

# The History of the Rochester, Minnesota Stake and the St. Paul Temple

The following material comes mostly from the 1999 and 2000 Rochester Stake histories with additional content from Neal and Mary Taylor, President Krueger, President Spackman, President Foote, the Peeks, and many others.

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## Perhaps the Time Will Come for Us to Have a Temple

*"And [there were] other choice spirits who were reserved to come forth in the fulness of times to take part in laying the foundations of the great latter-day work, including the building of the temples and the performance of ordinances therein."*

Doctrine & Covenants 138:53–54

Sister Carmen Dahlgren from the La Crosse Ward was serving with her husband (Robert Dahlgren, Second Counselor in the Chicago Temple Presidency) as the Assistant to the Matron in the Chicago Temple. In her testimony given in May of 1997, she said, *When the St. Louis Temple was dedicated, 647 temple workers had to be released from the Chicago Temple so they could serve in the St. Louis Temple. This is the way to get a temple - go to the temple and work at the temple as the saints in St. Louis did. Make the sacrifices now to work at the Chicago Temple so that someday you will have a temple in Minnesota.*



Carmen Dahlgren and Robert Dahlgren, Second Counselor in the Chicago Temple Presidency

*President Krueger was inspired to teach that a temple would not be built in Minnesota until the members here are prepared to serve in it as temple workers and until there are sufficient patrons to keep it busy* (Rochester Stake Histories). This was in 1997, when worthy endowed members were called from the Rochester Stake to serve as workers in the Chicago Temple. Many responded to the commitment of working two shifts a month, which required time and travel to the temple. The Chicago Temple was as close as four plus hours from Sparta or Viroqua, the closest units to the temple to as far as seven plus hours from Fairmont, the farthest unit from the temple.

A 1998 letter to the Stake from President Krueger:

*Dear brothers and sisters, With the Stake Temple trip now less than a month away, we ask each member to increase their efforts to prepare themselves spiritually for this great event. Specifically, we ask that a special fast be held Sunday, September 6, to petition our Heavenly Father for an increase of the Spirit in all our lives, to bind the Devil, to help us each live more righteously, and to help us prepare for the Temple Trip in September.*



Darrell Krueger, Rochester Minnesota Stake President

From the Rochester Stake History document that was submitted for placement in the cornerstone box of the St. Paul Temple, we read about the Stake's preparation for a temple in our midst, *President Krueger attended the temple often and reported that while there he often felt impressed what to do to help the members grow. One such action was the Stake's opening the Chicago temple Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 1998. The stake operated the temple from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the next morning and Saturday from 3:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. Restricted Service Ordinance Temple Workers and members were assigned shifts. Almost 2,500 endowments were performed during the two days, setting a Chicago Temple record. More than 400 recommend holders from the Rochester Stake participated. The Rochester Stake expanded the opening hours for the Chicago Temple on two other occasions, February 26-27, 1999 and October 8-9, 1999. Many lives were blessed by temple attendance and workers were trained who will be available to serve in the St. Paul Temple. It was noted that buses were available to transport members to the temple and back as well as to shuttle the members on an hourly basis between the hotels and the temple.*

President Krueger related in the Stake Histories, *"We operated the temple two different times, night and day using only stake members as ordinance workers. Nancy and I were privileged to be the officiator and follower for the final session... The spirit was overwhelming. No one in that room that day will ever forget this once in a lifetime spiritual experience."*

In a letter from the Stake Presidency to Stake temple workers dated November 5, 1998, it reads:

*Dear Stake Temple Workers,*

*As you know, we are planning another Stake Temple Weekend in Chicago on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, similar to our weekend in September. Buses will be available to travel to and from the temple as well as an hourly shuttle between hotels and the temple. Brother Redlin has sent information about the buses to each ward and branch. We ask you to prayerfully consider how to arrange your plans to be in the temple during those two days. It is our hope that each worker will continue in training until you are qualified to work in every assignment.*

*We have also received permission to have two sisters and two brothers work in the temple for each of the two shifts every Saturday, commencing as soon as we can arrange a schedule. The first shift is 6 a.m. until 11 a.m. and the second shift is from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. With the number of workers presently set apart, we can easily fill this assignment with a commitment from each worker for one Saturday every three months. This will allow us to maintain our level of preparedness until the new temple is dedicated.*

*Would you please respond to President Spackman before the end of November with these requests:*

- 1. Your availability for February 27-27, including shift and assignment preferences, if any*
- 2. Which Saturdays and shifts you can work between December 5<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>*

*Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this wonderful work.  
Sincerely, President Krueger, President Spackman and President Ferrara.*

As a Stake, we were so grateful that the stake presidency did all they could to have our members become temple-trained and continue to be qualified by continuous temple service. It is interesting that many of these workers later were called to serve in the St. Paul Temple.

In a letter dated January 7, 1999 to Elder Kikuchi, a member of the Quorum of the Seventy who visited the Rochester Stake during a fall conference, the Stake Presidency was happy to inform him of the following: *Our stake increased the number of recommend holders by 265 over a three-year period. Three years ago, President Krueger felt that as a stake we were not growing spiritually and a change of heart was needed...The stake presidency began by teaching the members to build a strong spiritual foundation....as the spirituality of the stake increased we*

*felt the members were prepared to turn their hearts to the temple. The stake presidency worked tirelessly with the branches and wards, making themselves available to work with the members and to conduct temple recommend interviews. All of this increased the desire to be a temple-worthy stake. The letter continues, At the end of 1997, the Chicago Temple presidency asked us to recommend many restricted service ordnance workers and to prepare to staff the temple Saturday evening, the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1998. In response, President Krueger asked that we be allowed to staff the temple Friday evening also and run the temple all night. Permission was granted. . . . One hundred and fifty endowed members were called by the temple presidency as restricted service ordnance workers. The stake caught the vision of temple service.*

President Krueger encouraged the members to purchase their own temple clothing. The Church provided a wonderful discount for those who were buying them for the first time. It is interesting to note that due to the size of the eventual St. Paul Temple, there was not room enough to rent clothing; therefore, temple attending members needed to bring their own.

From the Stake History, President Krueger commented, *“Those of us who had the opportunity this year to train as temple workers have had a once in a lifetime experience. What a great blessing this has been for us to memorize and understand the endowment as we do. . . . We invite you to prepare for the temple dedication.”*

## **The Revelation to Build Small Temples**

Joseph Smith once declared, “And the communications I made to this council were of things spiritual, and to be received only by the spiritually minded: and there was nothing made known to these men but what will be made known to all the Saints of the last days, so soon as they are prepared to receive, and a proper place is prepared to communicate them, even to the weakest of the Saints; therefore let the Saints be diligent in building the Temple, and all houses which they have been, or shall hereafter be, commanded of God to build” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, p. 414).

In the October 1997 General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, President Gordon B. Hinckley said, *There are many areas of the Church that are remote, where the membership is small and not likely to grow very much in the near future. Are those who live in these places to be denied forever the blessings of temple ordinances? While visiting such an area a few months ago, we prayerfully pondered this question. The answer, we believe, came bright and clear. We will construct small temples in some of these areas, buildings with all of the facilities to administer all of the ordinances.*

## **Announcement of the St. Paul Temple**

The April 1998 Church News reported, *Following announcement of the intent to build the smaller temples, Hinckley announced plans to immediately begin construction of 32 more temples, with details to come later after consideration of needs, with a goal of having 100 temples in operation by the year 2000. This announcement kicked off an aggressive building cycle, using relatively identical models and floor plans. Described as a 'classic modern, single-spire design,' these temples have two progressive ordinance rooms and two sealing rooms. Total floor area for these temples is 10,700 sq. ft. The exteriors have slightly different finishes. Most are granite or marble quarried from regional quarries such as Imperial Danby White variegated marble quarried from Vermont, which was used in many temples in the United States...Other than minor variations in finish, landscaping, and setting, these temples are virtually identical.* There were 38 temples built between 1999 and 2003 using this design. The St. Paul Temple, which was announced on July 29, 1998 was the first temple dedicated in the new millennium. President Halverson, counselor in the Minneapolis Minnesota Mission, former St. Paul stake president and the local coordinator for the Temple committee shared at our Rochester April 25, 1999 Stake Conference that the *St. Paul temple had a wonderful start, then stopped for two months, now underway again. Change in contractors through segmented bids saved the Church half the cost of the Temple.*

## **St. Paul Temple Committee Organized**

When the St. Paul Temple was announced, the First Presidency called Richard P. Halverson to be the local Temple Committee Coordinator and Elder Thomas A. Holt as advisor. The committee was made up of twelve chairpersons presenting the various subcommittees.

Under the direction of the Temple committee, all possible issues that could arise were thought out and planned for. One of the most significant was what to do for those members who forgot their temple recommends. Special Stake Center Dedication Recommendations were made available. A member of the Stake Presidency of each stake would be on hand to issue these special recommends. It would have been a sad situation for a member(s) who had traveled so far not to be able to attend a session due to an oversight on their part.

Most language issues were resolved including American Sign Language in which all ASL members would attend the third session. Language translation headset equipment would be in every room of the temple. A total of 79 temples worthy members would translate 19 languages and included in this was Spanish and Hmong.

For medical services, each Stake provided a list of medical people who could be at the open house and dedication if medical emergencies arose requiring first aid or if necessary a call for paramedics.

Even the local Oakdale Police Department would be involved with assisting with traffic control during the dedication and handling all parking and pedestrian issues off the church's property. They also would notify temple neighbors of the date and the parking that will be expected in their neighborhood.

Committee members were called from each of the soon-to-be temple districts including members from our Rochester Minnesota Stake. Those that were called to the subcommittees were Robert Brey, Callie Foote and Steve Walbrach.

Of Robert Brey, Stake Mission President of the Rochester Stake, one of the temple committee members said, *This man wore himself out in his assignment. He faithfully attended every (committee) meeting, making the 90-minute drive to the Anoka Stake Center every month. When the invitations were ready, he made an extra trip to Brooklyn Park to pick them up at my house and then personally delivered them to the units in his stake, taking an extra two hours to drive home in order to accomplish the task.*

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84143-1000

July 29, 1998

To: General Authorities and the following leaders in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Area: Area Authority Seventies; selected Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; selected Bishops and Branch Presidents

Dear Brethren:

Construction of a Temple in Minnesota

We are pleased to announce that one of the new smaller temples will be constructed in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area.

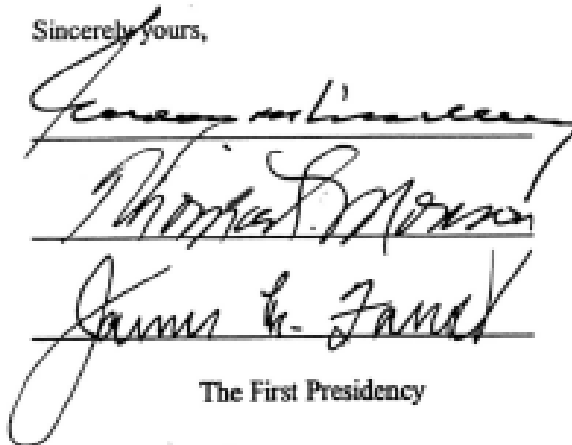
We are confident that this will be a blessing to the many faithful Saints in this and surrounding areas who have had to travel long distances to enjoy the blessings of the temple. Specific stakes to be included in the temple district will be announced at a later date.

Members who desire to contribute financially toward the construction of the temple may be invited to do so as their circumstances permit. In harmony with the spirit of the local unit budget allowance program, priesthood leaders should not conduct fund-raising efforts or establish assessments or goals for this purpose.

Members who would like to donate should simply indicate "temple" on the "other" line of the donation receipt. Wards will then transfer these funds by check to Church headquarters monthly. Priesthood leaders will not receive reports summarizing these contributions.

We commend the Saints for their devotion and faithfulness and are thankful for the blessings that will come to them through the construction of this new temple.

Sincerely yours,



James E. Faust  
Thomas S. Monson  
James E. Faust

The First Presidency



## Account of the Future Temple Site by Elder Holt

Most of the following comes from Elder Thomas A. Holt, Area Authority Seventy living in Minneapolis Minnesota, who shared his story regarding the location for the site of the St. Paul Temple. It was compiled from two talks as typed by the Rochester Stake Historian and a personal oral history taken by Mark Paynter, then the upper Midwest Regional Historian for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All of this was assembled as one narrative by Art Peek.

