liver poisoning from alcohol at age 30. From then on, he swore to be an eternal enemy against alcohol.

-On a ride with J Golden Kimball, Heber asked if he could practice singing all through the ride. J Golden Kimball gave him his word that he could. Half way through the journey Kimball was going crazy from it, but Heber always held people to their word, and insisted that he keep his promise, and kept singing the rest of the way.

-He was in favor of menial work, and said that nothing is below our dignity. He pushed a wheelbarrow of dirt in his earlier life and one said "Why do you do that work? It's below your dignity." He responded "Why is it beneath my dignity? I paid for it!"

-He believed that music could open hearts when all else failed.

-He became paralyzed on one side. The doctor told Heber that there was nothing he could do to heal it. Heber said, "Is there really nothing I can do?" The doctor said, "I suppose you can take a sponge and try squeezing it." That day, Heber had someone go get a sponge for him. They put it in his hand and it rolled off. He said "again" over and over all night long. By trying this, he was able to get the movement back.

-He had this to say about driving cars: He would rather be 30 minutes late to a meeting than be 30 years early to eternity.

-He said some neglect duty and replaced it with seeking mysteries.

- He advised to pass on to your children a good name and a

testimony of the gospel, and to save nickels and dimes investing for the temple for such would teach them glorious things.

-Jesus wasn't a mere good moral teacher. If such were the case and he was not divine, he would be telling the biggest lie ever, that he is the Son of God, and such a lie would not make him a great moral teacher.

– The only royal virtue here is humility.

- The most common disease is “the big head.”

-When people praised him he would walk away and say under his breath, “that’s devil talk! Devil talk! Pride will get you...”

– His thoughts on evolution were: let's leave it to the scientists and get on with preaching the gospel.

-He tells of a man who prayed for 1 million dollars and promised he would give \$300,000 of it to charity. The man went on to say, “God you don’t even have to trust me. Just give me \$700,000!”

-He spoke of a man getting ten apples and holding one of them up in the air saying, “Here you can have a bite of this one”. He compared this to how people aren’t willing to pay the 1/10 tithing that God has commanded.

-He quoted Wilford Woodruff saying “If my head aches (while fasting), let it ache.”

-He gave to temples rather than an estate for his posterity. When asked why did this, he said, “I want my posterity to be sorry when I die.”

-He saw Maeser teaching the gospel to children and getting their attention and keeping it. Within the first minute he had

taken their minds to a wonderful place. He spoke of how he spends his time in worldly, business-natured things. He said he would not be worthy to black the boots of Maeser in the next life, seeing as there was a man who dedicated his whole life to lifting mankind.

Madsen: George Albert Smith

- Most men in his day were married before going on a mission.
- His wife was devastated without him, so they sent her to be his mission companion.
- His wife grew flowers and gave them to hospitals.
- Someone spread bad rumors of him, and that caused him to lose an election to be president of the local National Guard. He was so angry about it that he did not take the sacrament at Church. He went to the man who slandered him and asked his forgiveness for being so angry at him. They became friends.
- He received the highest scout awards.
- He was good at business. He was on many boards, and became a very busy man.
- When he was called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, it was announced in a conference before he was told himself. The room was full, so he didn't go inside for that session of the conference. Afterward people congratulated him, and he replied, "Oh no, there must be some mistake!" He hated the idea of being an apostle because his father was in the First

Presidency and he worried about people thinking he was in because of that. The other members of that quorum were giants he had looked up to all his life and sustained as a child. It shook his faith so he prayed about it, and God said that his leaders are all known to him.

- The thing he had going for him was he had lived a moral life and tried to keep the commandments.

- He had a self-creed of commandments for himself to live by including helping the poor, visiting the sick, friending the lonely, teaching the truth, seeking the erring one and trying to love him back, not forcing but loving people into what's right, live with the masses and help the world be pleasant, not offend people even if they offend him, and not be an enemy to any living soul.

- He had damaged eyes so helped develop blind program in the church.

- He gave laundered and starched shirts in the welfare program. People were putting them back in his closet thinking it was a mistake. He said no, that's the way I like my shirts, so it's probably the way they would like them as well.

- Someone stole his car and he said "I wish he would've asked me for it then I would've given it to him and he wouldn't be a thief."

- He donated to the Salvation Army saying "they reach some that we miss."

- He came home blue and cold from having given his coat away to a man on Main St. in SLC.

- People of other religions are so good and beautiful and that

we ought not to say that we only have the truth, but that we want to add to what they have. We do not want them to leave behind any blessing, only come and let us help them enjoy blessings from Heavenly Father which they have not been experiencing up to this point.

-He was a historian. He said that without memorials, we tend to forget (this could be why they had to carry the plates across the desert, or why Joseph Smith had to have the plates).

-He told Matthew Cowley never to prepare a sermon, just stand and say what the Lord tells you (*could mean prepare, have materials, but at delivery, don't read it, rather say what God gives to your thoughts).

-He taught that music can reach the heart when prose cannot.

-He didn't have a centurion voice, but rather a gentle one.

-You couldn't get him angry or hostile no matter how hard you tried.

-One said of him, he often was known for giving hope to the hopeless.

-When others spoke of "very important people" around him, saying "Yes such and such a person is a very important person," He would say "No, we are all very important people."

-He said that the belief that there was no holocaust of the Jews, would be worse than the holocaust itself.

-He taught that we need to stay on the Lord's side of the line.

-We, the LDS, will lead all the world in all regards because we have everything they do, but in addition we have the inspiration of the Lord.

-What does it matter if we understand Homer, Milton,

Newton, etc., if we fail to know the scriptures, for they are the better part.

-The home is a mini temple; we can use it to resist evil.

-Our dead are just as anxious for us as the Lord is, and they are praying for us.

-Our eternal happiness will largely be based on what our children attain.

-“Give the Lord a chance.”

-He focused on how much growth and development is ahead of us and how to that point, the Church had only been in its infantile stages.

-He didn’t care about school degrees.

-Spencer Kimball said that he was a good Indian, for they sat together for 48 hours on a hard bench waiting to meet with an Indian chief (those chiefs have a way of testing people).

-He was an advocate for the Indians.

-When asked if he had any last counsel near his death he said “Yes, I know that my Redeemer lives!”

-At his death, a 7 year old paper boy knocked on their door and said “I’ve lost my best friend, what can I do?” They had him be one of the pallbearers. (He made friends with those who others would call insignificant people.)

-It was said of him that his journey from death to the next life was the shortest journey he ever took (meaning he lived a heavenly life).

-He was a great reconciler.

-He made not just friends, but dear friends.

-He spoke of the aristocracy of righteousness.

-President McKay said he was one of the most Christlike men who ever lived.

Madsen: David O. McKay

- His parents were ostracized for joining the Church.
- He was a bishop for 20 years.
- His dad would change the subject whenever people would start talking bad things about others.
- He prayed for self-assurance of the truthfulness of the gospel as a lad. The answer didn't come right then, but eventually it did.
- Someone told him he would grow to be in the leading councils of the Church. He tried to live for that.
- While working in the field he would memorize whole passages of Shakespeare and other poetry.
- He knew much British literature.
- His father was politically and educationally involved.
- The vocational training of their home was centered around education.
- He knew he was to be a teacher.
- He was class president and valedictorian. In those days to be valedictorian it involved moral character strengths as well, not just academic strength.
- Of all the people he met as prophet, his parents were the most influential.

- Motherhood is the most beautiful and noble occupation.
- He had a supportive and powerful family growing up.
- His girlfriend couldn't resist his dancing and his quoting poetry. They were married.
- He said of his girlfriend that she was his queen.
- Never let your wife's hand touch a doorknob.
- Take your wife out once a week; let her count on that. He did this all through life and when he had to be away from home he would call her and tell her that he would make it up to her.
- He always helped his wife into her seat.
- He always kissed his wife goodbye. Once he was put in a wheelchair to be taken out of a hospital and carefully taken all the way out to a car. Much effort was given in helping him get in and out of the wheelchair and out to the car. However, when they got there he said, "Oh no, we have to go back." He had forgotten to kiss his wife goodbye. They accordingly did go back.
- He was kind, courteous, and trusting.
- No man has a right to an oath, in or out of his home.
- He never raised his voice in his home.
- He said no one would dare leave a TV on when leaving the house. That would be considered so slothful.
- He never asked his boys to do anything he didn't do himself; He said it's useless for a father to punish his child for swearing by swearing at his son.
- He blessed a man who was in a terrible accident, who obviously would have great scarring, that he would have no scars; it was fulfilled.

-He developed teacher training in the Church. He insisted on an outline of lessons where after a principal is taught, the application of that principal is taught and discussed.

-A certain leader in the church would always start meetings late. He told the constituents to not correct him, but to praise him greatly when he did start on time. Using that method, the man was encouraged to continue to start on time.

-He speaks of lofty ideals and the sublime and ecstasy.

-He dreamed of a city where people of white robes and headdresses were. The Savior was there, and he had peace about him which was sublime. It was Christ's city. The people who were there were those who had overcome the world and truly been born again.

-Becoming partakers of the divine nature as Peter taught happens in process as we take the sacrament and go to the temple until we can say we have truly been born again.

-About 200 people joined the Church from one sermon he gave on an island.

-He often said the veil is very thin.

-He was the president of the European mission.

-He was a trustee of one university and a regent of another.

-This is what he said to Apostle Benson regarding accepting the government position as secretary to Eisenhower. "My mind is clear on it. I know what the Lord would have you do." He said that Elder Benson should accept the appointment, and much good came of it.

-One Polynesian man went to his office to see him. It wasn't common to be able to just go in, but he went in, past

everything and to his door. The door was opened a little bit, and McKay said, “Come in brother.”

- he had a sense of humor.

- His eyes seemed to search the very soul.

