LDS Church History Timeline

Or, a Brief Overview of the Foundation, Rise, Progress, Opposition, Reputation, and Destiny of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

History is utterly fascinating. Messy, confusing, ridiculous, and often tragic, but fascinating. I had wondered what would happen if I took a summarized yet extensive overview of the entire history of the Church, warts and all, good, bad, and ugly. I had hoped the emerging picture would be that of God's hand guiding its destiny through the ages. I will allow the reader to judge for himself whether that is in fact the case, but I hope that whether (s)he is a believing Latter-day Saint or not, (s)he will find it even a little bit as fascinating as I do. My intention is to be honest first and faith-promoting second, and I believe these are compatible goals.

To quote from a great talk by historian Davis Bitton: “I do not have a testimony of the history of the church. In making this declaration, I have no need to deny that our church history is peopled with many inspiring individuals. What they preached and taught can be studied. In the course of enhancing my historical understanding I often find reinforcement for my faith. But I uncouple the two – testimony and history. I leave ample room for human perversity. I am not wed to any single, simple version of the past. I leave room for new information and new interpretations. My testimony is not dependent on scholars. My testimony of the eternal gospel does not hang in the balance.”

Brother Bitton also quoted Elder J. Golden Kimball, the famous swearing, drinking Seventy who allegedly put it this way: “Hell, we can come up with embezzlers, grave robbers, cross-dressers, plagiarists, forgers, and if you need someone who can recite the Protocols of Zion while hanging from his knees on a flying trapeze, we can probably oblige you.” To that list he could have added racists, pedophiles, murderers, etcetera, but I think he gets the point across. One of the main thoughts that comes to mind as I study church history is how badly God's servants can screw things up without ruining His plans. Another is that if you think this is all the product of a con man, you're a moron.

There are at least eight types of things included here (not individually labeled as such, because that would take way too much time):

* Foundational Events. From at least 13.75 billion B.C. (give or take a few months) to A.D. 1829, events great and small have paved the way for the permanent Kingdom of God on Earth.
* Important Events. Stuff that taken together has molded the Church into what it is today. Anything from a divine manifestation to the organization of a committee.
* Preparatory Events. Stuff from the lives of church leaders or other influential figures, sometimes not even members, that prepared them for their roles in the Church's history.
* Cool Events. Stuff from the Church's day-to-day operation or lives of individual members that probably isn't necessary to the big picture, but is really awesome to know about.
* Pop Culture. How politicians, famous people, news outlets, the entertainment industry, etc. have responded to and represented the Church over the years.
* Opposition. The attempts of apostates, rival clergymen, secularists, etc. to undermine or destroy the Church. They don't deserve the publicity, but I enjoy seeing them fail over and over.
* Discoveries. Archaeological or other findings that vindicate the Book of Mormon or some other aspect of the Church. Contrary to idiots who say there's “not a shred” of evidence, there is.
* History of Break-off Sects. I include these out of fairness to help readers discern for themselves whether any of them has a more legitimate claim to the mantle of the Restoration.

The events listed are, of course, all nestled in the context of the timeline itself, and by extension the history of the Church. But beyond that, I try whenever feasible to add a bit of context to the event description, by hinting at future events or larger ramifications. This clarifies things and helps readers keep track of important stuff that could easily be forgotten if you're reading the whole thing through chronologically. I hope it also helps avoid the failing of Wikipedia's Joseph Smith article, of which Richard Bushman said “It just picks its way along from one little fact to another little fact... so it becomes a picky piece that isn't inaccurate, but it sort of lacks depth. It ends up being shallow, I think.”

There is, of course, the question of sources. If I were a real historian, I would put qualifiers like “allegedly” in front of every miracle or divine manifestation, but the word of the participants and the confirmation of the Holy Ghost is enough for me to accept them as truth. In other cases, I go with whatever the academic consensus happens to be, and so inevitably some of the events described here are wrong. Historical sources are a tricky thing and raise many questions, such as whether to favor a first-hand account from several years afterward or a third-hand account from the time of the event. I point out some of these issues when they're particularly pertinent, as well as items that are clearly false.