Elder Thomas A. Holt, longtime church leader of Twin Cities and Area Authority Seventy related the following account:

*In 1965, we came to Minnesota. At that time, the Salt Lake Temple was our closest temple. It was two days out and two days back in travel. That went on for 20 years. We then went to the Chicago Temple after it was dedicated in 1986. That was only eight hours of travel there and eight hours back. Now in 2001, we have our own temple. Reflecting back, in 1975, when I was bishop, they were going to divide the stake. I was told by President Wilson of the Minneapolis Stake to go find property on the west side of St. Paul for a new stake center. At that time, I was the agent bishop of the stake. I remembered the story of my mother's brother, Uncle George, then the stake president of the New York City Stake of how they found the property for a New York stake center: At that time, President Lee was with us. We went to a piece of property that the Church had selected near the Plaza Hotel. President Lee stood in the middle of the property and indicated that the Lord would let us know if this is the place. They stood and prayed and he said this is not the property as the answer was no. They went to the Juilliard School of Music. They stood in the center, a powerful manifestation of the spirit would pour upon them and he said, This is where the Lord wanted his stake center. So I did the same. We had found several pieces of property in the St. Paul area for the stake center. I talked to my counselors in the bishopric and we went and stood on many of them. They just didn't feel right. We kept going more and more north. We went to a site in the Oakdale area where there were 17 acres. The feeling of the Spirit engulfed us as we walked on the property. I felt like I was in the Sacred Grove. I know this is where the Lord wanted to build his stake center. Now fast forward. We divided the Stake and would go on to divide a few more times. It is interesting to note that in 1976, I met with President Kimball along with President Tanner and President Romney. We had a solemn assembly. For the Assembly, we turned the stake center into a temple. Everyone had to have a temple recommend to enter. In 1998, I was assigned as an Area Authority Seventy. President Hinckley announced there would be a temple in Canada. We went to look for property in Winnipeg Manitoba and in Regina Saskatoon. I was with President Hinckley in Regina where we were picking the property for a temple. We went out looking for property. A piece of property was picked. That night as I prayed, I was engulfed by the Spirit. I was told that Gordon B. Hinckley is the Prophet of the whole earth. Do anything he asks. We were on the elevator the next day and I told him of this. President Hinckley said, we are going to build a temple on the*

*Oakdale property. But what to name it as it was in the city of Oakdale. Perhaps we should call it the Minnesota Temple, that's what sports teams do, such as the Minnesota Twins or the Vikings, and then he said no. He still pondered. I suggested the St. Paul Temple after Paul the Apostle. The announcement came ten weeks later that we were building a temple in Minnesota and it would be called the St. Paul Temple, which will be located in Oakdale Minnesota. A month later was the ground breaking. When I arrived, I saw the ribbons for the outline of the temple were in a different place for the groundbreaking than I thought and then I realized where I had walked on that property in 1975 was where he wanted his temple and not the stake center.*

*Elder Holt continued, The Lord knows we have five ordinances for salvation. They are baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood, endowment and sealing. We renew baptism and confirmation each week at sacrament. We ought to renew our temple covenants often as well. We are told to stand in the last days in holy places. The ground of the St. Paul temple is the most holy place in Minnesota and Wisconsin.*

## **Let Us Prepare**

*During training to the St. Paul Temple Committee members, Elder Holt taught the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve had indicated that the three essential buildings/locations for the church were the member's home, a place to worship with other saints and the Holy Temple.....The Holy Temple is centered in Christ and encouraged all of us to turn ourselves to the temple, much as King Benjamin had instructed families gather near the temple to pitch their tents toward the temple.*

Specifically, Elder Holt suggested that members prepare spiritually by:

- Attending the Chicago Temple often
- Reading scriptures, Church magazines and following the directions from their Stake president
- All currently endowed members should be temple worthy and obtain a current temple recommend. Those not endowed should meet with their bishop to prepare themselves for temple covenants and blessings. All working to receive a temple recommend should decide now and for the rest of their lives they will exercise the faith necessary to qualify and retain a current temple recommend.
- Prepare family file names to take to the temple
- Training to be temple ordinance workers when called by their bishops

*As recorded in the 1999 Rochester Stake history, As soon as the St. Paul Temple was announced, President Krueger and his counselors asked all members to prepare to go to the temple. His goal*

*was to have every member in the stake present at the temple dedication. Home teachers and visiting teachers encouraged and worked with families and individuals and invited them to meet with bishops and branch presidents to discuss what they needed to do to be worthy to go to the temple.*

The following were some of the activities suggested by the Stake leadership to prepare us to be an active participant in the St. Paul Temple dedication and its eventual opportunities to do temple work.

- Members were asked to pray in their families about friends and acquaintances to invite to go to the temple open house.
- Stake leaders provided copies of the artist's rendering of the St. Paul Temple to distribute to all families along with an invitation to attend the temple dedication. This picture, which hung in many members' homes, stimulated discussion about the temple among members and non-members.
- Members were invited to become temple worthy and receive their endowment or to renew long dormant temple recommends.
- Members were encouraged to attend the temple groundbreaking and the hoisting of the statue of Moroni.
- Printed invitations and newspaper inserts about the new temple were delivered to members and non-members.

In addition, the various Stake units prepared its members to have a temple in their midst. Much of the following unit information was recorded and placed into the St. Paul Temple cornerstone Box.

**Albert Lea Branch** – Activities included: 1) encouraged all members to be temple worthy, 2) Temple preparation classes are being taught to all worthy members, 3) members who hold recommends are being encouraged to become temple workers, 4) members are encouraged to do genealogical research, and 5) members encourage to fill out their family trees so they can perform temple ordinances for their ancestors. This is a summation from a report by Theresa Hacker.

**Austin Branch** – Activities included: 1) Primary heard about temples in sharing time, 2) Primary created panels for the Stake Primary quilt which will be on display at the open house for the temple, 3) youth attended special firesides to learn about baptisms for the dead, 4) Relief Society held a special social with a temple theme, 5) visiting teachers took temple messages to the sisters, 6) priesthood discussed temple work in meetings, 7) home teachers delivered the artist's rendering of the St. Paul Temple to the open house and for them to attend the

dedication, and 8) each family in the branch will have a piece of granite from the temple. Over all, it is estimated that 100 members of the Austin Branch would attend the temple. This is a summation from a report by President Robert Flatt.

**Dodge Center Branch** – Activities included: 1) as a satellite branch, we joined with the Rochester Fourth Ward for some activities, but had some of our own, 2) the picture of the St. Paul Temple is on the bulletin board along with dated pictures of the construction process, 3) in August and September, President Jerry Mast taught a temple preparation class, 4) Sunday School lessons in September and October were about temples, 5) various members of the unit traveled to Chicago to attend the temple throughout the year, and 6) Jerry and Cheryl Mast were serving as ordinance workers at the Chicago Temple. This is a summation from a report by Cheryl Mast.

**Fairmont Branch** – Activities included: 1) preparing 15 members who had not received their own endowments, 2) encouraged all members to prepare through daily scripture study, 3) encouraged our members to pray for missionary experiences, 4) Brother and Sister Lundgreen accepted the stake presidents challenge to be qualified temple workers, 5) encouraging all member of the branch to have their own temple clothing, 6) encouraging all families, home teaching/visiting teaching and friends for the temple open house and dedication, and 7) work on family history and genealogy. This is a summation from a report by President Dennis Larson.

**La Crosse First Ward** – Activities included: 1) bishopric had devoted sacrament meetings, quorum lessons, youth lessons and combined Relief Society/Priesthood classes to increase understanding of temples and the associated covenants, 2) home teaching, visiting teaching and family home evenings have been geared toward activating and preparing members, 3) pictures of the St. Paul Temple were given to all members, 4) as a Christmas gift for each family, the bishopric purchased copies of new Temple magazine, 5) to the Primary, the bishopric and their wives talked to the children about the temples and had break out groups with a Q and A session, 6) one of the Young Women leaders was sealed to her husband and daughter and shared her preparations and feelings, 7) the bishop talked to the Young Men about the importance of the temple interview and the youth recommend, 8) focused lessons and home teaching around the temple, and 9) Relief Society presidency encouraged its sisters to have their own temple clothing. This is a summation from a report by Linda Starr Winans.

**La Crosse Second Branch** – Activities included: 1) youth attended a fireside about the temple, 2) branch youth joined the La Crosse Ward youth to go to the Chicago temple, 3) pictures of the temple were delivered and members were encouraged to go to the open house and dedication, 4) a special Sacrament meeting featured information about ancient temples and a testimony by Missy Stottler, a young single adult who just went to the temple for the first time, 5) excitement grew as assignments were made to work as security and ushers for the dedication and open house, and 6) the Robinson and Coombs families attended the groundbreaking for the Nauvoo temple and from their reports, excitement increased for our St. Paul Temple. This is a

summation from a report by President Jacque Durnford.

**Preston Branch** – Activities included: 1) Elders Quorum put on a fireside on missionary work using the temple as the focal point, 2) Young Women made temple baskets and boxes, 3) temple invitations were distributed to families to give to selected friends and families, 4) pieces of granite from the temple were given to families, 5) Sacrament services centered on the topic of the temples, 6) an article in the local newspaper will announce the temple open house, and 7) President Larson gave a special invitation to all clergy in Preston and some selected ones from around the Fillmore county. This is a summation from a report by President Brent Larson.

**Rochester First Ward** – Activities included: 1) eighteen members have been trained to serve as restricted service ordinance workers in the Chicago Temple, 2) pictures of the temple have been given to each family, 3) a fifth Sunday combined Relief Society/Priesthood meeting was taught by Linda and Charlie Redlin, 4) a special fast was held in September to generate a list of less active or unendowed members to focus on, 5) firesides were organized to teach and prepare the non-member of the family for the open house, 6) a portion of most Sacrament meetings and all fast and testimony meetings was dedicated to reflect the temple, 7) a delegation from the ward observed the placement of the statue of Moroni on the temple, subsequent photos helped to bring new excitement to the ward, 8) each home and visiting teaching companionships were asked to help prepare their families to attend the temple dedication, and 9) all young men and women were asked to prepare family names using Personal Ancestral File and temple ready to be taken to Chicago in October. This was to prepare them to prepare names for the new St. Paul temple. This is a summation from a report by Bishop Robert L. Foote.

**Rochester Second Ward** – Activities included: 1) Primary has undertaken four activities, a Sunday a month for sharing time on the temple, quarterly activities on the topic of temple, every child put together a packet with a book of Mormon, a testimony and church brochures and give it to someone, the children are building a Nauvoo temple using sugar cubes, 2) Melchizidek Priesthood had seven couples trained as restricted service ordinance works, 3) temple preparation classes are being taught, 4) pictures of the temple have been handed out, 5) a special youth fireside on the temples, 6) Young Women had two Sunday lessons, one activity around the temple, 7) Relief Society held a special fireside on preparing for the temple. President Halverson of the temple committee came and participated. Each couple was given a handkerchief and was taught the story behind the Hosanna shout, and 8) temple clothing was given to sisters who might have trouble obtaining their own. This is a summation from a report by DeeDee Hofeling.

**Rochester Third Ward** – Activities included: 1) require trips were taken to see the progress of the building of the temple, 2) we are working on a process to get recommends for the temple dedication, 3) invite friends for the open house, 4) develop a commitment to go every month, 5) have own temple clothing, 6) have a jar for money for the temple fund, 7) plan on taking a non-member or friend to the open house, 8) many in the ward are attending the temple in

Chicago once a month and serving as workers, and 9) took the children to the temple construction site to talk to them about it. This is a summation from a report by Dick James.

**Rochester Fourth Ward** - Activities included: 1) once a month in sharing time, they talked about personal preparedness with each step on display, 2) Young Men are researching one family name, 3) each family and each primary child was given a picture of the temple, 4) family home evening packets on temple provided by the stake were given to each family, 5) temple preparation classes are now being held, 6) the ward has 25-30 certified temple workers, and 7) High Priests have established criteria for a six-class workshop on family history. This is a summation from a report by Keri Bellows. Bishop Cragun recalls that *in our ward, we extended an invitation to almost every family to become restricted ordinance workers. Many accepted the invitation. Those who couldn't go for training twice a month went monthly and did what they could. In some ways this felt much like Zion's camp, as the sacrifice and associated learning and growth built dedication to the temple and internalized an understanding of the ordinances. It gave a real foundation of leadership in the ward.*

**Sparta Branch** - Activities included: 1) first and foremost, the members were asked to increase their personal spirituality through daily pray and scripture and attend meetings, 2) each member had a picture of the St. Paul Temple to display in their homes, 3) home teaching and visiting teaching message centered around the temple, and 4) branch presidency encouraged members to attend the temple often and to get their own temple clothes. This is a summation from a report by President Charles Busby.

**Viroqua Branch** - Activities included: 1) We displayed the pictures of the temple in our homes and chapel, 2) spoke of temple in our talks, testimonies, 3) attended the Chicago temple more often, 4) announced the open house to our inactive members and friends, and 5) we have members who will be in the dedication with where President Hinckley will preside and another member with a terminal condition to be there within its walls when the temple is dedicated. This is a summation from a report by President Robert Ghormley.

**Winona Branch** - Activities included: 1) the branch had monthly trips to the Chicago temple, 2) temple preparation classes were taught frequently, 3) members of the branch participated in all three of the two-day stake temple trips during which the temple was operated outside of normal hours, 4) pictures of the St. Paul Temple were delivered by the home teachers to every member, 5) encouraged all families to spend time talking about the temple during family home evening, 6) families to prayerful select friends and neighbors to take with them to the open house, 7) all teachings in the branch were frequently centered around the temple in Primary, firesides and sacrament meetings, 8) open house invitations were delivered by home teachers to families in the branch, 9) members were buying their own clothing, 10) some branch members were trained as temple workers, and 11) many families increased their family history work. This is a summation from a report by Dennis H. Pack.