- One interviewer asked, “Are you a prophet?” In response he said, “Look me in the eyes and you’ll know,” He did, and it was confirmed to him.

- If we want to love God, we must love and serve his children.

- Jesus Christ is the source of The Priesthood.

- His secretary said she never saw him depressed or saw him lash out. People came to him depressed, but they left differently. He had a great effect on people.

- He said he never thought of death because he was so enthralled with life.

- Few who he calls as mission presidents are surprised about that call.

- When his wife was set apart for them being mission presidents she was blessed with health. As a result, her cancer was healed.

- He was president of the church, except for his wife, he said.

- He advocated that even little children fast, thus helping them learn that they must do things at times even if they don’t want to.

- He was an advocate of science and technology.

- He was against Niche philosophies which spoke badly of Christianity; this couldn’t be said of original Christianity, but nevertheless it gives a wrong idea to people.

- He was against communism.

-He said, "Every member a missionary." (If all members then converted one person each for a year, it would take 14 years before the whole earth were members, then each one of those people would only have to do 40 names in the temple, and everyone from Adam would have their temple work done. In one sense the prophets are the gatherers of gatherers, and the common members are to gather everyone else.)

-He didn't slow down until he was in his 90's.

-The scripture says that when Moses came down from Mt Sinai that 'he wot not that his face shone' meaning he didn't realize it was shining. Pres. McKay had gone to the holiest room in the temple to pray about who was to fill the vacancy in the First Presidency and was told who it was to be.

President Hugh B. Brown spoke with Pres. McKay after that and said that his face shone but he knew it not--just like Moses.

-No one can stay clean in this world without the Holy Ghost.

-Earth was created by a personal, divine source and not by mere creation. He said scientists can say what they will about the creation but let there be no mistake about this one thing: it was not by chance, it was by God. There was divine intervention.

-The temptations of Jesus are typical of all types of temptation we experience in life: 1. appetite 2. fashion and pride 3. money and leadership.

-Few people, even temple workers, understand the importance of the endowment; it's the steps to get into God's presence. If our young people understood that, it would be the core of their

spiritual motivation. (*I think what he is saying here is that the doctrine is that this is the only way, there is no other way. We must go to the temple if we are to return to the presence of God to dwell with him after this life.)

-He went to the temple each week throughout his life and it showed.

Madsen: Joseph Fielding Smith

-At one meeting he told the Saints that they needed to repent or few of them would be saved in the world to come. People complained so he came back and said he had changed his mind, and told them that if they didn't repent NONE of them would be saved.

-He told some temple square guides that they needed to be more humble guides.

-He loved the concept that through Christ the yoke can be lightened.

-He loved the scripture about how we can become like Jesus in order to see him at His coming.

-He loved the scripture that we can learn more and more, making us become lighter and lighter until the perfect day; that we may have bodies shining bright as the sun in a day to come.

-One woman knew Joseph Smith, the prophet, but didn't know of him being one. She got to shake his hand and felt

spiritual power in him.

-One said to him, "I'm a convert." He responded that he was too.

-One came by his office in the temple depressed. Thinking President Smith was not there, walked on. Then he put his arm on his shoulder of the depressed man and said, "it's rough going isn't it". The man told him his plight, and Smith told him, "God bless you brother."

-The supreme act of worship is keeping the commandments.

-He never came to a meeting late, though he did complain about the length of some meetings.

-He sat on the hump seat in the back seat of cars so others could be comfortable.

-The word "integrity" comes from "integral" and means pulling things together in your life and being consistent. He wouldn't act like signing a letter for a picture to be taken of him, but found a letter he needed to sign anyway and had them take a picture of him signing that

-He taught us to avoid mysteries. He spoke of not thinking about whether the gates of heaven are on a hinge or are rolling.

-He quoted himself twice in discourses.

-people thought that Einstein had all the right answers but now much of what he said is out of date. Like how Widtsoe thought of Ether being what's referred to in D&C 88 but that theory is out now but the D&C goes onward.

-Pres. Smith interviewed a man for being a teacher at BYU. He asked, "Do you like my book Man his Origin and

Destiny?” The man said “no,” and Smith asked why he said that. He replied that he thought some of it out of date or something. Smith asked the man if he would teach some of those things he said he doesn’t like. He said he would and defensively. Smith responded well I guess you’ll have to, have a good time teaching at BYU.

-He would go out of his way to say hello to people.

-He wrote a book, Signs of the Times. He was constantly reading the prophecies.

–The fire at the second coming will be as real as the water that was at the time of Noah. He went on to say that the water was H2O and that the fire to come is the kind we now know also.

-He taught that in the premortal world there was an organization there just as there is here, and that there were men in authority holding the priesthood, a pre-mortal church.

-He taught that the fullness of the priesthood only comes to those men and women who are sealed to each other as spouses in the temple.

-He wanted people to kneel and pray about their gospel questions, rather than calling him all of the time.

-His daughter would call him, then set the phone down and read a book for a while then pick up the phone and say hello dad! It was because they let the phone ring 33 times before picking it up. Since he was so bombarded with calls, they would wait to answer knowing that if a caller stayed on the line that long they had something urgent.

-He was known to not be able to have a conversation without

bringing the scriptures into it; likewise his son-in-law, Bruce R McConkie.

-When Bruce R McConkie was 19, Joseph Fielding Smith gave him a blessing foretelling that his doctrinal commentaries would be known in the 4 quarters of the earth, and that he would one day be in the leading councils of the Church. Bruce R. McConkie determined 100 doctrines in the Book of Mormon then obtained 100 copies of the book and tore out the pages pertaining to said doctrines and placed them in 100 folders, and read them half an hour a day with his spouse.

-He wouldn't drink the coffee with no caffeine, or other supposed toxins, because he wanted to avoid the presence of evil, and it still looked and smelled like normal coffee.

-He ate very little meat, taking the word of wisdom seriously.

-He played handball until his 70's. He was so good at it that he could hit the ball and have his opponent running around, wearing out his opponent.

-He liked to fly jets.

-His first wife died. He married a second time and she died also, and then he married a third time.

-When asked if marriages are made in heaven he said, "It's in heaven now."

-He married Jessie the same year his prior wife died. President Grant firmly believed that it's not good for man to be alone and told him to remarry.

-Women have the most exciting and noble calling.

-Women will be given authority when they are priestesses.

-The Lord offers every gift and blessing to both his sons and

his daughters.

-He served 64 years as church history record keeper; 20 years as a counselor in a temple Presidency; 4 years as a temple president; 19 years as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

-He insisted on rising early from bed.

-His wife was bedridden and spent much of her time on family history. He said he will ever bless her for how she helped him with doing that.

-When asked how he got so much done at work he said, “It’s in the bag,” referring to how he would bring a sack lunch and never take that hour off.

Madsen: Harold B Lee

-He told Ludlow to get the curriculum done by the beginning of the year and said if you need more motivation to do this just consider that you would be shot if you don’t. So Ludlow took a sleeping bag and stayed at the Church offices for 30 days and got it done.

– He taught that auxiliaries won’t be needed in a future day when the parents are doing more.

-Elder Romney submitted to the words of the leaders of the church. When they didn’t like his political platform, he stopped trying to win an election because they had different political views. They saw that he was willing to submit to the

counsel of the leaders of the church and they called him to be an apostle in the church.

-The titles we get in this life aren't really important, but the real importance is whether we truly lived the gospel, and how we treated our families.

-He played the piano as did several of his children.

-He was an educator but started full time church service at a very young age.

-He served in the Denver, Colorado English speaking mission.

-When his daughter died he said, "The Lord keeps stirring me up."

-On an airplane, he felt hands on his head twice and looked back to see who it was. Upon landing, he found out that he had bleeding ulcers and without administration of a priesthood blessing, he would have died.

-One time in the hospital, he was told to get up, put on his clothes and walk out. This made the doctors and nurses angry.

-Elder Spencer Kimball, one of the Twelve Apostles, was having great health problems. He was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said, "You have been called of God, you must live as long as you can." Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.

-There were 8,000 people in the tabernacle when a man said he had a bomb. Lee responded that there was no bomb. Indeed.

-He glued papers into his scriptures with important things and quotes on them.

-He did interviews until 2 am, then had more at 5 am. He prayed that the 3 hours of sleep would be enough.

-Referring to people's reactions to the blacks receiving the priesthood, he said that those who understand revelation, to them there is no problem. To those who do not understand revelation, there is no solution.

-In animals the light of Christ is instinct.

-He was told if he would get physically close to other people they would trust him, so he would say be close in our homes and invite people in your homes. Additionally, you should show familial closeness and your family will befriend and trust you.

-He says the most profound thing he had heard any prophet say is that those who defame Joseph Smith will die and ever have their stink, but the glory of Joseph Smith lives on forever.

-Even the President of the Church eventually gets released from that calling, but the calling of father and mother are forever.

-He had problems so difficult that he had to pray all night about them.

-Upon the question of medication which would numb his mind, he said that we should not alleviate all suffering, for the scriptures say that Melchizedek and others learned by the things they suffered.

-He was a strong supporter of the Constitution of the USA.

- The Smithsonian Institute had a display of the LDS religion as being typical of a faith which has a religious understanding of the Constitution of the USA.
- The gospel has all answers to complex life questions.
- When people see Mormonism in action, they tend to be more tolerant of our faith.

Madsen: Spencer W Kimball

- After the death of Harold B. Lee, Elder Kimball, who would be the next president, visited with him half a night long. This seems to be the pattern of all the prophets that preceded.
- Elder Spencer Kimball, one of the Twelve Apostles, was having great health problems. He was saying that perhaps he had lived long enough and that he would not do the risky surgery. President Lee banged his fist on the table and said, “You have been called of God, you must live as long as you can.” Elder Kimball then agreed to the surgery if President Lee would give him a blessing the night before.
- The surgery was done by Russel M. Nelson (an Apostle). There were about 250 cuts in this open-heart surgery. Usually about 25 cuts go wrong. However, this was the only surgery Nelson had ever done, of the 8,000 surgeries of his career, that he had done perfectly. Before or after, he was never able to do another perfect surgery.
- He told parents who had adopted Chinese children to learn

Mandarin Chinese because the Church will be in China someday.