This project was undertaken just for fun (I guess you could say I really enjoy dating), which is why there are no citations or footnotes, and some stuff is even copy-pasted from elsewhere. Sorry. If you're curious about something, Google it, but be aware that you might be directed to an anti-Mormon site. (Anti-Mormons in this day and age rarely “lie” per se, so much of their information is valid, though they still manage to be almost as deceitful as a politician during campaign season.) I do not speak in any official capacity for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (duh), and any doctrinal errors contained herein are solely my responsibility.

P.S. I don't do that politically correct “BCE/CE” crap with the dates. The world's calendar is based on Jesus. Get over it.

P.S. I'm biased. So sue me.

To find a specific year or keyword, hit Ctrl + F, type it in, and hit Enter.

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* Two deities, Heavenly Father and Mother, have billions of human spirit children by unknown means. The children are raised in their holy courts in heaven for an unknown length of time, developing unique friendships, talents and personalities. Spirit animals and plants are created as well but they are not God's children.
* God the Father, also known as Elohim, presents a plan to His billions of spirit children wherein they will take on physical bodies and be tested to gain experience and become like Him. However, because the children will be subject to sin and no unclean thing can dwell in God's presence, a Savior is needed to pay the penalty for their sins. The Father asks for a volunteer. His eldest spirit child, Jehovah or Jesus Christ, volunteers first and offers the glory to God. Lucifer then volunteers to force everyone to live perfect lives so that not a single soul will be lost, and he wants the glory for himself. The Father chooses Jehovah.
* Lucifer rebels against God and persuades an entire third of the spirit children to follow him, starting a War in Heaven against the loyal children led by Michael. The duration of this war or what it entails are unknown. At its conclusion, he and his followers are cast out of heaven, doomed to never receive physical bodies. Lucifer becomes Satan, the father of all lies, and he and his followers will have power to tempt those with bodies to sin, but not to possess them without their consent.

ca. 13.75 Billion B.C.

* The physical universe as we know it is created by God from pre-existing matter. This is apparently done with a sort of “Big Bang” in which all the matter begins in an extremely dense and hot state and then rapidly expands outward and cools. Note: this may actually happen before the council in heaven.

ca. 4.6 Billion B.C.

* The planet Earth and the rest of its solar system is created from pre-existing matter by Jehovah, under the direction of God the Father and with assistance from Michael. Earth is only one among at least trillions of planets that God has created and continues to create, and she is a living thing with a spirit and some level of intelligence. She is female because she is able to support and nurture life. (Note: some Mormons and other Christians believe this actually happens about 4000 B.C., but no evidence supports this theory.)

ca. 3.6 Billion B.C.

* The first life forms, simple prokaryotic cells without nuclei, appear on Earth.

ca. 3.4 Billion B.C.

* Stromatolites appear on Earth, being the first organisms to demonstrate photosynthesis and make nourishment from the sun's light energy.

ca. 2 Billion B.C.

* The first complex eukaryotic cells with nuclei appear on Earth.

ca. 1 Billion B.C.

* The first multicellular organisms appear on Earth.

ca. 600 Million B.C.

* The first simple animals appear on Earth.

ca. 570 Million B.C.

* The first arthropods appear on Earth.

ca. 550 Million B.C.

* The first complex animals appear on Earth.

ca. 530 Million B.C.

* There is a “Cambrian explosion” in which most major animal phyla appear on Earth relatively rapidly and organisms diversify into animals, phytoplankton, and calcimicrobes. The reasons for this anomaly are unclear. Afterward, the speed at which more complex organisms appear increases by an entire order of magnitude.

ca. 500 Million B.C.

* The first fish and proto-amphibians appear on Earth. These fish do not have bones or jaws.

ca. 475 Million B.C.

* The first land plants appear on Earth.

ca. 400 Million B.C.

* The first insects and seeded plants appear on Earth.

ca. 360 Million B.C.

* The first true amphibians appear on Earth. Unlike fish, they are able to breathe on land, but must still lay their eggs in the water to keep them from drying out.

ca. 300 Million B.C.