From conversations with the Chicago Temple staff, one ward historian recorded, *The dedication of the people in our Ward and Stake are openly acknowledged by those working in the Chicago Temple. They are very impressed with the Rochester...Stake. They state that our active, ongoing participation has been a great asset for the workings of the Chicago Temple. They will miss us greatly when we begin attending the St. Paul temple instead.*

In a letter from the Stake Presidency, stake members were asked to fast and pray in a spirit of gratitude and renewed dedication. The letter was read in Sacrament meetings on August 22 and 29, 1999:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, we invite all members of the stake to unite in fasting and prayer this coming Fast Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> in a spirit of gratitude and renewed dedication. The Lord has greatly blessed us a stake, we see increases in commitment to personal righteousness, scripture study and prayer, home teaching and visiting teaching, meeting attendance and temple activity all these activities bring more peace and joy into our individual and family lives and we should remember as a stake to be thankful to the Lord for His blessing. We also have the unprecedented blessing of the temple being built in St. Paul.*

*As we anticipate the upcoming dedication of our Minnesota Temple, let us dedicate ourselves to sharing the gospel with friends and acquaintances so that they may join us in receiving temple blessings soon. President Hinckley has asked us to double our missionary efforts. Let us plead with the lord that he will pour out his spirit on the whole stake to help us be successful in this great work.*

*Sincerely your brethren, President Krueger, President Spackman and President Ferrara*

As part of the temple construction, units were asked to submit information that could be placed in the temple cornerstone. We know that most submissions consisted of what each unit was doing to prepare themselves for the temple dedication and future service in the temple. It should be noted that many if not all of these activities can still be used now to prepare a family, a class of youth, or an individual attending the temple for the first time. We should continue as always to be preparing ourselves to enter the Holy Temple and be worthy of the covenants we make therein.

In a letter from President Krueger, we read: *With the Construction of the Temple in Minnesota, we should be reminded that we have an opportunity to contribute to the Temple building throughout the world. The following is quoted from a letter from the First Presidency, "Members who desire to contribute financially toward the construction of the temple may be invited to do as their circumstances permit. In harmony with the spirit of the local unit budget allowance program, priesthood leaders should not conduct fund-raising efforts or establish assessments or goals for this purpose. Members who would like to donate should simply indicate 'temple' on the 'other' line of the donation receipt. Wards will then transfer these funds by check to Church*

*headquarters monthly.” Also, as released earlier this year, we can indicate on the “other” line of the donation receipt “Temple Patron Assistance fund” and “Humanitarian” fund. These funds will also be sent by check to Church headquarters monthly.*

## **The St. Paul Temple Open House**

Three months before the open house, one of the most published events was the placement of the statue of the Angel Moroni. It was recorded that on September 21, 1999, over 2,000 were in attendance when the Angel Moroni was placed on the St. Paul Temple.

The public open house was held December 18 and 20-31, 1999 (except for December 25-26 and half day on December 24 and 31). As with most open houses for the temples, the public had *an opportunity to walk through the St. Paul Minnesota Temple and view its various facilities. There will be self-directed tours beginning approximately every 15 minutes that is prefaced with a brief explanatory video. Children are welcome.* The open house did not include proselytizing as President Hinckley indicated that *we should be outstanding hosts without proselytizing.* There would only be a video with a pamphlet on the temple when visitors left the room where they saw the video. There were no displays or missionaries handing out religious tracts. Only a few sister missionaries were on hand and available to answer any questions by visitors.

As recorded in the *Church News*:

*January 13, 2000 St. Paul, Minn. — The spirit of the St. Paul temple is radiating in the community through the recent public open house, said Richard Halverson, coordinator for the St. Paul Minnesota Temple open house and dedication. Some 27,042 visitors toured the temple during the holiday season, including 1,282 community leaders and other special guests, said Brother Halverson, who is also first counselor in the Minnesota Minneapolis Mission presidency. Leading the special tours were Elder Hugh W. Pinnock of the Seventy and president of the North America Central Area, and Elder Thomas A. Holt of Minneapolis, an Area Authority Seventy. President Halverson explained that 40,000 invitations were printed and all given out by members along with the invitations which were sent to community leaders. He said that with the assistance of members knowledgeable in the newspaper business, a newspaper insert was developed and half a million copies were distributed to Minneapolis St. Paul area homes and businesses through general newspaper delivery. The insert explained many of the teachings of the Church and its development during the past 150 years in Minnesota. He said that the community has been very helpful. For example, the coat racks were donated by the high school and the bleachers for the choir were donated by the city.*

*The neighbors have been so favorable. We were worried about the neighbor next door to the temple, wondering if the temple night lights would bother her. But as this neighbor came*



*through one of the neighborhood tours, she said, 'It's just so wonderful to see those beautiful lights on the building.'*

Multi-stake Director of Public Affairs Vicki Reid said that each community leader was invited by letter from a member he or she knew personally. Sister Reid said the mayor of St. Paul attended, along with three U. S. congressmen and several judges. She said the mayor commented that it was *really great that you are opening this up to the public*. Twenty-one children's choirs sang for open house guests. *We also invited extensively the interfaith community*, said Sister Reid. *The chief administrator of a college affiliated with the Baptist Church said, "I appreciate the opportunity to hear about your church first hand instead of through the usual rumors."* One of the tours given was specifically for family history organizations in the community. *Three TV stations came*, said Sister Reid. *Two came twice. One did extensive interviewing of members for three hours, asking what it was like to grow up as a Latter-day Saint in Minnesota.*

The local Rochester *Post Bulletin* published an article about the temple and its upcoming open house. Elder Hugh W. Pinnock said in the article that members go to temples *to be inoculated with stability*. The article went on to say that couples making vows in its sealing room do not say until death do us part because they believe in an ongoing relationship in the spirit world. Kally Foote, public affairs director for the Rochester Stake, called the temple a *place of inspiration*.

In talking to the Primary children of the Rochester Third Ward, President Spackman stated, *I'm happy to be with you here today. How many of you will be 8 years old or older by the end of the summer or are already 8? Great, up in St. Paul right now, there is a place, and if you were to drive by that place, you would see a big plastic bubble over the ground. Inside that plastic bubble, there has been some work on the ground, foundations have been laid and they are pouring cement, not today, but they are pouring cement for the footings that support the walls. Does anybody know what is being built there? IT'S A TEMPLE. That's right....now before the temple gets dedicated, there's something called an open house. And who can come in when it's an open house? Who gets to go? Yes, everybody gets to come when it's an open house. You don't even have to be a member of the church, so I hope that you will all invite your friends to go with you and your family to the open house. You can walk inside the temple and look around and see what it's like, so you will know what it's like to go to the temple. And you can take your friend there and tell them about the temple and how important it is in your life.*

There were many opportunities to provide service for the open house. Sister Ann Eberhard, Young Women's president of the Rochester Fourth Branch related the following, *The service project at the temple on November 6, 1999 was an awesome experience. I was able to take the Laurels into the baptismal and help clean. Even in its unfinished state, the spirit was felt strongly and it was such an honor to serve the Lord in that fashion. I was also able to take each of the Young Women through the rest of the temple and that was a wonderful experience to watch them feel the spirit of the temple.* From the Laurels group, Heather Haddock wrote, *Our experience at the temple was fun. I worked outside and I felt good because I knew I was making*

*Heavenly Father's home look beautiful. I was allowed to see the baptismal font and I felt happy. Kirsty Hair wrote, When we went to the St. Paul Temple, it was a really cool experience because we got to go and see the baptismal font. Brittany Bly wrote, My experience at the temple was really great. It was good to know that you were helping God with his house. I had a warm feeling inside. Ashleigh Bly wrote, My experience was spiritual at the temple. Not only that, I had fun with it. Jen wrote, I loved going to the temple. It is so beautiful and it has such a great peacefulness around it. My non-member friend and I got to go and clean off the oxen. It was fun to be able to do that as well as teach my friend a little more about our temples and our religion. It was a wonderful experience and I hope I can do it again sometime. Lastly, another young woman wrote the following, I loved the opportunity of going to the temple! It was such a wonderful experience. I was able to clean the baptismal font! I put everything I could into making it clean. That was impossible, I couldn't get it clean enough!....I was disappointed when we had to leave.*

There are stories from several members who worked at the St. Paul Temple Open House. A well documented description of what it was like to staff the open house comes from historian Linda Starr Winans of La Crosse, who wrote; *The La Crosse Ward was invited to work for the St. Paul open house on Saturday, December 18, 1999. Of course, in keeping with Minnesota winters, the temperature never exceeded ten degrees with overcast skies preventing the warmth of the sun from penetrating too deeply. However, that did not stop the spirit from finding its way into the hearts of several thousand people who reverently walked the hallways of the stake center and on into the celestial atmosphere of the temple itself. Ward members filled a wide variety of tour guide positions throughout. They ranged from those who stood outside in the cold for three hour shifts, to those blessed to be within the magnificence of the temple itself. It was a great honor to serve the Lord in such a capacity. Following the three-hour shift work, many toured the premises themselves and then gathered at local restaurants to share their feelings of gratitude. The two and a half hour journey from La Crosse is quite an improvement over the Chicago's five-hour trek. Bishop Peek indicated that one individual who staffed a position working outside in the cold was not a member of the Church. Bishop Peek stated, What was truly interesting is that this non-member was never relieved and worked two full shifts, six hours, before he was able to come into the warmth of the stake center and go on a tour of the temple. Never a complaint was uttered. He felt it was all sacred work for him and for others who believed in what the temple would do for them.*

Susan Fredrickson of the Rochester Fourth Branch shared the following, *As I helped in giving information, one man came to me who was in his mid-late 20s. He asked if he could go on a tour but didn't know if he should because he was a "fallen child." He had become inactive and was trying to make his way back and was drawn to the open house. I led him to the tour and my thoughts reflected on the picture of our Savior carrying the lost sheep. No matter how far we*

*stray from our path, if we will reach out and be willing to be found, He will carry us and help us onto our path of forgiveness and happiness. This young man was on the road back.*

*Kally Foote as Public Affairs Director during the St. Paul Minnesota Temple Open House shared the following: As the Rochester Stake Public Affairs Director under the leadership of President Krueger, I had the amazing opportunity to be involved with the St. Paul Temple Open House. I was asked to distribute invitations to religious leaders in the Rochester community. I knew who many of them were as I had been attending the Rochester Area Church Council monthly meetings. I extended many invitations and received good news from two wonderful women. Jane Goodfriend was the leader of this council at this time and Pauline Walle was the religious editor of the Rochester Post Bulletin. Both of these women accepted the opportunity to attend the Open House. I was delighted. However, the invitation from Pauline Walle, actually paralyzed me. Not only did she accept the invitation, but she asked me if I could give her a ride. How could I possibly ride alone in my car, and talk with this amazing woman all the way to the temple and back. I could think of so many other sisters who could do a much better job than I could. I was also sure this would not be good for the church. But after much prayer, lots of study, (and knowing that I had been called and set apart to do this), I can say that the Open House was a "miraculous experience" for both of us. Pauline Walle was so impressed by the simple beauty of the temple and the undeniable feelings of peace inside. Elder Pinnock was so kind and so very interested in her and all she had to say as they visited. She met the new Temple President, Kayland Call, and also Elder Thomas Holt. She asked lots of questions and they were so helpful. She also enjoyed the lovely reception, delicious cheesecake and beautiful gift of a CD of "her favorite" Mormon Tabernacle Choir. And...our time (nearly 3 hours) in the car together was also a wonderful opportunity. We were able to get to know each other. She wrote a nice article for the Rochester Post Bulletin (not completely accurate) but a great piece for the paper. And we became good friends because of this shared experience. We kept in touch with phone calls and cards in the mail for many years. She recently passed away (January 2021). Jane Goodfriend traveled to the temple with her husband, Dale, to attend the Open House for religious leaders, held on the next day. I was able to meet them there and attend with them. They also had a wonderful experience. They asked questions, were so impressed by what they saw and felt inside the temple and enjoyed the good conversation during the reception. I was so grateful they chose to attend. During my years serving as the Public Affairs Director, I had many experiences, but this was certainly the highlight. I am so grateful for these two amazing experiences I had with these wonderful ladies, and our beautiful temple. I felt it such a privilege to share my testimony of the temple and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. I also testify that I was enabled to do more than I ever could have on my own because of the enabling power and grace of my Savior, Jesus Christ.*

## Information about the St. Paul Minnesota Temple

In the year prior to the dedication of the St. Paul Temple, fifteen temples were dedicated. Of these, President Hinckley dedicated fourteen, beginning with the Anchorage Alaska Temple in January and ending with the Raleigh North Carolina Temple. The St. Paul Temple was the first temple dedicated in 2000, the new millennium. After presiding at the St. Paul Temple dedication, his next temple dedication was the Kona Hawaii Temple, a nice break from Minnesota weather. Of the thirty-four temples dedicated in 2000, President Hinckley dedicated twenty-one of them. The St. Paul Temple became the 69th operating temple of the Church. It was announced July 29, 1998 with the groundbreaking ceremony held September 26, 1998, the open house held December 18-31, 1999 with 27,042 attending and the dedication on January 9, 2000 with four sessions presided over by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

The St. Paul Temple is located at 2140 North Hadley, Oakdale, Minnesota, United States. Oakdale is a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. The site of the St. Paul Minnesota Temple is also the site of a stake center, a larger meetinghouse for the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The temple is situated on a wooded 7.5-acre site. The building itself features a single spire and is covered with a light gray granite veneer. The temple has a total of 10,700 square feet, two ordinance rooms and two sealing rooms.