- He was avid in doing family history.

- He had to do the hardest chores in the family. His mother said that he would get extra blessings for helping on the farm. (This may be why he was so short, working so hard in his youth.)

- He was good at athletics, and got in a few fights, but grew out of that.

- He never overcompensated or complained about being short. He didn't walk in extra-long steps. He refused to go through the door first. He was humble and identified with humble men.

- His wife, Camilla, was a teacher.

- Never let anything get between you and Jesus Christ. He said you young people are too infatuated with degrees and grades. Twenty years from now no one will care if you got A's or E's in school. He was himself a self-taught man and a VERY avid reader.

- He attributed the strong education of his children to his wife.

- He had a large display of Old Testament prophets and an events timeline.

- The first commandment (thou shalt not have any gods before me) is the commandment that we break the most (see his talk, "The Gods we Worship" about obsession with material things).

- He was known for much community involvement, not so much for academia.

- He learned piano since his mom excused him from some

chores if he would practice.

-He lost all his scrupulous savings from the great depression and had debts at other times from bank failures.

-He managed bank books; balanced them to the penny, eliminating the disorder. He did much clerk work throughout his life.

-When he was a Stake President, there was a flood. He counseled the people to work hard at recovery all day long, but when the evening comes, break out the violins and live life.

-When asked to be in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he said, "Oh no not me!" He felt there were other more worthy candidates.

-When he had been called to a high position in his Church he felt that he couldn't do it in good conscience unless he set some things straight. He recalled a time not reporting vandalism he had seen, and times where he felt he had been too pressing on someone in a deal, or asked too much money for something. He went around with his checkbook making amends to people. A few times people said, "Yes, I'll take some money for that," but most of the time they said that if anything, they dealt with him wrong, not the other way around.

-when he was set apart as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he knelt before the one who ordained him.

- If working hard could make up for his inadequacies he would. He slept only a few hours each night and became a

master of sneaking away every now and then for a 15-minute cat nap. He was then ready to get back into action.

-He had many boils on his skin for 20 years. (Not even Job had them that long.)

-On one occasion, an unkempt Indian man came into a sacrament meeting with his unkempt son. They were very poor. President Kimball got up and hugged and kissed them and blessed the child. With other men one may think this was for attention, but not with President Kimball.

– The purpose for parents isn't to get children on missions, but to get them into the temple. Then they go on missions to get other people into the temple.

-He was able to get missionaries, who wanted to go home, to stay on their missions. He had them write home that day and tell their parents they would stay.

-There was a missionary staying at the mission president's home with an emotional issue. The mission president woke up one night to see the Elder standing over his bed with a knife. He called President Kimball and they spoke for a few minutes, then he asked Kimball about what to do. President Kimball said, "Save him. The Lord bless you." Then Kimball hung up the phone. He never gave up on anyone!

-He did the intense personal one-on-one counseling with people, he took on the hardest cases including 200 homosexuals. When asked what the result was of working with them on that, he said "we pretty well got that all cleaned up." He didn't believe in "born that way genetics" and he taught against it. He stayed in touch with them by phone. He

would help a person change their behavior, then work on the inner life that led to the behavior. Institutions criticized him for his methods and theories. He said, “You know I’m a criminal.”

-The book, The Miracle of Forgiveness, which he wrote, is so unyielding in its principles that even hardened addicts became successful by using it.

-At 2 am the lights were often still on at the Kimball home. He would be writing in his journal or responding to letters and thanking them for any bit of faith they had in such letters. In his journals he not only wrote of the things of the day, but he opened his heart. There are 33 black binders of these journals he kept. He said that in journals don’t put your sins in neon, but write you have weaknesses and quickly get on to the good stuff, to the inspired.

– When Elder Kimball had his throat cancer, it took 5 times as much effort to speak as it would for a normal person. Speaking for an hour to him was like us speaking for 5 hours. President Lee said that Elder Kimball will speak. Kimball motioned to his throat to say no my throat is too bad. Lee said, “Oh, yes he will speak.” Kimball spoke a 10 minute very raspy monotone message. Lee wanted the people to feel his spirit. Kimball sat down and put his hand in his face and wept after giving the speech. This happened another time. When the speech was over, Lee shook his fist in the air “YES Spencer, YES!”

-He stayed with a dying person all night.

-At the end of a work day he wrote thank you letters and

responses to all who had written to him even the little children and he thanked them for all they do, big or small.

-if it was for the Kingdom, pain meant nothing to him. In the line of duty for Christ, his rights subsided. That is the opposite of our society, it's all about rights for us. But in the gospel, all rights have duties, and all duties have blessings.

-The main issue with marriages today is selfishness, insisting your needs be met.

– Divorce is rarely needed.

-Don't put your wife down from her pedestal by putting her onto a diet.

– Marriage can be ecstasy.

– He has different likes than his wife, and she has different likes than him, but they have some similar likes, and that's where they stay when they do things together. They do their own thing by themselves at times, and they get along just fine.

-once he and his wife couldn't determine whether some extra money they had saved would be used for a vacation to go touring, or to save for getting a new house. He wanted the vacation, so he went on the family vacation touring by himself and reportedly had a very good time.

-If anti-Mormon people had the spirit of God, they wouldn't talk the way they do

-He complained of strapless evening dresses the women would wear.

-Peoples' lives are written on their faces. After 40 years, it's written there. What we are born with is what it is, but after 40 years we are the ones who have written what is seen there.

Kimball wasn't as comely as President McKay, but when he was under the influence of the spirit of God, he was beautiful!

-On the Mount of Transfiguration, the apostles were also transfigured.

-Kimball hinted that it was better that Peter lived to be leader of the Church than to get killed earlier. God had other plans for him. Though Peter had said "I know not the man," he never said that Jesus is not the Christ.

-Death is not so bad, it's giving up a handful of dust for something much better.

-Disintegration of the family is the worst tragedy of our time, and if the Church won't reverse this at least among themselves, great trouble is ahead.

-The majority of the apostles won't lead you astray. All of the LDS prophets since Joseph Smith and onward have said something to this effect.

- While we profess God we are nevertheless an idolatrous people.

-Heaven is like here but there are more realms of creativity.

-One man was called to be a General Authority. He cried at the thought of being in association with Kimball. Kimball left the room for 10 minutes while the man was crying. He came back and saw that the man was still crying, and left the room again.

-Madsen says he feels like Kimball was much like the person of Heavenly Father, kissing and hugging people he saw.

-Once there were 3,000 youth who fasted he would come and speak to them at college. He wasn't feeling well, and almost

did not go, but he went. In the opening prayer, a student prayed that they had been fasting that the Lord please send the prophet to speak to us. Then Kimball entered. They cheered.

-He said of children who have strayed, "It's not over yet."

-Madsen got a call from Kimball. It was the saddest he had ever heard Kimball in his life. Kimball had called to ask him to go perform a civil marriage for one of his grandchildren (not a temple marriage).

– There will be martyrs in this dispensation in the future. He said giving your life is better than violating covenants.

Martyrdom is how Christianity began, and before the end (before the Second Coming of Christ which is termed in the scriptures as the end of the world in the JST of Matt. 24 because it's the end of wickedness in the world), that's how the scenes will be.

Madsen: Ezra Taft Benson

-He dated some before his mission and met a wealthy girl he liked. His friends said she'll never even look at you (she was rich he was poor). They dated for a while. He said, "If you're still around when I return we can take it from there." He returned, but she was going on a mission and gave him the same offer. He waited for her and they married upon her return.

-In their marriage they were good examples of looking for the

good in each other.

-Atheism has become the state religion.

-America is the Lord's base of operations.

-America is the only place the restoration could happen, and it barely did even there.

-People came to America hungry for religious freedom.

-We must study the Book of Mormon DAILY.

-No civic honor (he got tons of them) is comparable to getting the Melchizedek Priesthood.

-Jesus Christ not only taught the law, he IS the law; aka his current revelation is what we do.

-Pride has become a popular sin in our generation, and it leads to sin.

-The Law of Consecration is not a social experiment, it's an eternal law of heaven.

-For bitter or sweet, Jesus has experienced much deeper than us.

-Only a God could atone for our sins. Jesus Christ was and is a God.

-When he was born, it was thought he was a stillborn. The doctor gave up on him and went to save his mother. Several women in the room dipped him in cold then hot water back and forth until he came to.

-In his family, they had Family Home Evening where they would have a song, read scriptures and have some recreation. Their recreation was of their own making, not TV.

-His wife gave up a nice home to marry him. She was from a rich family, he from poor.

-He hated debt. He had a sense of self sufficiency personally and in government.

-There were 837,000 members of the Church when he was called an apostle, and no stakes abroad.

-He saw a German, who had survived a bomb, receive many boxes of wheat from the Church. He said in tears "How can people who don't know us care this much about us?"

-His message was, "Do not despair, there is always a way."

-He and his wife wanted 12 children but only got 6.

-When US President Eisenhower asked him to be his secretary, he said he would ask the brethren of the church and see what they say. President McKay said, "My mind is clear on it. I know what the Lord would have you do." It was to accept, and much good came of it.

-Benson told Eisenhower he would not defend a policy that he didn't believe in or that is against my religion. Eisenhower then had him put in.

-As secretary to the US President, he insisted that policies were good for the character of the US people. Others asked, "What does that have to do with it?"

-He said, like Tocqueville, that the strength of America was in its spirituality.

-He insisted they start cabinet meetings with verbal prayer, not just a silent moment for silent prayer. They did so.