* The first reptiles appear on Earth. They have an advantage over amphibians in that their eggs are hard-shelled and do not have to be laid in the water.

ca. 260 Million B.C.

* The first true dinosaurs appear on Earth. They are similar to reptiles but have many structural differences and may in fact be exothermic or “warm-blooded”; able to regulate their internal temperature regardless of the surrounding climate.

ca. 200 Million B.C.

* The first mammals, the class of animals to which modern humans belong, appear on Earth. They have an advantage over fish, reptiles and amphibians in that they are warm-blooded.

ca. 150 Million B.C.

* The first birds appear on Earth. They are closely related to reptiles, but like mammals, they are warm-blooded.

ca. 130 Million B.C.

* The first flowering plants appear on Earth. Flowers provide an advantage in reproducing, particularly by attracting insects or animals to participate in the fertilization process.

ca. 65 Million B.C.

* The dinosaurs die out from unknown causes. It is later theorized by some Latter-day Saints that their fossils were in fact left over from another planet that God reorganized into the Earth, but this is highly improbable because they are always arranged so that the chronological placement and geographic range of each species can be determined.

ca. 2.5 Million B.C.

* The genus *Homo*, of which modern humans are a part, appears on Earth.

ca. 200,000 B.C.

* The first anatomically modern human beings, *Homo sapiens*, appear on Earth in what will become the continent of Africa. Their relationship, if any, with God's spirit children is unknown.

ca. 50,000 B.C.

* The anatomically modern humans begin to exhibit full behavioral modernity as well.

ca. 10,000 B.C.

* Humans begin to practice sedentary agriculture, domesticating plants and animals which allow for the growth of civilization.

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* Michael receives a body and becomes Adam, and is given a wife named Eve. The means of their creation are unknown but appear from fossil, genetic, and anatomical evidence to involve biological evolution alongside other humans, although a more simplistic and probably metaphorical account of being sculpted from dust is often taken literally. Their spirits pass through a veil between the Earth and heaven that obscures their memories of the pre-mortal existence.
* Adam and Eve live with many animals in the Garden of Eden, in what will become Jackson County, Missouri, in a carefree state of childlike innocence and naivete. They are told by God that they may eat any fruit they want except for the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They are also commanded to reproduce, but in their current state they do not know how.

ca. 4000 B.C.

* Lucifer, taking Christ's symbol of the serpent and attempting to thwart God's entire plan, persuades Eve to partake of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. She does so and then shares it with Adam. They lose their innocence, become subject to death and sin, and are forced to leave the Garden of Eden to work for their survival. They dwell in an area called Adam-ondi-Ahman in what will become western Missouri.

ca. 3925 B.C.

* Two of Adam and Eve's sons, Cain and Abel, offer sacrifices to the Lord. Cain's sacrifice of produce instead of animals is rejected, and he murders his brother in a jealous rage. The Lord curses him to become a fugitive and vagabond throughout the Earth and sets an unknown mark on him to keep anyone else from killing him. Thousands of years later, this mark is arbitrarily assumed to be black skin, and it is decided that people of African descent are still under a “curse of Cain”.

ca. 3073 B.C.

* Adam holds a farewell council with his family in Adam-ondi-Ahman, where the Lord appears to them.

ca. 2940 B.C.

* Enoch and his city of Zion are so righteous that they are translated, or taken directly into heaven.

ca. 2350 B.C.

* The world enters a state of wickedness and apostasy, so the Lord calls Noah to preach repentance to them. No one listens.
* The Lord decides to wipe out all the wicked people and start fresh, because children raised in such a world have no chance to become righteous. He commands Noah to build an ark to preserve himself, his family, and a male and female of every animal species.
* The Lord floods the earth, drowning all the wicked people and most animal life. Whether the entire earth is actually flooded, giving it a literal baptism and cleansing, or whether “the earth” refers simply to a large geographical area, which is much more compatible with geological evidence, is unknown. The flood lasts for forty days and forty nights, after which a dove brings an olive branch to the ark to demonstrate that dry land is now available. The ark comes to rest on Mount Ararat, probably in modern-day Turkey.
* The Lord establishes the rainbow as a symbol of his promise never to flood the whole earth again. Whether this is the first rainbow ever or simply a new usage of a pre-existing natural phenomenon is unknown.
* Noah's son Ham sees him drunk and naked, and Ham's son Canaan is cursed to be a servant of servants unto his brethren. The reason for this is unclear. This is later conflated with the “curse of Cain” theory to justify keeping Africans in slavery.

ca. 2349 B.C.