The temple serves about 25,000 members in six stakes in Minnesota — Anoka, Burnsville, Duluth, Minneapolis, Rochester and St. Paul; Wausau Wisconsin Stake; Ft. Francis District of the Canada Winnipeg Mission; and the Minnesota Minneapolis Mission.

The first temple presidency was Kayland Evan Call, president; Neal Taylor, first counselor and recorder; Thomas Anderson, second counselor and temple engineer. Temple presidents since the dedication include Kayland E. Call 2000–2004, Thomas A. Holt 2004–2007, G. Kent Archibald 2007–2010, C. Kent Hugh 2010–2013, David D. Smith 2013–2016, N. Robertson Payne 2016-2019, and E. Bradley Wilson 2019 to present as of this writing.

From the 2000 Rochester Stake history, we learn that a *fourteen member choir from the stake sang at one of the four dedicatory sessions. Valene Bryce was the director and President Thomas Spackman was the organist.*

## Called to Serve in the St. Paul Temple Presidency



Neal and Mary Taylor

Neal and Mary Taylor, members of the Rochester Minnesota Stake from the La Crosse 2nd Branch, were part of the original St. Paul Temple Presidency. The following are the accounts of their call.

### Neal Taylor's account

*I was called to serve as the first counselor to President Kayland Even Call of the St. Paul Minnesota Temple by a letter dated January 4, 2000 from the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My wife likewise was called to serve as an assistant temple matron. The St. Paul Minnesota Temple would be the first one dedicated in the new millennium.*

*I had previously been contacted by President Hinckley in Salt Lake City where we were visiting our son Gregory and his family for Christmas. We were very surprised to get a phone call at my son's home from the church operator who asked me to hold for President Hinckley. President Hinckley began with This is Gordon Hinckley, where have you been? We have been looking all over Wisconsin for you and here you are in the Valley. How are you feeling? He then went on to ask, Are you retired? What will you do after you retire? Have you lived a good life? Do you know Kayland Call? He would like you to be his first counselor in the St. Paul Minnesota Temple Presidency. What about your wife? As first counselor you will also be the temple recorder. You will be busy. Good, we will see you next Sunday and set you and your wife apart."*

*I have been employed at Gundersen Clinic in La Crosse Wisconsin for 27 years. I had been contemplating retiring at the end of 2000, being 67 years old. I was the founding physician of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Gundersen Clinic in 1973. Knowing of my involvement in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over the years, the clinic administration approved my resignation on short notice.*

*I was set apart as first counselor to President Call on January 9, 2000 by President Gordon B. Hinckley; he then bestowed the sealing power on me to be a sealer in the St. Paul Temple. My wife, Mary L. Taylor, was then set apart as a temple matron by Elder Neal A. Maxwell.*

*Mary and I were members of the La Crosse Second Branch at the time. The church apparently had contacted Bishop Arthur Peek who was serving as the bishop of the La Crosse Ward to locate me. Bishop Peek facilitated the call to our son's home in "the (Utah) Valley".*

*We were totally surprised to be called to serve in the Temple. I had never met or even heard of President Call or President Anderson. The only person who even knew of me in the Twin Cities was Thomas Holt whom I had met at a Youth Conference when I was the bishop in the La Crosse Ward and he was the St. Paul stake president. He later was called as an Area Authority Seventy.*

*Someone once asked President Call how he was called to be the temple president. He said that he did not know, but that he knew that he had chosen his counselors by revelation. I assume that he was given a list of Priesthood holders in the temple district from which to choose his counselors. I am still surprised that my name was on that list.*

*Of interest, on December 3, 1999, I was hit by a truck while crossing the street going into work. We both had a green light, but the truck turned left and did not see me in the crosswalk. I was hit by the side of the truck and knocked five or six feet to the side of the road. Because it was raining, I slid along the ground on my left side. I had severe bruising on my right hip where I was hit by the truck but no fractures. If I had sustained more serious injuries, I may not have been able to accept the temple calling.*

With permission we have enclosed the following letter sent to Neal Taylor from the First Presidency.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1000

January 4, 2000

Mr. Neal Taylor  
North 2281 Pammel Pass West  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Brother Taylor:

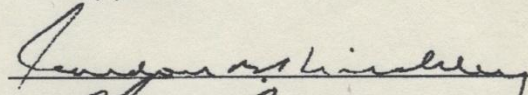
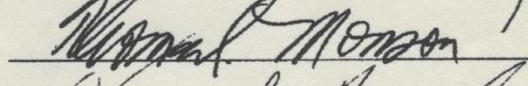
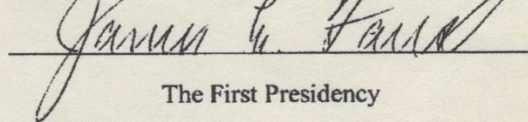
This will confirm your call to serve as first counselor to President Kayland Evan Call of the St. Paul Minnesota Temple, effective immediately. This will also confirm the call to Sister Mary Louise McMurray Taylor to serve as an assistant to the temple matron.

You will be set apart by a member of the First Presidency or Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in conjunction with the dedication of the temple. Inasmuch as you do not have the sealing authority, the General Authority assigned to set you apart will bestow this sacred power simultaneously.

For your information, Brother Thomas George Anderson has been called to serve as second counselor in the temple presidency.

We commend you on this important and sacred call and extend our love and best wishes to you and your sweet companion.

Sincerely yours,

The First Presidency

The original temple presidency served for 3 ½ years and continued to serve in the temple as sealers until the temple closed due to COVID. All subsequent presidencies have served for three years.

## **Mary Taylor's account**

*We were visiting Gregory, Linda, Andrew, Courtney, Tara, and Bryce for Christmas. While visiting in the kitchen the telephone rang and I was busy talking with the children when Linda said, "Listen, Mom, I think that message is for you." It was 7:27 p.m., and the call was from Bishop Arthur Peek, not our bishop now as we are in La Crosse 2nd Branch. But he was our bishop prior to the division of the ward [in] January 1999.*

*The message was, "This is Arthur Peek calling. Greg Taylor, I am wondering if your parents are there visiting with you. If they are, would you have them call me as soon as possible? This is not an emergency."*

*My heart sank when I heard the message. I feared Teresa had been in an accident; and he just did not want to worry us. The phone does not work in the kitchen well except for receiving phone recordings so I raced up stairs to Greg and Linda's bedroom to call Bishop Peek.*

**Mary:** *"Hi, Bishop Peek, this is Mary Taylor. Has something bad happened?"*

**Bishop Peek:** *"No, no emergency. A general authority is trying to call you. Are you at this number all night?"*

**Mary:** *"Yes."*

**Bishop Peek:** *"Good. You will be getting a phone call from a Donald Stahli."*

*I ran downstairs to tell Neal, Greg, and Linda. We are all in complete shock. Thoughts race as we talk -- called on a mission --to some distant land -- where -- what???. We are guessing and wondering. 20 minutes later the phone rings. We are all in the kitchen. Greg grabs the phone, but, of course, it doesn't work. This phone always gives us problems. So Greg is trying to plug it in to talk and then gets it working and the conversation was:*

**Operator:** *"This is the church operator. Is this Neal Taylor?"*

**Greg:** *"No, I'll get him." and Greg says to dad, "Quick, Dad, run upstairs and get the phone."*

*For the first time ever, Neal hurried up the stairs. He is never in a hurry. This is how Neal related the conversation went when he got the phone.*

**Operator:** *"This is the church operator. Is this Brother Neal Taylor."*

**Neal:** *"Yes."*

**Operator:** *"Can you hold for President Hinckley."*



**Pres. Hinckley:** "This is Gordon Hinckley. Where have you been? We have been looking all over Wisconsin for you."

**Neal:** "I have been at my son's house, President."

(Now, I have run up the stairs and entered the bedroom and so have Andrew and Tara. Greg comes and is trying to get the kids to leave.)

**Pres. Hinckley:** "You are in the valley. How are you feeling?"

**Neal:** "Great, President."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "Are you retired?"

**Neal:** "No, President, next month."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "What will you do after you retire?"

**Neal:** "We don't have any plans."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "Have you lived a good life."

**Neal:** "Yes."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "Do you know Kayland Call?"

**Neal:** "No."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "He'd like you to be his first counselor in the St. Paul Temple presidency."

**Neal:** "I'd be happy to do that."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "What about your wife?"

**Neal:** "My wife has teaching obligations for four more months."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "We can accommodate that. Where do you live?"

**Neal:** "La Crosse, Wisconsin."

Greg is trying to get the kids out of the room very quietly. I am so excited I can't stand still. What is this all about?

**Pres. Hinckley:** "How far away is La Crosse from St. Paul?"

**Neal:** "140 miles."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "That is too far. You will have to get an apartment by the temple."

**Neal:** "I have been through the temple."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "How does it look?"

**Neal:** "It looks wonderful, President."

**Neal:** "We plan on being at the dedication."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "As first counselor you will be the temple recorder, so you will be busy."

**Neal:** "My favorite job is being a ward clerk."

**Pres. Hinckley:** "Good. We'll see you next Sunday, and set you and your wife apart."

**Neal:** "Very good, President."

*Neal hangs up and grins. We all nearly faint when Neal says, "I was talking to President Hinckley."*

*Andrew and Tara run out the room to tell their father who was down the hall. We all ran down to tell Linda and Courtney. Then Greg says "Now, is dad joking?" We ask Neal again to find out for sure! Yes! It was, indeed, President Hinckley. I was flipping out to call Teresa, and Brent and Claudine, but dad said, "We can't do it until it is official. I will get a call when we get home. "This was the hardest thing in the world for me to not call them until Tuesday night when we got home and I got the official call. We are all so elated and thrilled. I told Neal that is practically like talking to Jesus. He is just one person removed from Jesus. Neal and I can hardly sleep the entire night. Can this really be true? The prophet talked with Neal.*

*When it was official, we called Brent and Claudine and Teresa and got answering machines. So Neal left this message on Tuesday night, the night we got home: "We have a surprise for you. Think of the top ten things it could be and tell us when we get you on the phone."*

*Claudine and Brent's ideas were: Mom is pregnant, Dad is not retiring, Dad is retiring early, you are moving, you won the lottery, you have a new car, Dad is a new Stake President or in a Stake Presidency, Dusty our dog resurrected, Dad is a bishop, You are a temple worker, you got a Hmong grant, Mom is going to India for yoga and Dad is a mission president."*

Sadly, Mary Taylor passed away on December 23, 2019 during the compilation of this history.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
THE SEVENTY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84143-1700

January 6, 2000

President Kayland E. Cull and counselors; Elder Thomas A. Holt, Elder Richard P. Halverson,  
Coordinator of the St. Paul Minnesota Temple Open House and Dedication Committee:

Congratulations to all of you that had something to do with the groundbreaking, construction, open houses, or dedicatory services of the Edmonton Alberta Temple. The North America Central Area Presidency is particularly pleased to be a part of that which has happened in St. Paul as the beautiful temple is being dedicated there at this historic time.

As a matter of historical significance, other temples that have been or will be dedicated in the North America Central Area within this three-month period are the Bismarck North Dakota Temple, the Billings Montana Temple, the Regina Saskatchewan Temple, and the Edmonton Alberta Temple. Also, groundbreaking has recently taken place in Nauvoo, Illinois, for the reconstruction of a temple there, and near Omaha, Nebraska, for the Winter Quarters Temple.

We are thrilled in realizing that virtually tens of thousands of those living on earth and millions of our brothers and sisters now in the spirit world will be blessed by the ordinances and covenants performed in the St. Paul Minnesota Temple as the future unfolds in that beautiful part of the world.

Like all great projects, these events occur because of the focused dedication of humble people who, because of their tithes, temple fund donations, and extra-mile efforts, make these glorious houses to the Lord a vital part of the Twin Cities and other cities where they are located.

The North America Central Area Presidency also wishes to express appreciation and deep respect for President Gordon B. Hinckley and those with whom he works that make this beautiful temple project possible. It is his vision and revelatory capacity that provide for this great work to aggressively move ahead. Those who have served in the Area Presidency during the groundbreaking, open house sessions, and dedicatory services are Elder Hugh W. Pinnock, Elder Kenneth Johnson, Elder Lynn Robbins, Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi, and Elder Donald L. Staheli.


May the future we face, as we move with excitement and gratitude into the year 2000 and the new millennium, be filled with continued progress of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the kingdom of God continues to fulfill its Deity-directed responsibilities.