-He fired one person thinking he was a socialist. Such would be against what America stands for in all its background. Later found the person was not socialist, and rather than trying to excuse himself he said he had made a mistake and apologized

(not for being anti-socialist, but for firing the man in misunderstanding).

-Benson had the people fast for rain. They did. The news headlines read “Benson really does have contacts that are out of this world”

-Eisenhower and others joined him in doing Family Home Evenings on Monday nights.

-Eisenhower said that Benson was the shining star in the firmament of his administration.

-He was against government subsidies, paying farmers to destroy their crops, and putting limits on farmers.

-He spoke of what to do with freedom once it's been won. He said to hold on to faith in God. The greatest tragedy is forgetting God.

-He said the Vietnam War was a fight we never intended to win and hence a fight we should have never entered.

-He pleaded with mothers to stay home as much as they could, even to leave work and cut the budget. One woman wished she had listened to this prophet, lamenting her fate.

-Leaders in Zion should be familiar with each other, sharing with each other their intimate thoughts, humor, etc. They would lay down their lives for each other and were very close.

-There is more salvation in wheat than in high flown theology. Benson said this like Orson Pratt. He said revelation on having food storage could be like the people of the day of Noah being commanded to get on the ark.

-Often his addresses were to specific audiences like sisters, or mothers. He did that in a genius way.

Madsen: Howard W Hunter

- Despite repeated advice from doctors, he kept his wife at home with him and didn't put her in a nursing home. Her illnesses left her bedfast. Her conditions were also such as were common for a person forgetting things and turning on others, even those closest to them.
- Despite bone cancer, he remained active and tender.
- Let the temple be the symbol of your membership in the church.
- Be calm in your spirituality (not as a cheerleader).
- Reflecting on the past should not be self-debasing or causing doubt.
- God is usually more willing to forgive us than we are ourselves.
- If Jesus lays his hands on a marriage, it lives.
- Any theology that says Christ didn't suffer all levels of suffering and temptations is false.
- To judge righteously means with fairness, compassion, and charity.
- The meek will inherit the earth, not those who win by intimidation.
- He went on an Egyptian Nile cruise on his honeymoon.
- When one scowls a lot, usually there are lines that show in the face from doing that over time. He had none, and there is something Christlike in that.
- He was not dominating when with people. He was careful

and methodical; a careful listener. These things were probably a result of his legal training.

-The Marriott Center at BYU had a full audience. A man stood and shouted that he had a bomb in a briefcase and that it would go off if he didn't sign a statement. He said, "NO!" The bomber persisted, he said, "No," again. Some members started singing which distracted the bomber, and he went on with his sermon.

-He leaned back too far and fell straight on his back while giving a General Conference address. Elder Packer and others helped him up, and he went right on with his discourse without missing a word.

-He was part of the archeological society.

-He was a regular reader of The Biblical Archeologist.

-He had a large collection of historical books which he read.

-He marked his scriptures well.

– God's blessings are for all Palestinians regardless of Muslim or Jewish affiliation, for all are the children of God. He recognized the scripture that says the Jews will eventually return to Jerusalem, but said that we don't get involved with the geo-political conflict there.

-In the 1950's there were only about 100,000 visitors to Hawaii a year. When he dedicated the Polynesian Cultural Center, he said that it would bring millions of visitors and be a missionary tool. Such has happened.

-At the time of the dedication of the BYU Jerusalem Center, there was conflict. President Jeffery R Holland was president of BYU at the time. A prominent Jewish man came to his

office and offered to write a check for the cost put into it so far, and however else much he wanted if they would stop the BYU Jerusalem Center. Holland said “no.” Holland was worried until he opened the scriptures at random and read in the D&C: “It is pleasing to me that a school should be built in Zion.”

-In the dedication prayer for the BYU Jerusalem Center, He said that people who go there will feel constrained to acknowledge that “this is thy house”. All types of people say they feel peace there. An atheist said he feels like praying when near the upper room there. Other atheists have said that also.

-He was a lawyer. His patriarchal blessing said that he would be wise in the ways of the world and that he would teach those to people, and that the Lord would use those skills to build up his kingdom.

-He was in a wheelchair and doctors said he would never walk again. He overcame that, and he walked into the apostle’s Thursday temple meeting with a walker. He was usually never late, but this time he was. Though it’s not usual, the other apostles stood and applauded him. He basically collapsed in a chair and they went around hugging and kissing him.

-He competently played 7 instruments as a teenager.

-He was the leader of a well-known music band in his youth.

-He was not as interested in the gospel in his teenage years.

-He loved animals as a boy.

-He collected bird eggs and could identify them.

-He used money he made from his band to help pay family expenditures and prepare for school.

-The purpose of temples is to reunite the family of man.

-He got an offer to be a higher judge but decided not to take it so he would be able to keep doing church service. His law practice was treating him well enough.

Madsen: Gordon B. Hinckley

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-One man gave an excellent talk. He became proud. When it was time for his next talk, he got up in a boastful spirit. The spirit left him, and his talk was shattered. He stumbled his way through it. He got off the stand humbled. Hinckley told him if he would have gone up the way he went down, he would have gone down the way he went up.

-He was in university schooling during the great depression.

-He studied ancient Greek literature and British literature in college before his mission. He learned of communications on his mission, and studied that thereafter. He was able to help in the production of church films and other distribution things.

-He would do whatever the brethren told him to, but he LOVES missionary work.

-He spoke much for the retention of church converts.

-It was said of his dad that he wrote more church manuals than any other person. In his day, it was an individual assignment rather than that of a committee.

-At age 12 he went to a priesthood meeting against his will. There he heard many converts sing the song "Praise to the Man," about Joseph Smith. This was the first time he recalls it coming into his heart that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

-As a lad he dipped the pigtails of a girl into black ink.

-One day he skipped class along with other students who wanted to protest. His mother wrote a note to the principal to please excuse him, that what he did was merely an impulse to follow the crowd. He says that is the most scathing rebuke he ever got from his mother.

-He never beat his children. It was his policy that such treatment only intensifies resentment.

-When Pres. Hunter died, Hinckley was one of his counselors. A son of his tried for a long time to get ahold of him. When he finally did, he asked if he could help. Hinckley said, "Yes, pray for me," then hung up the phone.

-While he was President of the Church, \$138 million was given in humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid section was added to the tithing slip. This relatively small church isn't just taking care of its own, it's taking care of others who don't belong to it. One hundred percent of funds to humanitarian aid in this church go to that cause. There is no one else who does that. Funds to this church are not used for overhead. All we have are the tithes of the members to run this church. We don't dip in along the way, every penny of it goes where directed.

-He spoke of a single woman who raised her family by cleaning houses. Over the years after her children were grown

and married, she managed to save up enough to get a new house or remodel her house. She gave it to the church. A mission president said, “No, you earned this and have the right to it and deserve it.” She said, “No, I want to give and serve the Lord. I am comfortable enough in my house, I’ve gotten used to it.” President Hinckley said after relating this account, DON’T WASTE THE WIDOW’S MITE! The funds we have in this Church are very sacred, much of them come from house cleaning mothers.

-Do a little more than is expected. At the close of his talks he often said to do a little better. (Such are the words of a man who has put in effort.)

-When visiting near Ghana, Africa he told the people “I don’t want to leave here, I feel at home here.” They wept together.

-If we don’t follow D&C 121 then our priesthood and leadership in the church will be gone and our role as patriarch will be gone.

Madsen Church President Lecture Series: Assorted Notes

-A master psychologist, speaking of why we came to Utah as a people, said it’s not just to survive, for plenty do that, but it’s because it offers something more here, something special.

-BH Roberts, known to be one of the most eloquent speakers the Church has had, said of young people who were indifferent

or even hostile toward the Church “Ah! They have not yet met a master interpreter!”

-Olive oil causes more poisons to cease than any other remedy; so if you don't know what poison you ingested or how to cure it, drink olive oil. Interesting that such is what we use in anointing the sick as directed in James 5, and that Christ's atonement was at an olive tree (*also Jewish lore suggests the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden was an olive tree; also the bird returning to Noah on the ark to show that there was land brought back an olive tree leaf); it's like how Jesus purifies us of our sins and heals us from our afflictions of all types. (*Alma 7 says Christ doesn't just help us with our sins, but with all aspects of life.)

-President Packer was asked if we really believe we are going to take these sacraments (temple ordinances) to every human that has ever lived. He responded “It is a big job, and we're doing it.”

-Truman G Madsen asked President Hugh B Brown: What are the blessings of Abraham Isaac and Jacob? Answer: posterity. Question: Why was Abraham asked to sacrifice his one chance at that? Answer: Because Abraham needed to learn something about Abraham. He and Isaac came down from that mountain with stronger faith in God and in the future.

-BH Roberts was in disagreement with the rest of the brethren about whether one of them in the high council of the church had to get permission from the others before running for public office. Everyone said yes except him. They told him he would have to leave the council if he could not come to terms

with this. He walked around all night and finally decided to come to terms with it. He told them it took him all night to come to that, and they responded, JFS being one of them, that they hadn't left the room, and had been praying all night for him.

-Madsen said the First Presidency asked him to speak on Emma Smith. He asked what were the current feelings of the brethren regarding her. They said, "Very positive."

-The LDS Sort Center in SLC gives 1 million items of clothing a month.

-One person asked Elder Jeffry R Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Would you give your life for Christ?" He responded, "I thought that is what I was doing."

-Matthew Cowley said when called as an apostle it felt like a call to be a delinquent father. He said that because in that type of calling the church must come first, although of course the ultimate thing is family.

-BH Roberts quotes from the famous book, "Think and grow rich" by Napoleon Hill.

-David Whitmer was the only one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon to be told directly by the angel "blessed is he that endureth to the end"; he was the only one of them who didn't come back to the Church.

-Madsen says how much we bring to the scriptures determines how much we take from them.

-Madsen says with Mosiah 5 the people were literally reborn.