* Methuselah dies.

ca. 2240 B.C.

* Prideful people attempt to build a tower, known as the Tower of Babel, to reach heaven. In response, the Lord confounds their languages so they cannot communicate with each other.

ca. 1996 B.C.

* Abraham is born under the name Abram.

ca. 1960 B.C.

* Abraham travels to Canaan and covenants with the Lord.

ca. 1945 B.C.

* Melchizedek's city of Salem is translated.

ca. 1915 B.C.

* Lot hosts three angels at his home in the city of Sodom. The men of the city intend to enter his house and rape them, as well as his daughters, but the angels smite the men with blindness.
* The angels send Lot out of Sodom, telling him not to look back. The Lord then destroys it and the nearby city of Gomorrah for their wickedness, particularly pride and homosexuality. Lot's wife looks back on the destruction and is turned into a pillar of salt.

ca. 1860 B.C.

* Isaac's son Jacob exchanges a mess of pottage for the birthright of his older twin brother, Esau.

ca. 1750 B.C.

* Jacob has twelve sons, renews the Abrahamic covenant with the Lord, and becomes known as Israel.

ca. 1695 B.C.

* Jacob's son Joseph obtains the birthright and is gifted either with a coat of many colors, according to the Septuagint, or simply a long coat with sleeves, as the Hebrew term may indicate.
* Joseph's envious older brothers attack him, steal his coat, and throw him in a pit. They intend to kill him, but Judah talks them out of it because he is their brother. They sell him to as a slave to Ishmeelite traders heading towards Egypt and tell their father Jacob that he was killed by a wild beast.
* Joseph obtains favor from the Pharaoh by interpreting his dream and prophesying that Egypt will have seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of famine. He is made governor of Egypt and put in charge of stockpiling food to prepare for the years of famine.

ca. 1660 B.C.

* Pharaoh invites Joseph's family to dwell in Egypt's land of Goshen. As the generations pass, the Egyptians become suspicious of the Israelites' success in their country and begin to oppress and enslave them.

ca. 1475 B.C.

* The Lord appears to Pharaoh's adopted son Moses in a burning bush and calls him to deliver Israel out of Egypt.

ca. 1420 B.C.

* At age eighty, Moses leads the Israelites on their exodus out of bondage in Egypt.

ca. 1410 B.C.

* Moses climbs Mount Sinai (also known as Mount Horeb) where God gives him stone tablets on which are written the Ten Commandments. While he is on the mountain, the Israelites grow impatient in his absence and make his brother Aaron create for them a golden calf, which they worship. Upon seeing this Moses is so frustrated that he smashes the tablets on the ground.
* The Israelites construct the tabernacle.

ca. 1395 B.C.

* The Israelites live in the wilderness for forty years.

ca. 600 B.C.

* The prophet Lehi and his family, including faithful son Nephi and cynical sons Laman and Lemuel, are commanded to leave Jerusalem before it is destroyed. They take with them the family of their friend Ishmael and brass plates containing many Old Testament writings. They begin crossing the desert, often guided by a compass from heaven known as the Liahona that works according to their righteousness. They probably follow the Frankincense Trail.
* Lehi has a dream where he and his family follow an iron rod through mists of darkness to a tree with delicious white fruit. Laman and Lemuel refuse to eat the fruit, and several others let go of the iron rod and get lost due to the mocking of spectators in a great and spacious building. The iron rod represents the word of God, the fruit represents eternal life, and the building represents the pride of the world.

ca. 592 B.C.

* Lehi and his family finish their trek across the Arabian Peninsula and arrive at Bountiful, a small fertile land surrounded by desert, probably the present day Wadi Sayq.

ca. 591 B.C.