Sincerely your brethren,

NORTH AMERICA CENTRAL AREA PRESIDENCY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hugh W. Pinnock

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Yoshihiko Kikuchi

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald L. Staheli

## The Temple Dedication

Referring to the dedicatory sessions for the temple, President Krueger shared the following, *We have a once in a lifetime experience coming up this year. We'll be able to go to the dedication ...and take our friends into the St. Paul temple...prayerfully select those you want to take to the dedication. They have to be eight years of age and older with a worthy temple recommend to go to the dedication. That means that if you join the church the week before, and [are] confirmed a member and are older than 8 years of age, you can go to the dedication. What a great blessing that would be.*

In a misting rain and in unusually high temperatures for the season, President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated the St. Paul Minnesota Temple on January 9, the first temple to be dedicated in 2000. More than 8,000 happy Latter-day Saints of many ethnic and cultural heritages packed into four dedicatory sessions at the Church's 69th temple. They came from all parts of the temple district, which includes nearly 25,000 members in six stakes in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin, the Minneapolis Minnesota Mission and the Ft. Francis Ontario District of the Canada Winnipeg Mission.

Approximately 280 members were waiting outside the temple to see and hear their beloved prophet at the cornerstone ceremony in the near-freezing temperatures of the morning hour. President Hinckley arrived with his wife, Marjorie, to officially apply mortar along the top edge of the cornerstone. He was accompanied by Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve, Elder Hugh W. Pinnock of the Seventy and president of the North America Central Area and his wife Anne, and Elder Thomas A. Holt, Area Authority Seventy and his wife Bonnie.

President Hinckley explained to the gathering that he was not an expert mason. After applying mortar, he said, *Now, top that if you can, Brother Maxwell.* He added, *Now, we're getting better with age,* a comment that brought a ripple of laughter from those gathered. The 50-voice choir at the outdoor ceremony was directed by Anna Mooy, gospel doctrine teacher of the St. Paul Second Ward.

Richard P. Halverson, then the temple committee coordinator and counselor in the Minnesota Minneapolis Mission presidency added that if there had not been a flu epidemic in the area, another 1,000 would have attended. He said, *We estimate 10 percent are out with the flu.* Brother Halverson would go on to serve in two temple presidencies.

Brother Neal Taylor, first counselor of the new temple presidency commented, *It was interesting to see how President Hinckley is quietly protected. Mary and I went to the Temple in the morning to be set apart to our new callings. The Temple was already a sea of activity. Workers were bringing in and setting up chairs, microphones and speakers in the various rooms. About an hour before President Hinckley and Elder Maxwell arrived, big men in dark suits and wearing earphones started to appear in the Temple. They quietly went throughout the Temple but did not*

*otherwise interact with the workers in the Temple. They were advanced security. About 500 people were in the various rooms and hallways in the Temple during the dedication. Someone remarked that it was a good thing that the city fire marshal was not a Mormon.*

## **Dedication Session One: The Cornerstone Ceremony**

It was anticipated that there would be 100 people inside the enclosed and heated area for the ceremony. The Temple Committee asked Steve Walbruch from the Rochester Stake to find ways to house as many as possible so they could see and hear the Prophet. Because of his efforts, more than 280 were able to attend in person.

The cornerstone box was a stainless steel box with an acid free liner. The box itself was inserted into its designated southeast corner location on Saturday morning, January 8, 2000. Church officials from Salt Lake City as well as members from the local Temple committee were present to ensure that all the contents were appropriate. It was noted from Brother Koelliker from Church Headquarters that the stakes had contributed more content than he had seen previously contributed to a temple cornerstone box. He estimated that over 1,000 members submitted their testimonies to be placed in the cornerstone box. In addition, with the help of Dennis Pack from the Winona Branch and of the Rochester Minnesota Stake, a well written document under specific concise guidelines was assembled and included in the cornerstone box.

Steve Walbruch and other facilities maintenance people were present when the box was inserted into its designated place in the St. Paul Temple. Elder Holt and President Halverson carefully inserted the contents into a cardboard box shaped like a large cereal box with acid free paper called the liner box. All was set for Sunday's cornerstone ceremony for President Hinckley and others to cement the permanent covering over the stainless steel box.

[During the first dedicatory session] Mary Taylor indicated that *President Hinckley had a very sad announcement. President Merrill, the mission president of the Minneapolis Minnesota Mission who had been released in July had come back from Oregon for the temple dedication. He had been interested in a temple in St. Paul since coming to the area for his mission. He and his wife were meeting on Saturday afternoon with the missionaries, when he said to his wife, "I don't feel well. I'm going to step out." He stood up to leave the room and as he walked towards the door, he fainted on the floor and had passed away. His widow was actually at the first session of the dedication, sitting in front of Neal and I. President Hinckley was so kind and loving in his condolences to her. Everyone dearly loved him, so this was really a shock to the saints.*

President Hinckley presided and conducted the dedicatory session and cornerstone ceremony. While in the Celestial Room, President Hinckley introduced the cornerstone ceremony by saying, *in history, the cornerstone ceremony marked the progress of the new temple...it followed the groundbreaking and was followed eventually by the temple dedication...today, it is symbolic.* President Hinckley went on to say that *for the Logan Temple cornerstone ceremony,*

*10,000 people gathered on the temple hill. President John Taylor was the presiding officer. He spoke at each of the four temple corners returning to the Southeast cornerstone. These services were not short. They were very long with hours of discourses. He continued by quoting Ephesians 2:20 '...Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone...' the cornerstone is symbolic of the Savior, the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. We must remember the Savior our Master and always keep in mind the significance of the covenants of the St. Paul Temple.*

At the cornerstone site, the cornerstone choir sang various hymns. Then President Hinckley remarked, *Prior to putting a little mud to seal the cornerstone, I should warn you that we will do our best, but maintenance men will need to follow us to clean it up right.* Once all that were invited had put mortar into the seams, President Hinckley thanked the choir for their great contribution of music. All were able to observe the proceedings on large screen televisions with audio included in the Oakdale Stake Center.

In 50 years, the cornerstone box will become the jubilee box. Often, they are opened so that future descendants will know of the great love we had for the Savior and of His St. Paul Temple.

# Cornerstone Box

## Contents

Saturday, January 8, 2000 10:00 a.m.

Recent edition of the standard works—Black indexed, regular size

Newspaper articles about the Temple Open House and installation of the Angel Moroni

Two books authored by President Gordon B. Hinckley: Go Forward in Faith; Faith, the Essence of True Religion

Church Hymnbook

*Church News*—December 25, 1999

*Ensign*—January, 2000

*New Era*—January, 2000

*Friend*—January, 2000

Six Stake Histories—Anoka, Burnsville, Duluth, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Paul

The Story of Minnesota's Past by Rhoda R. Gilman, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, Minnesota ISBN 0-87351-267-7 copyright 1989

Photographs of the Temple in various stages of construction taken by Elder Jack Mairs, Temple Service Worker and arranged by Chuck Aldrich

Photographs of Area Presidency, Temple Local Committee and Temple Presidency

Groundbreaking Services program

Cornerstone and Dedication materials

Dedicatory Prayer by President Gordon B. Hinckley

Temple Local Committee Meeting minutes and correspondence

Mary Taylor related the following about the laying of the cornerstone. She shared, *President Hinckley welcomed everyone throughout the temple and in the Stake Center. He then announced the laying of the cornerstone. We walked out with President Hinckley for the laying of the cornerstone. President Hinckley put on mortar, then he called upon his wife, Elder Maxwell, Elder Pinnock, President Kayland Call, his wife Virjean Call, my husband Neal and myself, then Thomas Anderson and his wife Kayde Anderson. President Hinckley also had three children who were in the audience put on mortar. I was very excited to do this as I didn't know that we would have the honor.*

She continued, *Beautiful, heavenly music was sung for this also. It was very cold. A heated covering was put on the front area of the temple. Plastic was on the front. Hundreds of people stood out in the cold to witness this. As I am writing this, I still can't believe that we were up there with the Prophet participating in this sacred event.*



**The laying of the St. Paul Temple cornerstone with Elder Maxwell and President Hinckley**

The contents placed in the cornerstone box from the Rochester Stake include the following.

### **Testimony of President Darrell W. Krueger, Rochester MN Stake President**

*I would like to bear my testimony of the meaning and sacredness of the holy temples. From my earliest days, temples have been very important to me. I lived about a hundred miles from the temple in St. George, Utah. I thought it was beautiful; I was attracted to it. I went through the (St. George) Temple Square and was touched by it. But when I was able to get my own endowments in the Manti Temple, I started to get a real feeling for the depth and sacred nature of the temple. My testimony has been strengthened through temple attendance. The Lord has blessed me with a clear vision and understanding of the Savior as I've visited the temple. He*



*enlightened me and strengthened me, so that I knew that the Savior lived, and He answered my prayers and increased my testimony of the Savior. In the temple, He's given me insights into trials that I've had, answered prayers about the nature of my family and has blessed me that I know that my sealings have been honored by my Father in Heaven through the Holy Spirit of Promise. Temples are places where you can have peace, where you can have your prayers answered, where you can provide service for the kindred dead and where you can be strengthened in all ways of life. I bear testimony that the temples are sacred, that God dwells there and His spirit dwells there and that many prayers that are offered there touch lives and improve the world. This I say in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen*

### **Testimony of President Thomas N. Spackman, First Counselor in the Rochester MN Stake Presidency**

*Here are some of my feelings about the temple: I spent many years growing up in Cardston, Alberta [Canada]. The temple there has beautiful lighting that makes the temple shine for many miles. I recall many times as a child watching to see the temple as we were returning home from a family trip and the feelings of warmth and security that were engendered by seeing that beacon from afar. I have had several experiences of personal revelation in the temple which helped me in major life decisions; whom to marry, where to go for schooling, etc. – decisions which changed the course of my life. However, I think my experiences in becoming a worker in Chicago and serving there have had the greatest impact on my understanding and love of temple services. Previously I had rarely attended the temple for more than one or two sessions at a time. I have come to understand that serving in the temple for longer periods prepares us to receive greater light and knowledge and as such is a great privilege. The more once can serve, the more powerful the feelings of peace and joy that permeate our hearts and help us live the gospel when we are back in the world.*

### **Testimony of President John R. Ferrara, Second Counselor in the Rochester MN Stake Presidency**

*I am grateful that President Krueger has emphasized temple work so much. It has been an awakening to attend the temple frequently. I have always enjoyed and been uplifted by attending the temple. Spending longer periods of time in there has brought a greater outpouring of the spirit and has even been more uplifting. An unexpected benefit of increased temple attendance is a notable change in our family. There is a stronger spirit and more patience. We are better able to deal with things that go wrong in life. I am also grateful to be called to serve as a temple worker in the Chicago Temple. I have gained many insights from that service. A very special temple experience has been being in the temple celestial room with my wife and having our children join us there for the first time as they receive their endowments. It has strengthened and uplifted our family. We have truly felt the love we have for each other and the love our Savior has for us.*

## **Testimony of Steve Walbruch of the Rochester MN Stake who served on the Temple Committee**

*I remember the excitement of receiving letters from the office of the Seventies inviting me first to participate in the groundbreaking for the St. Paul Temple and then to serve as chair of the physical facilities temple sub-committee. I was invited to a meeting with President Archibald and Ed Kodate, the first architect, and others in early 1998 to discuss the plans for the St. Paul Temple before it had been publicly announced. It was extremely difficult to know and not be able to share. I was relieved when it was announced. I have been involved ever since in working with the original contractor and the new contractor who took over the first part of 1999. The new contractor was building three other temples. It was exciting to hear about those projects as well as to discuss our own concerns and problems. I felt as though I was really a part of the team. My input was accepted and acted upon....It has been exciting to be in meetings with Elder Pinnock, Elder Holt, President Halverson and other spiritual giants...Being involved in the construction of the St. Paul Temple has helped me better understand the importance of temples. I have grown a hundred-fold spiritually. My scripture study and prayer are more meaningful. I was truly touched by the scriptures which talk of water running out of the temple. This was related to our own temple participation. When we participate more, we grow and are filled. We experience spiritual growth and are comforted...*

Also included were reports from each unit in the Rochester Stake about what they were doing to prepare for the St. Paul Temple. (Most of these comments have been shared under the section, "Let Us Prepare.")

## **Dedicatory Sessions Two, Three and Four**

President Hinckley, Elder Maxwell, and Elder Pinnock spoke at all four dedicatory sessions, each giving a different talk at each session. Elder Holt, our Area Authority spoke in two of the sessions.

In a previous leadership meeting, Elder Holt shared his thoughts about temple dedications. He spoke sincerely and fervently about the glorious blessings of the St. Paul Temple. He read from 2 Chronicles 7:2, 12, 14-16 which speaks of the dedication of the temple built by Solomon. He carefully read verses 2, 12 and 14-16 emphasizing the wonderful Spirit that will attend the temple once it is completed.

*2 Chronicles 7:2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in*

*this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

Elder Holt instructed that the Lord's *eyes would be open (and His) ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place* and that his presence would be felt as indicated in verse 16, *...and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually*. Elder Holt reminded everyone...of President Hinckley's words that *...when a temple is dedicated Satan's power in that area is reduced*. Elder Holt encouraged all to be alert to Satan's influence to contend with us in an attempt to keep his power from being reduced. He reminded us *...not to worry because we have the Holy Priesthood and that the Priesthood and our righteousness take away his power*. Elder Holt asked all to keep our temple covenants or we don't have power over Satan. He went on to say that *we need to be on the alert*. He concluded that this temple will be the House of the Lord and *what a great privilege it is to anticipate a living prophet will be here to dedicate the temple*.