-Madsen says that our conscience kisses us when we obey the core of our hearts, that being which is truth.

-Madsen says that the 1 year plan for food storage and cash the church has instructed us about is important; Too many of us see the Church as something to rescue us when we have none of that, and it's not designed to be that. The plan of the Church is storage kept by the members themselves.

-Hugh B Brown was in the First Presidency at one point.

-how much we bring to the scriptures is how much we will get out of them

-J Golden Kimball said "If you want to live a long time, get an incurable disease then take care of it."

-Madsen was told as long as he was in the path of duty on his mission he would be safe in his travels.

-One man, who was getting a doctorate in theology, visited an LDS congregation. He said "they're all like little children there... which is just like Christ would want them to be." He then joined the Church.

In The Company of Prophets: Personal

Experiences of D. Arthur Haycock –

Book Highlights

with Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, David O. McKay,
Joseph Fielding Smith, Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball,
and Ezra Taft Benson; By Heidi S. Swinton

(unreferenced words are those of Arthur)

-“I’ve had more tutoring and training from the real masters of life than anybody who ever went to college.”

-What made the prophets sad made Arthur sad, what made them happy, made him happy. He wasn’t responsible for all they were, but he tried to help them all he could. He felt it his duty when assigned, as he often was, to help these men.

-“If you don’t have the brethren’s total confidence, if they can’t talk about anything or anyone, any situation or circumstance with you sitting there, it doesn’t work.”

-“It is invariably the case that when an individual is ordained and appointed to lead the people, he has passed through tribulations and trials, and has proven himself before God, and before His people, that he is worthy of the situation which he holds.” (Elder Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses 1:123)

-“Don’t take yourself too seriously.” (President J. Reuben Clark)

-“They don’t make hasty decisions...they make haste, very slowly and very deliberately and very prayerfully. They are righteous and sensitive.”

-President Kimball wore holes in his shoes. “Worn out in the service of the Lord,” he would say.

-When President Kimball would get tired, he would lay down on his desk or the floor. “Lengthen your stride,” he would say.

-No one in their right minds would ever ask for these jobs, it goes beyond the nice red chairs at conferences.

-People know little of the demands made on leaders and their families.

-“The General Authorities spend every ounce of energy, strength, and talent with which the Lord has blessed them to uplift the members and good people everywhere. That is their special assignment.”

-He had little education or contacts, but tried and hence succeeded in his heart’s desire.

-From them I learned life is a testing ground to make us strong and effective.

-“I’ve found in this world, if you don’t look out for yourself, no one else will.” (Elder Harold B. Lee to Arthur)

Haycock: George Albert Smith

-“Unlike most other westward-bound emigrants of the time, these pioneers (LDS settling in Zion) came not for wealth, but to create homes where they could worship God unmolested....Bound by recognized ties of brotherhood and guided by Christian ideas, which were part of their very fiber, they knew how to live and work together without suppressing individualism.” (George Albert Smith, NBC radio broadcast, Church News, July 26, 1947, pp. 1, 10.)

-Pres. George Albert Smith had Arthur drive a more direct route. A guard at the private road entrance whistled for him to stop and waved his arms, but he went on, wanting to do what the president said. He said he would drive up the steps of the administration building if that’s what the president asked. p19-20

– ‘Hope to see you again’ was not superficial, he meant it when he said it.

-“Wherever I have gone, I have found noble men and women.” (George Albert Smith, Improvement Era, Apr. 1950, p.263)

– He would lift the burdens of others’ shoulders and put them on his own. p20

-He never heard him swear. The meanest thing he would say about someone is that they are “a first-class scrub.”

-He was one of 11 children.

-His health was poor; he went to live in a tent over a summer in St. George so the heat to heal him. He decided that he would give what he could how he was. God preserved him.

-“You could put me in jail and I would always look for an opportunity to escape. But if you put me in a room with doors and windows, unbarred and unguarded, and you draw a line and ask for my promise that I will never try to escape, I’ll never step across that line.” (George Albert Smith) p23

-He went to bid Lucy farewell as he was about to go on his mission, she said “George Albert Smith, if you think you’re going to the Southern States without me, you’re wrong. Let’s get married and go together.” They did.

-“One of our difficulties in this world today is that too many of our Father’s children do not believe in God. They have an idea that they can do just as they please and they throw their lives away....The [pathway] of righteousness is the highway

of happiness.” (George Albert Smith, Church News, Oct. 20, 1948, p. 2-c)

-“It’s always better to have notes and not need them than to need them and not have them.” (George Albert Smith to Arthur Haycock)

-He kept a stack of children’s books in his desk, and silver coins to give the children, and a blessing if they wanted one. p29

-He had Arthur take an old lady pulling sticks to her home despite Arthur’s contesting, saying “You go and take her home. Remember, Arthur, she’s somebody’s mother.” p30

-“I declare” was one of his favorite phrases. p31

-When he got a good sermon or something in the mail, he would say, “I wonder what Reuben would think about this?” Then he would give it to him. He relied on his counselors much. p32

-He always ate steamed wheat for breakfast, with warm cream or prunes. fFr lunch he had a soft boiled egg, milk, homemade bread, and bottled fruit. They always brought a jar of wheat, the longer they were going to be away, the larger the bottle would be; At dinner Arthur would say, “We are having roast

beef, he is having boiled wheat.” At night he would eat a bowl of bread and milk with white seedless grapes. For a real treat he would have a chocolate shake or malt with a raw egg mixed into it. p32-33

-One couple had no children. He knew they would hence be lonely, so he said he would keep them in his prayers. p34

-Instead of rushing home to check his mail or to take a nap after a strenuous trip, he would go to be with the sisters who were alone, being concerned for their wellbeing.

-He loved to dress in full boy scout regalia and attend scout meetings where youth would advance in rank.

-He advised General Authorities to speak from the heart. At one conference session Elder Cowey read his talk. He called and said, “Don’t let me ever catch you doing that again! You and the Lord do this. Don’t get up and read. You get up and let the Spirit guide you.” p36

-his favorite phrase was “we are all our Father’s children”. Such is written on his tombstone.

-In WW2 time, he sent wheat to Europe. President Truman asked how they had this ration. George said, “We’ve been saving the wheat, while you’ve been plowing it under. We’ve

got our granaries and our storehouses full, and we just need a ship to get all we've set aside for our destitute members in Europe." p40

-He stayed at a rancher's house once. This rancher didn't make time for church or the Sabbath day since he was making his farm more prosperous. When George knelt and prayed at breakfast time, a child in that home asked his father what George was doing and what he was saying to the chair. p41

-“I have no desire except to help you carry on the Lord's work ... I don't think my girls have any idea how near I've been to the other side. I haven't felt like my work was done at all. When my work is done, I want to go. One of my regrets is that I have been unable to organize a library and dispose of itAs long as I have the money, I want to pay my hospital expenses; I don't want the Church to do it.” p42

Haycock: David O. McKay

-He was eloquent in quoting scripture, Shakespeare, Browning, Burns.

-He became an apostle when he was 32 years old.

-“In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines.” (President David O. McKay p45)

-“Always be sure that you get as many converts as you do baptisms.” President J Reuben Clark to Arthur, p48

-McKay said of his wife 54 years after their marriage, “[she] is 54 years lovelier than when I married her.” p49

-President McKay has Elder Hinckley put the endowment to film. p54

-“Every member a missionary” -President McKay p55

-“Only through individual effort and divine guidance may true access and happiness be obtained. There is no blessing based upon another’s achievement. Everyone must work out his own salvation.” (President David O. McKay, Cherished Experiences, pp.9-10)

Haycock: Joseph Fielding Smith

-“His manner appeared strict and exacting, yet he was tender and warm. He was driven to preach the gospel, to tell the world, ‘There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God

and Father of us all, and one true church, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.”” p56

-He was the Church Historian for 45 years.

-He was the grandson of Patriarch Hyrum Smith. He was the grandnephew of the prophet Joseph Smith.

-When dedicating a temple he said, “May I remind you that when we dedicate a house to the Lord, what we really do is dedicate ourselves to the Lord’s service.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Jan. 22, 1972, p.3)

-Speaking of his father, Joseph F. Smith, he said, “My father never had time to be a boy.” p58. He had driven an ox team across the plains with his mother when he was just a boy, at age fifteen, orphaned, he was sent on a mission to Hawaii where he served for four and a half years.

-Arthur ran into a door opened by Elder Smith to get into another building without having to search for his key. He told Elder Smith, “I’m kind of hoping that’s how it will be on the other side. If I can catch the pearly gates before they close behind someone like you, I may make it.” Elder Smith said, “If I were you, my brother, I wouldn’t count on it.” p59

-“He wasn’t flashy. He never made anyone laugh in conference. I can’t ever remember him telling a joke at the pulpit. His was always a solemn gospel dissertation that was a result of his intense family tradition of faith and service. He had something to say to the Saints, and it was always serious.”
p61

-“We believe that worship is far more than prayer and preaching and gospel performance. The supreme act of worship is to keep the commandments, to follow in the footsteps of the Son of God, to do ever those things that please him. It is one thing to give lip service to the Lord; it is quite another to respect and honor his will by following the example he has set for us.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Conference Report, Oct. 1971, p.6)

-His wife would say, “Now lie down and take a nap after church. All the other presidents did.” He would say, “Well, where are they now?” (*He was saying that he was alive and wanted to work.)

-His wife loved to sing and had him sing with her. He would say, “She calls it a duet; I call it a Do-it. I have to Do-it whether I want to or not.” p62

– “I plead with you young people...to keep yourselves clean and pure so that you will be entitled to go to the house of the

Lord and together with the companions of your choice, enjoy all [the] greatest blessings the Lord offers to you.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Church News, Apr. 24, 1971, p.6)

-“I can’t wait to get to the other side and thank Mother Eve for what she did. We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for her. Then I think of the Savior born in a manger. I think of him sweating drops of blood and hanging on the cross. You know, he did that for me. He did that for us all. How can we ever repay him for his redeeming sacrifice?” (President Joseph Fielding Smith to Arthur Hancock, p64-64)

-He had 3 wives die on him, one after the other. He was married to one of them at a time.