* Nephi is commanded by the Lord to build a boat and shown how to do it. Laman and Lemuel mock him until he shocks them with the power of the Lord, after which they cooperate.
* Lehi's sons Jacob and Joseph are born.
* The boat is built and a journey across the ocean commences, probably going east from the Arabian peninsula and making provision stops along the way.

ca. 590 B.C.

* The passengers on the boat begin behaving wickedly. When Nephi chastens them, Laman and Lemuel tie him up, and a storm engulfs the boat. When they untie him and repent of their sins, the storm ceases.

ca. 589 B.C.

* Lehi and his companions arrive in the Promised Land somewhere on the American continents, most likely in what later becomes Mesoamerica. The Promised Land has been kept from the knowledge of other nations to prevent it from being overrun, but already has its own peoples and cultures.

563 B.C.

* Siddhartha Gautama is born to a Hindu chieftain in Nepal.

551 B.C.

* Confucius is born in China.

ca. 200 B.C.

* Zeniff leads a group of followers from Zarahemla to possess the land of Lehi-Nephi. The king of the Lamanites, king Laman, allows them to have it and gives them the land of Shilom as well.

ca. 188 B.C.

* King Laman and the Lamanites begin to grow uneasy about the increasing numbers and strength of the Nephites in Lehi-Nephi and Shilom.

ca. 187 B.C.

* The Lamanites begin to war against the Nephites in Lehi-Nephi and Shilom, but the Nephites call upon the power of the Lord and drive them out.

ca. 4 B.C.

* A virgin named Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel and told that, while still a virgin, she will give birth to the Son of God.

Spring

* While pregnant, the Virgin Mary and her husband Joseph travel to Bethlehem to be taxed by Caesar Augustus. They are forced to find lodging in a manger because there is no room in any of the inns, and that is where Jesus Christ, the Son of God formerly known as Jehovah, is born. Many Latter-day Saints believe this happens on April 6, but this is not doctrinal and is probably based on a misreading of
* Shepherds on a hillside are visited by choirs of angels and guided by a new star in the sky to come visit and worship the infant Christ.

ca. 3

* Wise men are sent by King Herod to visit Christ and report back his location, unaware of his intention to kill the young infant and prevent the Messiah's perceived threat to his kingship. They find the boy in Nazareth and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
* An angel appears to the wise men and tells them not to report to King Herod, so they take another route home.
* An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to take his family and flee into Egypt.
* King Herod orders his soldiers to kill all young children around the age of Jesus, male or female. Jesus survives because his family has fled to Egypt.

12

* Jesus' parents find him in the temple, instructing old Jewish scholars about the scriptures. He tells them he is doing his Father's work, but they do not understand what he means.

31

* Jesus Christ begins his mortal ministry, during which he performs many miracles, heals the sick and crippled, and imparts many valuable teachings to the children of men. He also selects twelve ordinary men to serve as his apostles. These men are largely unaware of his divine purpose and are just as confused by his doctrines and parables as anyone else.
* Jesus Christ attracts the animosity of the Pharisees, the scholarly sect of the Jews who study the scriptures for a living yet fail to understand that he is the Messiah and has arrived to fulfill the Law of Moses. They want to kill him, but are unable to due to his popularity with the common people.

34

* Jesus Christ enters the Garden of Gethsemane and begins suffering for the sins and sorrows of all mankind past, present and future. The suffering is so great that he sweats blood, but does not die because he has inherited immortality from his godly parentage. An angel arrives to offer some comfort.
* Jesus Christ is betrayed to the Roman authorities by his apostle, Judas, and sentenced to death on the cross despite having done no wrong. Here he feels what it is like to be entirely cut off from the presence of the Father due to iniquity, and it seems that even he had not expected such a feeling. Although able to survive this or anything else, he voluntarily gives up his life.
* The Earth herself mourns the death of Christ with earthquakes, floods, fires, and other natural disasters in the Americas. Many people are killed and entire cities are obliterated. Something, probably a volcanic eruption, casts a mist of darkness over the survivors.
* The spirit of Jesus Christ teaches other deceased people in the spirit world, including those who died during the flood of Noah, for three days.
* After three days Jesus rises back to life, extending the guarantee of resurrection to all mankind. He visits his apostles once more to organize his church among them before ascending to heaven.
* Jesus Christ visits the surviving Nephites on the American continent, where he shares with them some of his teachings to the Israelites including a version of the Sermon on the Mount. He ordains twelve disciples and establishes his church among them. Three of the Nephite disciples are granted immortality so that they may work to build up God's Kingdom for centuries.