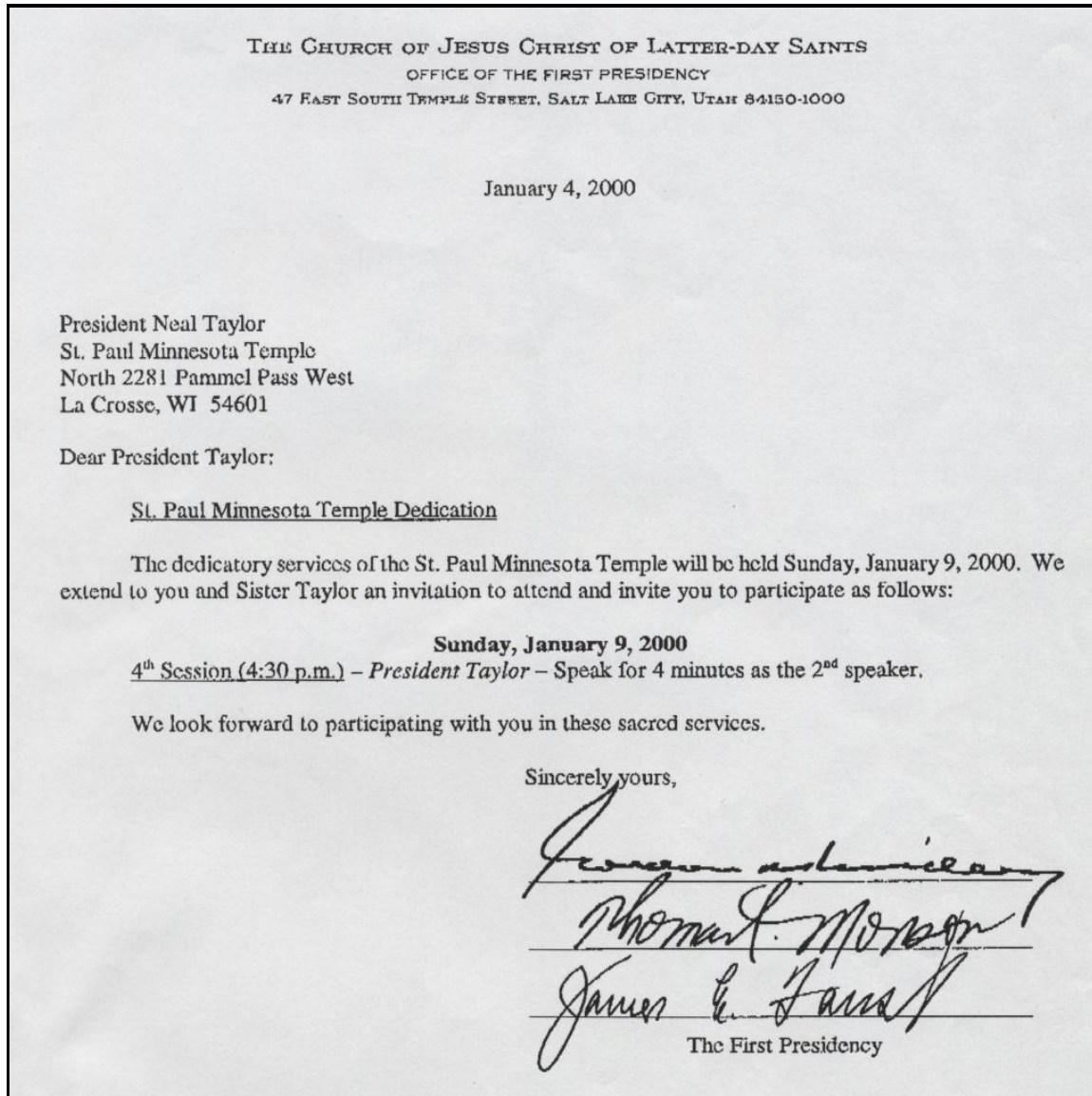
The new temple presidency spoke as follows: in session two, it was President Kayland Call and his wife Virjean; in session three, it was President Neal Taylor and his wife Mary; and in session four, it was President Tom Anderson and his wife Kayde.

## **Dedicatory Session Two**

President Kayland Call and his wife Virjean spoke; however, we do not have those talks.

## **Dedicatory Session Three**

President Neal Taylor and his wife Mary spoke. Note: The letter below indicates the fourth session, but the Taylors were switched to the third session.



During this session, Sister Taylor spoke followed by her husband Neal Taylor. They were followed by President Halverson of the temple committee; Elder Holt, Area Authority Seventy; Elder Pinnock, Area President; Elder Maxwell and concluding was President Hinckley. President Hinckley gave the dedicatory prayer, which was followed by the Hosanna shout led by Elder Maxwell. The congregation then joined in signing verses from The Spirit of God as part of the Hosanna hymn at the closing. A fourteen-member choir from the stake sang with Valene Bryce as the director and President Thomas Spackman as the organist. President Krueger gave the benediction.

Sister Taylor related, *Our Wisconsin area was assigned to this session, so many of our friends were shocked when they saw us up there and couldn't believe it. La Crosse Ward member, Ruth Magnuson, told me later, I was sitting there and they announced the next speaker, Mary Taylor. I thought I can't wait to tell Mary a woman with her same name spoke at the temple dedication. Then they said followed by Neal Taylor and then I thought there is only one Mary and Neal that I know.*

### **Mary Taylor's talk**

Sister Taylor said she was given three minutes for her talk. The outline of her talk was as follows:

*Introduction - Joy from spending time with family during holidays, joy from spending time with ancestors.*

*Body of talk -Story of Neal's time in Vietnam. I had a babysitter for the little children so I went to the Genealogy Library in Salt Lake City. I have been coming out for years and looking for a break in my Twombly Line. Voice told me to go see Myrtle Twomboly. I had been told she had family records. I called on the phone to go see her. She was always too busy. Then I would go over and knock on her door, I would see her inside. She would not answer the door. The voice repeated, go see Myrtle Twombly. Driving up she was by the street sweeping her driveway. Running up quickly to her, she allowed me to come in. Hesitantly, got me 2 books of typewritten materials and after I promised to return them she permitted me to take them. Provide the breakthrough on this line and [were] very valuable. I was never able to return the books as she died 2 months later.*

*I was at the BYU library while visiting my son and family. I had been working the Hull line for years. As I looked through the films, a voice came and I felt a personage by my side say, "Tonight you will find the family." I was thrilled. I began reading the microfilm, no family, put in another reel of film, no family. A little upset, I said in my mind to the person by me "You said I would find the family tonight" Voice came again "You will find the family tonight." I looked up and saw a library worker ready to leave that I knew was very knowledgeable. I walked over and told her "I am working on a line and need help." She then replied to me, "I am just leaving now."*

*I said, "Could you just take a minute. I am from Wisconsin and this is my last time here." She sat down with me. Looked at the sheets. Told me where to go. I followed her direction, put on a reel and there was the family! Joy attending the temple, especially if we have our own family names to do work for at the temple. Joy to be in the presence of President Hinckley, the Prophet.*

Sister Taylor reflected on the experience: *That was the scariest talk I ever gave in my life. To think the prophet would be sitting behind me. I was ready to explode, but what saved me was President Hinckley was so loving and so kind and so was Elder Maxwell, that I really wanted to kneel at their feet and thank them for letting me feel the love in their hearts. It seemed to me*

*that it must be the way you feel when you are with Jesus. They smiled at me when I walked to the podium which really helped me. They smiled when I left. We found out on Friday morning that the women would also speak. Prior to that, we thought that just the newly called temple presidency would speak. So I about flipped for the next few days trying to write this talk. I kept rewriting and changing it. Neal was so calm and never worried a minute. He is so wonderful and easygoing. I am a worry wart. I said the talk to him a million times trying to get it to three minutes. Neal gave a superb talk. He was funny, inspirational, thought provoking. He is so marvelous.*

### **Neal Taylor's Talk**

The outline of Neal Taylor's talk as related by him:

*My remarks centered around the fact that I was in the meeting that President Hinckley held in Saigon, Vietnam some 34 years earlier. In 1966, he toured the Vietnamese war zone with Marin D. Hanks of the Seventy. (See Biography of President Hinckley by Sheri Dew). President Hinckley had arrived in a WWII designed two propeller engine airplane called a C-47. It was owned by the Vietnamese Government and nicknamed a "Gooney Bird." It was dangerous to fly in these planes in a war zone. Unlike a helicopter that can stay high and then drop straight down to land, these planes need a slow gradual approach to land. This makes them an easy target from ground fire as they land. I mentioned to Sister Hinckley that she would not have been very happy if she had known the situation. In this meeting, the first Vietnamese Elder was ordained. I felt blessed now to be able to participate in the dedication of the first temple in Minnesota as well as being the first temple dedicated in 2000 by President Hinckley. (President Hinckley started talking back and forth to Neal and they had a wonderful interaction. Upon which President Hinckley stated, "Yes, I remember that." And then they shared a few other comments back and forth about Vietnam.) Minnesota and Wisconsin had a large number of Hmong refugees as the result of the Vietnam War, second only to California. Since we did not have a temple in Vietnam, perhaps the Lord had brought them to this area where they could receive the temple blessings. President Hinckley stood up at the end of my talk and said, "Sister Taylor, you keep on looking for Aunt Minnie and Aunt Sarah and whoever else. Now Brother Taylor, I well remember Saigon. They wanted to cancel our meeting at the Hotel in Saigon because they were going to start to repair it. A huge hole was in one wall from ward time maneuvers. It allowed a nice draft of air.*

*A few remarks from this session are recorded in the Rochester Stake history. Elder Pinnock spoke of the waters flowing eastward from the temple in Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, from Ezekiel 47. When we go to the temple once, we receive some benefit; but as we go to the temple many, many times, the spirit of the temple becomes a river we cannot pass over and we begin to swim in the spirit of the temple all the time. Thus we bring healing to the social Dead Sea which we all live in. It is also recorded that Elder Maxwell said that along with the dedication of the temple, we have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves. Self-pity keeps us from doing what we are asked to do. We need to squeeze the self-pity out of ourselves and follow the example of Adam,*

who when he was asked if he was going to follow all of the Lord's commandments, answered, YES.

## Dedicatory Session Four

President Tom Anderson and his wife Kayde, spoke. President Anderson shared his thoughts about an experience in the Chicago Temple. He shared the following experience from his time working in the Chicago Temple: *Katy and I arrived for our monthly service that consumed a week at the Chicago Temple. I was rushed into the baptistry to be the baptizer of a young lady from Detroit who, amongst other family names, had the name of her grandmother to be baptized by her proxy. After a couple baptisms, the young lady pointed to the screen and said, 'There's my grandma's name right there.' I proceeded to [say the words] and so help me, the Spirit was so much present that I had an awful time saying the words. It was a marvelous experience and one I will never forget. It's great to feel and hear the Spirit testifying of the truthfulness of the ordinances being performed. I testified that with the proper attitude, we could always feel the Spirit in that manner as we served in the House of the Lord.* For him, this experience summed up what temple work is all about, both for the living and for the dead. After 25 years of service in both the Chicago and St. Paul temples, Brother Anderson was released in 2021.

## The Dedicatory Prayer



St. Paul Minnesota Temple

**Dedicated 9 January 2000 by Gordon B. Hinckley**

*Holy Father, Thou great Elohim, the God of all generations of mankind, we bow reverently before Thee on this historic Sabbath when we dedicate Thy Holy House. Acting in the authority of Thy divine priesthood and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we consecrate and dedicate unto Thee and unto Him this the St. Paul Minnesota Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is our gift, dear Father, which we present with thanks for the opportunity of doing so and with hearts made glad by this sacred privilege.*

*May the presence of Thy Holy Spirit be felt by all who enter here. May Thy glory rest down upon them, "and upon this Thy house, . . . that it may be sanctified and consecrated to be holy, and that Thy holy presence may be continually in this house; And that all people who should enter upon the threshold of the Lord's house may feel thy power, and feel constrained to acknowledge that thou hast sanctified it, and that it is thy house, a place of thy holiness." (D&C 109:12-13.)*

*We dedicate the grounds on which it stands, with the vegetation growing thereon which in the season of summer will add to the beauty of this Thy house. We dedicate the structure from the footings to the figure of Moroni. We dedicate the baptismal font wherein will be performed ordinances for the dead. We dedicate the facilities used for the initiatory ordinances, the endowment rooms, the beautiful celestial room, the sealing rooms with their sacred altars, and every other facility belonging to this temple of the Lord.*

*May it stand securely against the storms of nature. May no unhallowed hand deface or desecrate it in any way. May all who serve herein do so with singleness of purpose, with love for Thee and for Thy Beloved Son, and for the accomplishment of the work of eternity for which it has been built.*

*We pray for the temple presidency, for the matron and her assistants, for all associated with them in carrying forward the ordinances herein administered. We pray for all who shall come as patrons that they may ever look upon this service as a labor of love performed in the spirit of the Redeemer who gave His life for all mankind. May the wonder and the majesty of that great act of atonement enter the minds and hearts of all who serve here in behalf of those beyond the veil of death.*

*Father, this sanctified structure has been made possible by the faithful tithe payers of the Church throughout the world. Wherever they may be, reward their faith with blessings abundantly showered upon them. May Thy watch care be over them and may Thy prospering hand direct them as they walk in faithfulness before Thee.*

*Bless Thy cause and kingdom that it shall move forward across the earth in fulfillment of Thy word and promise. Bless the messengers of eternal truth who go out into the world from this sacred house that Thy endowment may be upon them, that their testimonies may be certain and unwavering, that they will be led to those who will accept the truths of the eternal gospel.*



*We thank Thee for the nation in which this temple stands. We thank Thee for the privilege of worshipping Thee according to the dictates of conscience, and pray that we may forever enjoy the great blessings of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and freedom of worship. Let Thy blessings rest upon this nation, and upon this state that those in government may look with favor upon Thy people.*

*With gratitude, with a spirit of prayer in our hearts, with shouts of hosanna unto Thee and Thy Son, we offer our thanks, and our petitions for Thy blessings and do it all as Thy faithful sons and daughters in the name of the Redeemer of the world, even the Lord Jesus Christ, amen."*

## Setting Apart



**L to R: First Counselor Neal Taylor, Assistant Matron Mary Taylor, Matron Virjean Call, President Call, Assistant Matron Kayde Anderson and Second Counselor Tom Anderson**

The setting apart was as follows: President Hinckley set apart Kayland Call as the Temple President, Neal Taylor as first counselor and Tom Anderson as second counselor. After each president was set apart, Elder Neal Maxwell set apart: Virjean Call as temple matron, Mary Taylor as Assistant Matron, and Kayde Anderson as Assistant Matron.