-“We are members of a world church, a church that has the plan of life and salvation, a church set up by the Lord himself in these last days to carry his message of salvation to all his children in all the earth.... Not only shall we preach the gospel in every nation before the second coming of the Son of Man, but we shall make converts and establish congregations of Saints among them.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, Manchester Area Conference Report, Aug. 1971, p.5) p66

-He lived with his daughter before he died.

-All his life he was up by 6am and in his office by 8am.

-The last week before his death he was still working in his office.

-“The saving of the souls of men is the greatest work that is going on in the whole universe. It is going on both sides of the veil; and I think sometimes that it doesn’t matter which side of the veil we are working on.” (Elder Ezra Taft Benson, Mission Presidents Seminar, June 29, 1972) p.67

Haycock: Harold B. Lee

-He felt like Nephi, not knowing beforehand what to do p69.

-When asked the greatest challenge for Church leaders, he said “Keeping pace with the growth of the membership.” p69

-“The safety of the Church lies in the members keeping the commandments. There is nothing more important that I could say. Keep the commandments and blessings will come.” p69

-He was so close to the other side that he often said there was no veil for him. p70

-“Pray for me, young people. I plead with you to pray for me, and I promise you that I will try to so live, that the Lord can answer your prayers through me.” (President Harold B. Lee) p70

-He was a seminary teacher, and took his work very seriously.
He knew it was important.

-He was secretary and treasurer at Deseret News.

-Arthur was approached by Elder Kimball and a few others to take a certain position. Arthur asked President Lee for advice. He said, "The offer may not be coming to you by inspiration, but if Spencer W. Kimball is asking you to do it, it's the closest thing to it. He is the biggest short man that I know anywhere. Anything Spencer W. Kimball wants, I'd listen."
p71-72.

-“I have the responsibility to speak by the Spirit of the Lord, and you have the responsibility to listen by the Spirit of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, June 16, 1973, p.3)

-“Men may fail in this country [USA], earthquakes may come, seas may heave themselves beyond their bounds, there may be great drought and hardship as we may call it, but this nation, founded on principles laid down by men whom God raised up, will never fail. This is the cradle of humanity where life on this earth began in the Garden of Eden. This is the place where the new Jerusalem is; this is the place which the Lord said is favored above all the nations in the world. This is the place where the Savior will come to his temple. I have faith in

America. You and I must have faith in America if we understand the teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (President Harold B. Lee, speech at Rick’s College, see ‘In the Company of Prophets’ by Swinton p72)

-“He looked impeccable and stood with such imposing stature. You seldom spoke lightly or facetiously around him. He set a formal tone in his meetings, yet no one was more gracious or more considerate. He was formal in his relationships.” p73

-he was a forceful and able administrator. p73

-“He was driven to do all he could as fast as he could,” like speaking to 4 groups in one night. p73

-“It seemed as though the heavens opened, and I could encompass every member of the church and my love went out to every member of the church and in fact to the whole world.” (President Harold B. Lee) p73

-His service as Church President was marked by announcements of new missions and new building projects. p73

-He pushed himself to the limit. p73

-He called people, who sent him letters, on the phone and spoke with them about their problems and concerns. p73

-He cared deeply about issues facing people universally and individually. p73

-“The real strength of the Church is to be measured by the individual testimonies to be found in the total membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

-He spoke of the hastening of the Lord's work being manifest in finding many of the blood of Israel in Mexico, “The evidence of hastening of which the Lord spoke (D&C 88:73) can be found in no greater measure than in this land of Mexico and in the countries of Central America as witnessed by the overwhelming superabundance of the blood of Israel to be found here.” (President Harold B. Lee) p75

-He was the primary author of the area conferences, the system of regional representatives, and the correlation program. Arthur says, “He brought the worldwide Church together in one whole, ready to move ahead with force and energy. That was his major contribution.” p75

-He was a door to door encyclopedia salesman.

-He taught the leaders of the Church, when faced with issues of Church growth, “all that was necessary was already established: simply follow the priesthood lines of authority.”
p76

-“I know, with a testimony more powerful than sight, that as the Lord declared, ‘The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth [from the Prophet Joseph Smith through his successors down to the present], and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.’” (President Harold B. Lee, Conference Report, Oct. 1972, p.20)

-President Harold B. Lee and President Marion G. Romney were carpenters of a sort. p77

-President Marion G. Romney took apples from a neighbor’s tree, his mother chastened him and told him to give them back at once. Since that lesson he has never taken a stamp or a paper clip from an office which does not belong to him.

-President Lee was healthy, vigorous, and kept a busy schedule. p78

-“Every one of you can become great ancestors. This is the important thing. The only honor to your name is the honor you bring it.” (President Harold B. Lee, BYU Seminar) p78

-Speaking of the accomplishments of the early pioneer leaders, he said, “We can equal them in dedication and keeping the commandments of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, dedicating a stake center near downtown SLC) p78

-In Munich, President Harold B. Lee didn’t tour the Olympic gardens, they were there to work. It was hard to keep up with President Lee. p78-79

-President Lee told Arthur and his wife not to take the detour touring Spain and Portugal on the way home from one trip with the prophet. The next morning President Lee told them he had reconsidered and said it would be alright with him if they did such. Arthur responded, “No, President Lee. Just to know that you had even the slightest question at the wisdom of such a visit is enough for us. We’re going home.” p79

-Speaking to Saints at Athens on Mars Hill President Lee compared them to those at the time of the ministry of Paul, “As we come to positions of trust and responsibility centuries later, bearing the same message, teaching the same gospel, worshipping the same God, faced with the same opposition, we must not hesitate nor slacken our zeal to project the word

of the Lord.” (President Harold B. Lee, Church News, Dec. 16, 1972, p.5)

-His first wife died and he remarried.

-When President Lee died, “There was no campaigning, no electioneering, no jockeying for position, no speeches- just a simple process the Lord himself has directed, that upon the death of the president of the Church, the president of the Twelve should become the next prophet and president.”

-“The source of his greatness was his knowledge that he lived in the shadow of the Almighty.” (President Marion G. Romney speaking of President Harold B. Lee his funeral) p82

Haycock: Spencer W. Kimball

-“He plowed through business all day at the office and then went home for a short nap and a light supper followed by more work and then more work. It wasn’t unusual for him to drop down to the office at night if he had something on his mind.” p84

-He regularly admonished the Saints to keep a journal, sing in their wards, plant gardens, pray for doors to nations not open to the gospel would open to missionaries, serve missions, read the scriptures, serve neighbors, and repent, repent, repent. p84

-“We teach the truth. If people knew what we know, there would be great numbers eager to join the Church. It’s true, it’s right, it’s divine.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p84

-“How can we be satisfied with 100,000 converts out of 4 billion in the world who need the gospel? I wonder if we are doing all we canWe have been proselyting now 144 years. Are we prepared to lengthen our stride?” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Nov. 10, 1985, p.10)

-“So much depends upon our willingness to make up our minds, collectively and individually, that present levels of performance are not acceptable either to ourselves or to the Lord. In saying that, I am not calling for flashy, temporal differences in our performance levels, but a quiet resolve to do a better job- to lengthen our stride.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p85

-President Kimball loved people rich or poor, high in position or of no position at all. He was a friend to everyone. p85

-“Father considered long and well the creation of this earth and the peopling of it....He made the earth for our benefit and for our growth and development....You probably do not remember all the things you did in the life before you came here, but you lived; you understood the program; you accepted the divine plan; you agreed to it; you made the covenant, and

you must not ignore that promise, even though you have that right of agency.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Mar. 8, 1975, p.4)

-“Suffering can make Saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p86

-Kimball suffered typhoid, smallpox, throat cancer, heart attacks, and open-heart surgery.

-“Once he (President Kimball) was being wheeled into an operating room, the hospital orderly pushing the gurney bumped the corner of the door and began to swear, taking the Lord’s name in vain. President Kimball looked up at him and said quietly, “Don’t say that. You are speaking about my best friend.” p86

-Though he had a temperature of 104, he still went to his meeting, would stand and counsel the Saints with great sincerity, then be whisked back to the hotel to rest. p86-87

-“The Church of Jesus Christ, nicknamed Mormon, is the only true and living church which is fully recognized by God....Most of the world disbelieves it, ministers attempt to disprove it, intellectuals think to rationalize it out of existence, but when all the people of the world are dead, and the

ministers and priests are ashes, and the high trained are maundering in their graves, the truth will go forward, the Church will continue triumphant and the gospel will still be true.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Sep. 10, 1977, p.3)

-“He didn't have a lot of education or a list of degrees behind his name, but he could touch the hearts of people everywhere with his stories and his warm and loving manner.” p87

-“Almost numberless are the men and women who today are allowing sin to grow in the heartwood of their lives (speaking of wedges which hinder the growth of trees as an analogy)” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p87-88

-“Paint up, clean up, fix your homes and your gardens, plant flowers.” (frequent counsell of President Spencer W. Kimball at conferences) p88

-He gave a conference talk “Don’t kill the little birds” about not killing animals unless we need to.