Sister Taylor relates that when President Hinckley set apart Neal, *He blessed him with sealing power and [to] come to realize more and more the power of this sealing power. Whatever other blessings you need, you will receive.*

Earlier, Neal talked with our son Greg. Greg said *“You may have been the first person called by the prophet in the new Millennium.”* Neal agreed, so Neal asked President Hinckley’s secretary, when he came for the dedication and the secretary said, *“Yes, you probably were the first person called.”*

The following comes from Mary Taylor: *This was a very spiritual event. To be in the presence of Gordon B. Hinckley, the Prophet of the church. We waited in the bride’s room, very anxious. The Andersons were seated where we could see down the hall and let us know when he was coming. Entering the room President Hinckley endeared himself to me by his actions immediately for he said, “Now we come to the important people,” shaking the hand of the Andersons. Here was the greatest man on the earth, elevating us peasants. He and Elder Maxwell, who just radiated love in his eyes, shook each of our hands. Very impressive the way Elder Maxwell always deferred to President Hinckley. There was no doubt who presided. He did it subtly and with such reverence.”*

Neal Taylor recalls that *Sometime later, someone asked President Call how he was called to be the Temple President. He said that he did not know, but that he knew that he had chosen his counselors by revelation.*



**The temple sealers with the St. Paul Temple presidency in the middle. L to R: David Smith, Darrell Ober, Paul Wilson, Neal Taylor, Kayland Call, Thomas Anderson, Donald Quass, William Sheffield and Thomas Benson**

Prior to the temple dedication in a Temple Committee meeting, President Halverson reminded those present that temple marriage was eternal. He referenced Genesis 2 and Doctrine and Covenants 132. He said that a temple sealing requires to the following to become eternal:

- Two partners who agree to the eternal marriage
- Prophet who holds the keys and gives authority to a temple sealer to perform the ordinance.
- The ordinance us be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise
- The couple must live worthily thereafter, which includes returning to the temple to refresh us and to continue to learn of eternal matters.

President Halverson related that when Elder Peterson visited the St. Paul Stake...during training, Elder Peterson asked those in attendance if they had felt the Holy Spirit of Promise confirming their eternal marriage. Elder Peterson said that feelings from the Holy Spirit of Promise were part of a lifelong process to confirm the eternal nature of temple marriages. President Halverson concluded by asking each person to seek to feel the Holy Spirit of Promise confirming the eternal nature of our temple marriages. He ended by testifying of the reality of sealing of the Holy Spirit of Promise and the power that the Gospel has to bind for all time and eternity.

## **The St. Paul Temple Opens**

After some minor cleaning, the temple opened for ordinances on January 10, 2000. The following schedule was set in place: four sessions daily Tuesday through Thursday, five on Friday and eight on Saturday.

On the first day that the temple opened for ordinance work, two weddings were performed and two other sessions were held. One patron said of the first day of temple operation, *I went to the first session and it was wonderful. Everything went so smoothly. For years, I've been saying to my husband that I want to move to Salt Lake City where I could be close to a temple. Now, I have no excuse to move. I'm ten minutes away. We'll stay here.*

In 2000, President Krueger asked stake members to attend the temple at least once a month. The stake began setting up temple days for each unit in the stake to encourage members to attend the temple on that day.

The temple received minor damage on September 10, 2008 from a fire that inspectors believe was arson. *The Church News* reported that on September 10, 2008, smoke and fire were reported in the front entry of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple shortly before 3 a.m. Fire Chief Jeff Anderson said it was mostly out by the time firefighters arrived. The

fire was mostly confined to the front doors, but Anderson said some light smoke got into a front room. Church leaders estimate the damage at \$25,000. Investigators found no signs of forced entry, and authorities don't believe the case is a hate crime.

Besides a few severe winter closings, the only other time the temple was closed outside of normal maintenance was in 2020. At that time, the St. Paul Minnesota Temple was closed in response to the coronavirus pandemic. As noted from a letter from the First Presidency, *Dear Brothers and Sisters: After careful and prayerful consideration, and with a desire to be responsible global citizens, we have decided to suspend all temple activity church wide at the end of the day on March 25, 2020. This is a temporary adjustment, and we look forward to the day when the temples will reopen. Please be assured of our sincere love and appreciation for your devotion and faith. Sincerely, The First Presidency.*

Since this letter, the temple has opened in phases. At the time of this writing (November 7, 2021), the temple is open by appointment only. Social distancing, masks, and other safety precautions are observed.

## **Thoughts from Members of the Rochester Minnesota Stake Regarding the St. Paul Temple**

The following accounts came out of the 2000 Stake History.

Richard Pinnell of the La Crosse Second Branch wrote, *The St. Paul Minnesota Temple dedication took place on my birthday, Sunday, January 9. It was a glorious ceremony with President Hinckley himself in charge. The personal highlight of the event was to observe Neal and Mary Taylor of our Branch taking part in the services along with President Hinckley. Bishop Taylor will be the First Counselor to the new Temple President and Mary will be the Assistant to the Matron. We will be watching for them on every temple visit! The temple is near the Hmong neighborhood in Minneapolis so it will surely serve the several constituencies of the Church in the region.*

Alan Neefe, the executive secretary in the Winona Branch wrote, *This will help us to keep an eternal perspective in our lives.* Brother Neefe had recently moved his family to Winona from Grand Forks, N.D., from which it had been a 14-hour drive to reach the Chicago Illinois Temple. He added, *I think the Spirit will be increased in our homes because of our temple attendance. This is a great blessing, obviously, a spiritual blessing, to be involved the way we're going to need to be. The local members have to be the workers.*

Josh and Amy Petersen, newlyweds of the Austin Branch, expressed their feelings about the temple while at breakfast in a motel dining area. Brother Petersen had served his mission in the Utah Provo Mission while his wife, then Amy Hopkins, served in the Minneapolis Minnesota

Mission under Mission President A. Keith Martin. Brother Peterson shared, *I grew up here in Austin. We always talked about the dream of a local temple, but we never thought it would actually happen. Sister Petersen said, This is what we've been working for. At zone conference, that was all our mission president would talk about.*

President W. Gerald Mast of the Dodge Center Branch wrote, *...for myself, I had anticipated the time when we would finally have a temple close to us for so long that the actuality seemed somewhere unreal to me, almost dreamlike or surreal. The reality did not really manifest itself until Sister Mast and I went there for our first endowment session two weeks later. Then the significance of what is now so conveniently available to us almost overwhelmed me. What a wonderful blessing we have.*

Cheryl Mast of the Dodge Center Branch shared, *Having a temple close means that it can now be more a part of our everyday lives rather than something we must disrupt our everyday lives to do.*

Jennifer Mast of the Dodge Center Branch said, *The most awesome moment was singing "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning," with the strongest union of voices I've ever had the privilege to be a part of. I walked in feeling as though I were attending yet another conference; however I cannot put into words how I felt upon leaving. The dawning of this new entity in our lives brought tears to my eyes as I drove away. We have a Temple. WE HAVE A TEMPLE.*

Sarah Hunt of the Rochester Fourth Branch shared, *Last Monday I was looking at the list of those who were going and those who were not; and I wanted my name to be on the list of those who were going.*

Monique Mancini of the Dodge Center Branch shared, *I began to feel the Spirit and it was very comforting to me. I listened attentively to each person as they gave their talk. I kept thinking how fortunate I am and how blessed I and my family are. As President Hinckley gave the dedicatory prayer, I began to cry. This overwhelming warm feeling came over me and I could not stop crying. I felt so close to the Lord and I knew then that it was time for me to prepare myself for the temple. My life has truly changed since I have been to the temple dedication. The needs and desires I once struggled with are no longer a temptation. There is peace and calmness in my life. My testimony has strengthened and I have gained so many blessings. I am truly grateful for the experience because it has made me a better wife, mother, friend, teacher and person.*

Linda Starr Winans of the La Crosse Ward wrote, *The overcast skies did nothing to quell the spirits of these dedicated saints. The ceremony, conducted by President Gordon B. Hinckley, was so touching and the La Crossites were lovingly surprised to see one of their own, Neal and Mary Taylor, speak as they were called to be part of the temple presidency....members...clearly felt the presence of rejoicing departed spirits. Their anticipation of ordinances completion created a very jubilatory air. You could feel the love of the Savoir, Jesus Christ. You know that He was there.*

*The veil was thinned and a spirit of great joy pervaded every corner of the building. There were great and marvelous experiences and manifestations felt by the saints. With much fervor the saints participated in the wondrous "Hosanna Shout" in praise of the Lamb of God. It was with awe and wonder that we honored our Heavenly Father and his deep abiding love for us, and to have a temple so close!*

*Keri Bellows of the Rochester 4<sup>th</sup> Branch shared, Minnesota has been part of the Washington D.C. and the Jordan River, Utah Temple districts before having to go to the Chicago Illinois Temple. I felt the spirit so strong at the end when we sang the hymn "The Spirit of God," Everyone was so happy. I felt the tears in my eyes. We sat next to a couple from Eau Claire, Wisconsin who has lived here 32 years. I can't imagine the sacrifices of the people going clear to Washington D.C. or the Jordan River Temple. Our prophet has quite a sense of humor. His face just glows with love for the members of the church. In the dedicatory prayer he said that "...the Spirit of God would reside in the temple continually."*

*Wendy Bessette of the Rochester Fourth Branch remembered that when President Thomas S. Monson was here in 1997, he stated that someday a temple would be built in Minnesota. She shared, this was that temple, my new family, husband and two daughters prayed daily for a temple to be built in the twin Cities area. Late summer or early fall of 1998, the construction of the St. Paul Minnesota Temple was announced. Our prayers had once again been answered. ...We sat ...in the stake center to enjoy the dedication session. The most important part to me is that I know the spirit was just as strong in the stake center as it was in the temple itself...The Lord is truly blessing his saints as we follow his ways.*

*Kent Morris of the Rochester Fourth Branch shared that "...through all the preparation, my main concern and interest was in making good use of the temple when it was dedicated. The highlight of my use of the temple was this June (2000). After a family reunion, my parents, my two sisters and our spouses went through the temple session. What a blessed unity.*

*Maggie Howells of the Rochester Fourth Branch wrote, we wondered about coming to Minnesota at first. Now she realizes that it wasn't for the job that they came here. It was because the Lord needed to have them come to change.*

*Mike Howells of the Rochester Fourth Branch provided some insight to his wife Maggie's comments. He shared that a few months ago, Bishop Cragun and the Stake President had come to their home to invite them to prepare themselves to be temple workers. He felt that it was quite a leap of faith since he was inactive at the time. That visit was the beginning of his better participation in the church again. He now realized that the obligations that they had in the church are really opportunities to grow and progress in the gospel. He said that he couldn't describe the feeling of the power of the spirit. Jesus Christ is the Savior. He has helped them to grow since being here in Minnesota.*



Marla Christensen of the Rochester Fourth Branch wrote, *...(I) tried to make the temple dedication a time of spiritual sacrifice and growth so that I could have the feelings of the spirit similar to the people at the dedication of the Kirtland Temple.*

Brother David Christensen of the Rochester Fourth Branch shared, *It's our temple built for us...all of us have been brought to this land by the hand of the Lord. It mentions in the Book of Mormon that nobody could come here except those that were brought by the Lord.*

Ryan Cole of the Rochester Fourth Branch shared that *it was great to be able to sing in the choir in the temple and to sing the Hosanna Anthem. (I felt) an overwhelming feeling of the spirit. There was a feeling of the mantle of the temple changing from just being a beautiful building to becoming a temple of the Lord.*