-“We believe that we have in the Church the answers to all the questions, for the Lord is the head of the Church and He has given us the program. Our message is what it has always been, and our hope is that our people will live the commandments of the Lord. They have been revealed in the holy scriptures and

by living prophets throughout many years.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, 1974) p88

-he would ask a secretary to type something saying it’s no rush whenever they get time, then a few minutes later would return to see if it was done. He pushed the work forward. p89

-On his desk he kept the motto “Do It” to remind himself and his visitors to do the gospel. p89

–“With missionary work...we...say, ‘Father, thy will be done.’ I’m just Your faithful servant. I’m ready to serve and sacrifice. Open the gates. I’ll do it.’ The Lord didn’t tell Lehi to ask for the plates or to try to get the plates. He said, ‘Send your sons and get the plates.’” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, Dec. 21, 1974) p89

-Arthur says, “When I served with President Kimball, I never worked so hard in my life.” p90

-“We want to keep faith with that small but noble band of souls who assembled in the Peter Whitmer home 150 years ago for the purpose of formally organizing the Church. We can keep the faith, in part, by helping the Church to grow in numbers and also in spirituality.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Conference Report, Apr. 1980, p.6)

-“Thousands of converts should come in from this source. They are your neighbors. They are your friends. They know your righteousness. You are an example in Christian living to them.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, speaking of local member missionary work, Church News, Aug. 24, 1974, p.4)

-“The days of gathering are over, and now we’ve got to establish Zion in all areas of the world. We need you here. Stay in our homeland and build up The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (Elder Spencer W. Kimball, 1955 speech to European Mission)

-“Every time a new temple is built, all the bells in hell begin to ring because Satan knows what it means.” (Brigham Young)

-“He wasn’t kissing babies to get votes or shaking hands to be popular; he was touching the people because he wanted them to know of his love, and he wanted to know them.” (Arthur speaking of President Kimball.) p93

-“When you work for those who have time for people, you work for the Lord’s chosen.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

-“It’s the people- the ordinary people everywhere, not just the leaders- who make the Church great.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p95

-“When we are asked by the Lord to enlarge the borders of the Church, that means not only more stakes, more missions, and greater missionary work, but greater effectiveness...by having more and more of members, young and old, more fully converted and in control of their lives, and less tossed by the trends of the time.” (President Spencer W. Kimball, Church News, July 5, 1975, p.3)

-“There is great security in spirituality, and we cannot have spirituality without service.” (Spencer W. Kimball, 1974) p97

-He would often see a young person and tell them they would be a great missionary when they grow up, and give them money telling them it was to start their missionary fund. p98

-He was often in the office by 7am. p100-101

-USA President Carter said, “We ought to be more like the Mormon Church. They have thousands of young people out teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.” p101-102

-He often would skip lunch wanting to get more work done.

-He would suggest that Arthur go on a diet, and would do the diet alongside him. He thought in terms of ‘we’.

-“I would explain that Sister Kimball would be unhappy if I didn’t get him lunch, and the president would quickly retort, ‘That’s all right. I’d rather she was mad at you than mad at me.’” p102

-“He was also human; he got frustrated and upset at times, like all the rest of us.” (Arthur speaking of President Kimball)
p103

-“There was never time for us to relax,” Arthur says of his days with President Kimball. p103

-he had a sense of humor; he asked a flight attendant for lemonade, she said she didn’t have any, then remembered they had lemons and returned to Kimball and said, “I can squeeze you some.” Kimball replied, “Don’t touch me.”

-People would ask him for an inside scoop on the second coming of Jesus Christ, he would say, “Why? Are you ready to go?” p104

-Arthur turned down a man who wanted Kimball to perform his marriage because the petitioner didn’t know Kimball; the man persisted and caught Kimball coming home from work and asked Kimball himself. Kimball agreed to do it, and scolded Arthur for being too protective. p104

-Upon a natural disaster, Kimball urged the Saints to “Rebuild your lives while rebuilding your homes.” p105

-“When President Kimball got something on his mind, he would not let go of it. He was tenacious and determined yet demonstrative and kind.” p105

-Sister Kimball always tended a garden and bottled fruit. p106

-When they moved into Hotel Utah, sister Kimball would walk to their old home, pick the apples off of the ground, cart them to the hotel, and make applesauce. p106

-When he traveled he took no time out for sightseeing. p106

-Arthur planned a free day with only an evening session and said to Kimball, “I’m just trying to save you, President.” Kimball responded, “I know you’re trying to save me, but I don’t want to be saved. I just want to be exalted.”

-“You can’t just float down the Thames; you have to be up and going. You’ve done a great job so far. Now what are you going to do tomorrow? Quicken your pace, lengthen your stride.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

-“My life is like my shoes, to be worn out in the service of the Lord.” (President Spencer W. Kimball) p107

-Kimball urged Arthur to go home one evening as he stayed past 5:30 to work and wait for his wife. Arthur said, "President, you're making this hard for me. I am torn between doing my duty to stay close to you and still doing what you ask me to do." President Kimball responded, "They both ought to be the same, hadn't they?" p108

-Kimball had a cousin who was Catholic, who said of President Kimball, "They could make my father a Saint". Arthur told this to Kimball and the immediate response of President Kimball was "Nobody can make me a saint. I have to do that for myself." p108

-Kimball's philosophy was to put the Lord first, others second, and himself last. p109

-Even when Kimball was out of the office from being ill, nothing was at hold at the office. "He had set the agenda, and we simply followed his directions." p109

Haycock: Ezra Taft Benson

-Often times Secretary Benson (worked as secretary in the dept. of Agriculture for USA President Eisenhower) was misrepresented by others who had agendas of their own. Benson expected complete integrity of others but didn't always get it. p114

– A Washington reporter observed of Benson. He “acts like a man whose conscience is always clear- his testimony will be the same next week or the week after or a year from now.”

This helped him to not have to remember what he told everyone, he simply remembered the truth and knew that is what he told. p115

-He got a letter from the white house saying, “Secretary Benson, since I was with you in New York I have had the strangest feeling that I wanted to leave my nets and come follow you and be a fisher of men.” p116

-He was thoughtful, and arranged for Arthur to take his failing old mother with him on an assignment to Hawaii. p116

-When Arthur's mother died, he was touched that President Benson and President Monson took time to come to her funeral. p117

-He put greater emphasis on the divinity of the Book of Mormon and the importance of its message in our lives than anyone. p118

-“You can’t work at the side of such chosen vessels of righteousness without recognizing that the Lord is in charge and that his servants are his witnesses...My experiences far

outweigh any material blessings or missed opportunities.” (D. Arthur Haycock) p118

To The Rescue: Biography of Thomas

S Monson by Heidi Swinton – Book

Highlights

-Growing up in their home, they had a daily family meal with meat. (note: Monson had terrible diabetes later in life).

-Sister Monson daily cooks him dinner, no matter the hour, and always packs his suitcase when he has to travel.

-Sister Monson's parents dressed formally to meet Thomas as he came to pick Francis up for their first date.

-He owned a bank and many other big businesses.

-Sport courses were required in his college, so he took basketball and swimming.

-He had a summer home cabin and another house.

-In college he majored in marketing with a minor in economics. He was interested in business finance.

-He often sings and whistles.

-He often prays to God even over little things like a basketball game. He did this even when he was young.

-He liked to hunt.

-His branch president was known to try people on the scriptures thoroughly. Monson went to set a 5pm appointment to get out by 6pm, but the leader said, "No that would not give us enough time to search the scriptures, how about 2pm?" It was so, and there he asked TSM to quote D&C 4 and D&C 13 and told him he has the right to be ministered to by angels as we learn from D&C 13.

-Life is a mission, not a career.

-Don't fire someone until you know why they are misbehaving. (i.e. coming late)

-If you find out of their misconduct from the police instead of them, tell them yes, they are fired and you must be more harsh with them than you would have had to if they had spoken with you in person.

-Be willing to rehire someone who used to misbehave who comes asking for work later.

-He had an experience hunting on Sunday where his brother almost died, and he learned to never go hunting or fishing on Sunday again.

-To people returning to church attendance, Bishop Monson would say, “Welcome home. We’ve missed you. We need you!”

-Do things in the way they are to be done. Ordaining a person to Aaronic Priesthood was to be done with the chair facing the congregation. A temple worker said it should be facing the temple. TSM said that may be ok in some wards, but here they face the congregation. And he turned the chair back towards the congregation.

-When people moved out of his ward he tried to keep track of them and when he saw them would counsel them. (Once their bishop, always their bishop!)

-When difficult things would come up he would say, “Do your best and don’t worry. It will be alright, we are in the Lord’s hands.” (doing his work)

-As bishop he considered himself quite generous welfare-wise, and if he had to go back and do it again he would be even more generous.

-While serving as Bishop, he was the usher of his ward, watching the doors as church began.

-He was very skilled at turning welfare opportunities in his ward into opportunities for service for the ward members.

-He wrote 17 monthly letters to a serviceman from his ward before getting a reply. He sent church magazines to him as well, but the hand letters were what got him to become active.

-Singular acts of people reaching out to them, can shape the eternal destiny of youth.

-He called a boy who was not at priesthood opening exercises and asked why he was not in attendance. He offered him one of his own clean, white shirts, and the boy came although he was late!

-Being a mission president is not like being a bishop; your wife counsels with you in all.

-When TSM went on mission tours as a General Authority, he tried to have an interview with each missionary in the missions he visited to strengthen their faith in Christ.

-He has a firm grip handshake.

-As a mission president he went to every wedding, spoke at members' funerals, and engaged the members. He usually made an appearance at every event.

-He knew all the names of his missionaries as a mission president. He remembered names and situations of many members when he toured his mission a decade later.

-When Elders said they had tracked out the whole city he said, "Now your next assignment is to teach and baptize them all."

-When Elders said their apartment was 40 below zero he said, "Dress warm, work hard, and don't look at the thermostat!"

-There was pessimism in one area of the mission and it had to be closed. Later, it was announced as a hot new area and Elders went back in and baptized many. Attitude was the difference.

-“Success is the ratio of your accomplishments to your capabilities.”

-Have the courage to refrain from judging and criticizing those around you.

-He read all 6 volumes of the church history on airplane rides.

-Getting temple and church meetings into Germany was what it must have been like for JS to get things going in the USA.