Ramona Aitken from the Rochester Third Ward shared, *The blessings of having a temple in our midst is a wonderful thing. It brings hope, faith and testimony into many lives. How thrilling it was to attend the dedication of the St. Paul temple. It was really great to see the reverence that many new converts had for such a wonderful occasion. The spirit was so strong there that one of the sisters felt that during the Hosanna Shout, that she was in the presence of angels. The blessings of the temple can be for all who come unto Christ with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.*

Elaine Huffar from the Viroqua Branch wrote, *great excitement prevails here as we contemplate going to our new Temple's Dedication on January 9<sup>th</sup>. When that day came, some of our people were down with the flu epidemic and could not attend. Others did attend and told those not so fortunate of the wonderful things that were said in the talks and the feelings they had when they actually saw and heard President Gordon B. Hinckley and the spiritual feast he had laid before them in his words.*

In the 2000 Stake History, President Robb reflected following a session at the St. Paul Temple, *in the temple this week I saw pure doctrine, pure people, the pure love of Heavenly Father. Christ is pure. He sees us purely. We can see Him in the temple...(the Savior) lives, He is the Son of God. He atoned for our sins. He is pure. We can become pure like him.*

On November 11, 2000, when Elder Russell M. Nelson visited the Rochester Stake, he asked the stake presidency about some of the questions on the Stake Conference Planning Guide. One of the stake presidency members responded, *We go to the temple often. In Chicago, we worked all night twice. We had 250 workers and in one weekend performed more than 2500 ordinances. We are trying to do the same in St. Paul without trying to cause guilt. We believe that we are a temple-loving people. Personal worship goes deeply in the stake.*

From the La Crosse Ward History it is recorded that *Arrangements for temple trips seem to find their way into everyone's conversations. People needing assistance with ordinance work, people*

*researching their own lines, people sharing choice experience of temple work, inactive people coming to church again, new members moving in, smiles, hugs, tears of great joy. All these things abound. We continue to count our blessings.*

The year 2000 was a remarkable year with the opening of the St. Paul Temple in our midst. Individuals were able to go to the temple more often; families took turns tending each other's children to allow parents to attend the temple; youth groups went often to perform baptisms for the dead; groups from the Elders quorum, High Priests quorum, Relief Society and leaderships from the stake and its units attended the temple together; newly called missionaries were endowed; and couples were sealed all within our beautiful St. Paul Temple.

## **Use of the Rochester Stake Center for Members to Participate in Other Temple Dedications**

Even though the St. Paul Temple is our first temple, it's not the first temple experience we have had in the Rochester Minnesota Stake. From the Church's website under Church History Topics pertaining to Temple Dedications and Dedicatory Prayers it reads that *"Between 1999 and 2002, the dedicatory services of a few newly constructed temples in significant historic sites, including Palmyra, New York; Winter Quarters, Nebraska; and Nauvoo, Illinois, were broadcast over a secure satellite system, allowing members of the Church in remote locations to participate. This established a pattern of broadcasting temple dedications to local stake centers so that all worthy members in the temple district and sometimes the broader area can participate."* Hence, the Rochester Minnesota Stake center served as an extension of a Temple dedication three times.



## Palmyra Temple Dedication



The Palmyra New York Temple

The first time was for the dedication of the Palmyra Temple. With a temple recommend in hand, we were allowed to enter our stake center as though we were entering the temple to participate in the dedication of the Palmyra Temple. The Palmyra New York Temple was dedicated on April 6, 2000, exactly 170 years after The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was formally organized in Fayette, New York, (about 30 miles from Palmyra). The dedicatory services of the Palmyra New York Temple were broadcast over the Church's encrypted satellite system to stake centers and Church facilities throughout North America. We were able to participate in that dedication as President Darrell Krueger presided on the stand and members of the high council reviewed our recommends so that we could enter.

Of this event, Susan Fredrickson of the Rochester Fourth Ward shared, *this was powerful to know that we were participating in an event that was seldom performed. I thought it was interesting to be seated outside the temple. My heart is uplifted to live where we can walk into the house of the Lord and feel of his presence...The spirit that attends the temple and is carried with me as I attend the temple, boosts me up to carry on as a servant of our Heavenly Father.*

And Mark Fredrickson of the Rochester Fourth Ward shared, *I remember sitting there, waiting for the meeting to start...I was thinking about the times and feelings, the excitement and anticipation of the body of saints waiting together for a great event. I wondered if that is what it will be like when it is announced to the world that Jesus Christ has come again. I was even thinking something like "what if He comes back right now?" "What if He were to come back right now and we could see Him in this broadcast?" It was exciting to think that His great Second Coming could happen sometime soon and perhaps when I am in a meeting such as this. You know, as I was growing up, I used to think of that date, April 6, 2000 as a likely date for the*

*Second Coming. The years have flown by with incredible speed and now there I was, sitting in a meeting, wondering, imagining what it will be like when that great day is finally here. I hope it comes soon! And I hope that I will be ready, looking forward to that day, with great anticipation and with peace in my heart. When I think of the dedication of the Palmyra Temple, I will remember the anticipation, the feeling of excitement and sitting there thinking, "WHAT IF TODAY WAS THE DAY?"*

When Art Peek was the bishop of the La Crosse Ward, he shared the following account of his experience with the Palmyra Temple dedication. *I had the opportunity to attend the Palmyra New York Temple dedication held in the Rochester Minnesota Stake Center on April 6, 2000. My feelings were very heavy with the thoughts of my father soon dying and the grand purposes of the temple. The week of April 6<sup>th</sup> had been very long, hard, and emotional. Visiting a father in the hospital only to see him decline in health was such a contrast to the strong man that I once romped the woods with. Today, I had to explain to an ill father that we did not have the ability to provide the care at home that he required. As I explained the option of going to a nursing home for six weeks, his light dimmed, and his countenance fell. He understood the necessity, saddened, but he understood. All he wanted to do was to go to his home. I had to re-explain and re-explain to the contrary. After we visited briefly about this and that, the conversation diminished into a quiet nothingness and he laid his weary head on his pillow and closed his eyes. As I quietly left the room, I heard a quiet voice declare, "I love you son." I returned and exclaimed, "it is nice to hear you say that" and in response I stated, "I love you." I felt so bad and terrible to deny his simple wish to go home. As I left the hospital, it was so difficult for me to contain my emotions and feelings. I never dreamed that my father would go to a nursing home. I never dreamed that I would have to direct him to make such a decision. On the way home, I shed great tears of guilt and remorse. I felt that I was such a terrible son. It was a day that I saw my father cry out of extreme hopelessness. That night, I had the opportunity to travel with my mother Dolores Peek and Leslee Poulton to the Palmyra Temple Dedication. My wife Susan was not able to go due to work commitments. I was very solemn and quiet on the drive to the Rochester Stake Center. It was a good thing that my mother and Sister Poulton knew how to talk, and talk they did.*

*While in the chapel, we waited for the temple dedication to start. I could not help but ponder the emotional events of the day. My father's tears, his helpless despair and his fear of never returning home again. The thoughts were overwhelming. Quietly in the shadows of the dimmed light, I cried. As the program proceeded, I listened to the wonderful talks and music. On occasion a drifting thought of my father and a gentle wipe of a tear appeared. It was while we began singing "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" that I pondered our Savior's great atonement and his suffering. I thought again of my father. In the very dark of the chapel, I cried. Then in a moment, I had the most wonderful peaceful feeling come over me. I drew my attention back to the music and the hymn we were singing. It was at that very moment, we sang the words, "He lives to comfort me when faint. He lives to hear my soul's complaint, He lives to silence all my fears, He*

*lives to wipe away my tears, “What a feeling of comfort and hope, as the Holy Ghost bore record of the reality of the Atonement. I realized at that moment, that very moment, that I was not alone in my tears. Somehow, some way, through the Savior's atonement, he knew my feelings and sorrow and he knew how my father was feeling. My tears were literally wiped away. I had always thought of the larger picture of the great atonement, never realizing how intimate and infinite it really is. He suffered that he could extend his tender mercy to me, even Art Peek. As I caught hold upon this thought, I exclaimed, “What joy this sentence gives, I know that my Redeemer lives.” My father was able to return home and four months later, he would pass away.*

### **Winter Quarters Temple Dedication**



**The Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple**

The second time the stake center was used as an extension of the temple was through remote satellite encryption of the dedication of the Winter Quarters Temple. On 22 April 2001, Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated this temple, which is located in Omaha Nebraska, truly a memorial to those who are buried next to it in the Pioneer Cemetery.

## Nauvoo Temple Dedication

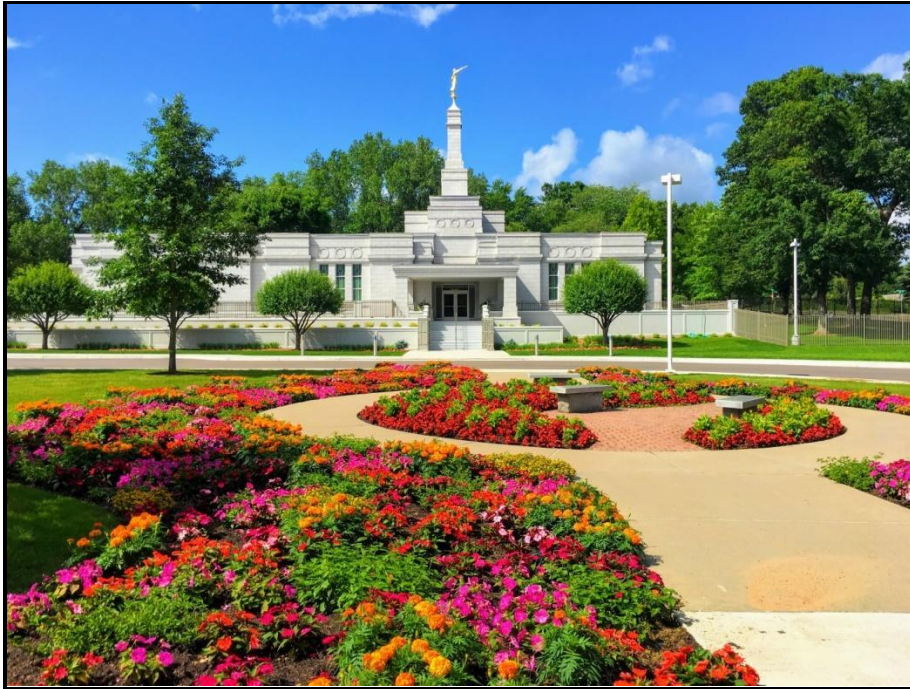


The Nauvoo Illinois Temple

The third time and really crowning experience for all was the dedication of the Nauvoo Illinois Temple. It was dedicated on June 27, 2002, the very day and hour of the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The dedication of the Nauvoo Illinois Temple was delivered over the Church's encrypted satellite system to Church buildings around the world. Of the 13 dedicatory sessions, we as a stake were able to participate in that first dedication session as well as the very last session. Both of which were viewed by encrypted satellite. Many others were able to go in person to Nauvoo to participate in one of the other sessions.

President Krueger along with his wife invited Art and Susan Peek of the La Crosse Ward to attend one of the temple dedications in Nauvoo. Of that experience, Brother Peek shared the following: *We were excited to be able to travel with President and Sister Krueger to the Nauvoo Temple. As we stood in line to proceed into the temple, I was amazed at the number of members attending the dedication who knew President Krueger. These were members that he knew when he was bishop in Missouri. They loved him deeply and shared that love with him as we continued to proceed in the line into the temple to our assigned seats. Having been to the Nauvoo open house, I knew the place where we were seated; it was one of the larger sealing rooms in the temple. The history of Nauvoo has a history of interest with the La Crosse Ward as it was in La Crosse that the saints came to go up the Black River to harvest white pine lumber for the Nauvoo temple. My only regret as the bishop of the La Crosse Ward was not organizing a project to build a raft of white pine lumber and float it down to Nauvoo to be made into something like a piece of furniture or even have some of it used in the construction of the Temple itself. Of all the talks, the singing and the dedicatory words, one part of a talk really stood out for me. It was a talk that was given by the General Authority over the Temple Department. In his talk, he shared the following lyrics from the old African American Spiritual "Swing Low Sweet Chariot": "I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, Coming for to carry me home. A band of angels coming after me, Coming for to carry me home. Swing low, sweet chariot, Coming for to carry me home. Swing low, sweet chariot, Coming for to carry me home."* He explained that the sweet chariot

*was that chariot that took Elijah the prophet into Heaven. Like that chariot, we too can be a chariot in doing the works of Elijah and bring our families home and unite them as an eternal family unit.*



The St. Paul Minnesota Temple

## Thank You

We of the Rochester Minnesota Stake wish to express a sincere thank you to the stake and ward historians, other record keepers, laborers, ushers, medical personnel, translators, media and all others who donated of their time and talents to make the dedication of the St. Paul Temple a memorable experience. What Elder Holt shared with the Temple Committee members could be shared with all members: *The Lord knows of our efforts ...The Lord has promised many blessings, many pouring down to our children ....The Savior is in charge and should He appear in this temple district, He will appear in His holy house, the St. Paul Temple.*

If you have any additions or corrections, please contact the current Stake Clerk.