-Pres. Kimball concealed that the Germans had to befriend the communists who oppressed them if they were to progress in their rights as a church.

-There are saints who are just as stalwart of saints as there were in the days of any past dispensation.

-He was awarded an honorary Doctorate Degree in law.

-He was asked by Pres. Kimball to memorize a manual to get it into communist Germany where it was not allowed to be mailed. TSM was then to go there and write it out from memory. As he did his best and was writing it, there was the manual and in German! No one knew how it arrived.

-He was asked by Elder Ballard to review the PMG manuscript in 2 days. TSM did so by staying up most of the night.

-The 5 most important English words: I am proud of you.

The 4: What is your opinion?

The 3: If you please

The 2: thank you

The least: I

-There is no problem too small or too big for God not to answer the prayer of faith and give his attention.

-When an answer to a prayer does not come he does not worry, for when he absolutely needs the answer, it will come.

-He came late to a conference once (general?) because he was caring for his wife. This showed his emphasis was not on scheduling.

-Today sin often puts on the facade of tolerance.

-He gets to meetings early and visits with people, then starts the meeting on the dot.

-He is a great sports fan, talking about them then getting right to the point of what he must say.

-Rather than wanting to win arguments, he wants to get to the truth.

-Usually before expressing his opinion, he has discussion and goes around the table to hear from those in the council.

-The church voted against gay marriage, but voted for letting them have hospital and home rights.

-The temple itself is a missionary.

-When he starts a book he will finish it.

-He likes Wheaties in the morning.

-Your decision to think, say, and do right will rarely, if ever, be the easy way.

-Good habits are like muscles; the more you use them, the more they grow.

-As we look heavenward, we inevitably see our need to reach outward.

-He teaches old folks in rest homes about how a football game works, so they can understand what is happening on the television and enjoy it.

-He speaks about current ball games.

-Every boy ought to have his own dog.

-Give to the beggar and poor all you have. He lived this by giving a hungry family his pet rabbits to eat at Thanksgiving time.

-When his mother was asked about how she raised a prophet, she said, "It was hard, but I persevered."

-Fishing is good and spiritual.

-Having animals and going to fairs is joyful.

-He knows about what is going on in the local barber shop.

-He travels on a plane to go and give a blessing to one person in need.

-Debt is a demon.

-Road shows and dance festivals are uplifting.

-It is the duty of Priesthood holders to memorize the sacrament prayers.

-Don't read the sermons you give at church, but give them from the heart.

-For college, study what you like and what will provide for your family.

-If he were to go back and do it again, he would have studied history instead of business.

-If he were to go back and do it again, he would have married younger. He knew Francis for years before they married.

-When studying, it's how you use the hours, not the number of hours.

-Study as though you had to explain what you read, and as though you were going to teach the lecture that you are about to attend.

-Formal attire to meet the boy your daughter is going to go on a date with.

-Don't steady date at first.

-The 12 Apostles are to freely express their opinion, and once a decision is made by them collectively, they are to entirely uphold that decision.

-President McKay quoted Shakespeare freely.

-President Lee was one of the wisest church teachers.

-Members of the Quorum of the 12 Apostles read “The Reader's Digest.”

-Henry the 8th was his favorite Shakespeare play.

-Among his favorite theatrical works is the Phantom of the Opera.

Basics of The Life of President John Taylor from Living Scriptures Presentation

The following are a few notes on basic facts about the life of John Taylor. The Living Scriptures video on Taylor was used to gather most of these notes, which represent common records about the life of John Taylor.

-All church presidents were of English extraction. He was the only church president born in England. England from the reformation was more diverse in religions than France and Germany. The missionaries were received well there.

-He often read scripture from a young age. As a young man he prayed often, and got others to join him in secret prayer. He was a lay minister in the Methodist church for a while.

-He felt an urgent impression that he needed to immigrate to America to preach the gospel. He migrated at 25.

-He proposed to Leonora, a high class lady, and she at first refused. She had a dream vision of being married to him, and she accepted his second proposal.

-He was converted by Parley P Pratt. At first he turned away Parley being skeptical, but later accepted him. John was determined to investigate Parley's message and accept it no matter the consequences if true, and expose it if false. He wrote Pratt's sermons word for word and compared them and the Book of Mormon with the bible.

-When the bank of Joseph failed, even Parley P Pratt was upset about his financial loss. John helped encourage Parley, saying that if Joseph was a prophet before, he was a prophet now.

-He had a spiritual experience where he spoke in tongues and had a revelation that he would someday be an Apostle.

-John presided over the church in Canada. At age 29, Joseph wrote him calling him to the 12 Apostles. He saw his work as something to demand his all both in life and eternity. A year after his calling to be an Apostle he was sustained by the church, and set apart. But he preached whenever he could even before that.

-John's business was failing but he was to leave on a mission, and he didn't have any means but set out anyway.

-He knew that at a sermon several there planned to tar and feather him. He preached on freedom, and addressed those who came to tar him and asked if that was the liberty they had inherited. He told them he was ready, so come on and tar him. None did. He went on to preach for 3 hours.

-He didn't carry a weapon but soon learned he needed one so he borrowed a gun and prepared himself for defensive measures. John and 23 others prepared to defend themselves against over 100 mobbers.

-On a mission he had to leave behind his wife and sick children who all had malaria. He had only a penny to his name. He said he had enough for his needs. Parley said he needed a few hundred to publish a pamphlet. John said he could have all he had, and gave Parley the penny. They traveled without purse or script. When they had no money, he still booked passage on ships they needed to travel on, and they'd come up with the money by various donations by the time they needed to pay the fare.

-John preached and debated with anyone, anywhere. He preached in congregations, and when the members believed him, the ministers of those churches had him leave.

-He converted a congregation of 200 in England. He organized the converts as they migrated to America.

-John knew that he could only accept plural marriage as Joseph taught him if he accepted all the doctrines of the gospel. He was 35 and his wife was 47. Many of the brethren had difficulty accepting this but had testimonies of the prophet Joseph and followed through.

-He had at least 17 wives.

-William Law and John C Bennet stirred up contention against the church.

-None of the presidential candidates would defend the saints so Joseph ran for president. Joseph had John as his campaign manager.

-The Nauvoo Expositor was full of lies. The city council declared it a public nuisance and had that press destroyed. Mobs were angry and Joseph Smith the mayor of Nauvoo declared martial law. Shortly later Joseph was sent to Carthage jail. John Taylor and Willard Richards chose to stay with Joseph and Hyrum at Carthage. John sang all 14 verses of Joseph's favorite song, A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief, and Joseph had him then sing it again. Mobs came and were shooting at Joseph through the door, John knocked their guns down with his cane. He saw these efforts wouldn't last, and went to the window. John was shot in the thigh and was paralyzed, then shot in the heart where his watch was hit and saved him. A piece of flesh the size of his fist was taken from his hip.

-When traveling west to the Rockies, John had to go back to England to help solve problems in the church there, and had to leave his wives and children in wagons and tents.

-John saw the trials they went through as nothing compared to the glories to come.

-The first year in the Salt Lake Valley was a harsh winter, then in the spring the crickets came. This is when the seagulls came and ate the crickets miraculously, preserving the crop.

-He went on a mission to France. They were robbed by Indians of all their blankets and clothing. He said they weren't robbed, they were tithed. He said they preferred being tithed by bishops rather than those who officiated without authority.

-John prophesied that the kingdom of God, the church, would stand long after France would be crushed.

-John was upset about the French preferring the philosophies of men. There was a cake that wasn't filling, he called it 'philosophy.'

-John said Babylon was developing in the political, not just the religious world, so they got into politics. They had to represent themselves so they wouldn't be represented by others. He stood up to the various newspapers. Brigham complemented John for being a strong editor and writer defending the church.

-John expected his sons to do their part to care for the family garden. They were to carefully measure the rows, etc. One son was careless, and the rows showed it. John saw this and said to the son, 'well, we are not very proud of this. We had better dig it up and start over.'

-There were stolen chickens, the criminals were sentenced to pay back 7 fold.

-One chicken John didn't think was his, and threw it over the fence. Wilford saw the chicken wasn't his, and threw it back over the fence. John saw the chicken had returned, and threw it back over the fence.

-John forbade his children from using face cards or reading novels. John reviewed a novel his son had, and admitted his misjudgement in that case saying, 'that's a good book son. You may read it.'

-The national government was relentless in trying to destroy the church. There was the Utah war and continued false charges. John responded to claims in the press, and wrote that the government of the United States was at war with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

-John taught that bishops should have weekly council meetings, and that stakes should have quarterly conferences. This is continued today.

-John held a 50 year jubilee of the church, and forgave many debts of members, including debts of those who used the

immigration fund to join the saints, and some tithing debts of the poor.

-The Edmunds act made heavy fines and jail for polygamists, and denied polygamists the rights to vote, hold office, and be in juries. John said they would wait out this storm, and not try to reason with the government during it. Many all-night raids took place, dragging men from their homes. America was no longer a land of liberty and equal rights. John told the saints not to get caught by the government, and he went into hiding himself. His motto was "The kingdom of God or nothing." The last 2.5 years of his life was on the underground and he was moved from home to home for safety as federal marshals hunted for him. Once he needed to go from Kaysville to Taylorsville, he put himself in a shipping crate and was shipped to the location successfully. He often traveled at night. He communicated with the saints by writing. His counselors George Q Cannon and Joseph F Smith were also in hiding. Joseph F was sent to help the church in Hawaii.

-A farmer gave his home for John's headquarters in hiding, and the farmer moved into a small cabin.

-John would disguise himself in a woman's dress and bonnet so he could go outside and feed the chickens.

-John's last words were, "Joseph, Joseph"

-Only 3 members of the 12 could attend John's funeral, all the others were being hunted for plural marriage.

-At his funeral, it was recognized that John was killed by the cruelty of the government.