67/68

* The apostle Paul is beheaded by order of the Roman emperor.

ca. 300

* Church historian Eusebius of Caesarea proposes a scriptural canon. It lists only twenty-one books as recognized and lists Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude, and Revelation as questionable or spurious.

306

* Diocletian orders persecution of all non-pagan religions throughout the Roman empire.

ca. 311

* Mormon's son Moroni, named after Captain Moroni, is born.

312

* Needing to unify the growing and weakening Roman empire, Emperor Constantine uses the Christian cross as his symbol as he crushes his opponent Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge.

313

* At Milan, Italy, Emperor Constantine issues the Edict of Toleration, which grants religious freedom to all people and revokes the measures that have been used to suppress Christianity.

ca. 325

* Eusebius reports that the Eastern Church is in considerable doubt concerning the authority of most of the Catholic Epistles and the Apocalypse of Peter.

325

* With Constantine's approval, the Council of Nicaea is held to settle a theological dispute about the nature of the Godhead or Trinity. Relying on their own reasoning and argumentation, the participants draft the Nicene Creed, which inaccurately and incomprehensibly describes the nature and relationship of the Godhead's three members. It becomes a foundational document for mainstream Christianity from this time forward.

367

* Saint Athanasius, the bishop of Alexandria, recommends a list of acceptable scriptural books to his churches in a “Thirty-ninth Festal Letter”. It does not become official until over a thousand years afterward.

421

* In the Americas, Moroni completes his addition to the Book of Mormon record, leaving a promise that anyone who reads it, ponders it, and asks God about it can receive confirmation of its truth.
* Some unknown time later Moroni buries the golden plates in a hillside in what will become upstate New York. This hillside is assumed by later generations to be the same as the Hill Cumorah where he has hidden all his other records, but is never identified by himself as such.
* At some unknown point in his travels, Moroni dedicates a future temple site in what will become Manti, Utah.

451

* At the Council of Chalcedon, Armenian, Syrian, Coptic, and Abyssinian (Ethiopian) Christianity reject the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and become separate churches.

570

* Mohammed is born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

610

* Mohammed prays and meditates on Mount Hira and is visited by the angel Gabriel with a message from God. Afterward he preaches to the local townspeople to give up their idol worship.

692

* The Trullan Synod ratifies the fourth-century canon list of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus, which excludes the book of Revelation.

787

* The Second Council of Nicaea is held.

1054

* Greek Orthodoxy formally rejects the authority of the Western church.

1438

* Johannes Gutenburg refines the moveable type printing press, allowing books such as the Holy Bible to be produced much more quickly, easily, and accurately.

1492

* Christopher Columbus is led by the Holy Ghost to find the American continents and bring them to the attention of the “Old World”, fulfilling a Book of Mormon prophecy. Although he thinks he is in India, he sees it as his calling to bring Christianity to the Native Americans, and they see him as the Second Coming of Christ. Unfortunately he then commits atrocities against them.

1510

* On a trip to Rome, Augustinian monk Martin Luther is shocked at the corruption of the clergy and the religious apathy of the people. His veneration for the papacy is diminished and he prepares to challenge its authority. As he studies the Bible he concludes that men are justified by faith alone and not their good works.

1516

* The first printed edition of the Greek New Testament is published.

1517

October 31

* Martin Luther nails to the church door at Wittenberg his Ninety-five Theses, a list of practices in the Catholic Church that he finds inconsistent with the Bible, and challenges the church to a scholarly debate. He unexpectedly becomes a champion and hero to the masses.

1521

* Martin Luther is heard by the imperial assembly at Worms. His arguments are no longer merely religious but also political, and threaten the stability of the Roman empire.

1530

* King Henry VIII of England promises his people that they shall have the New Testament in their own language.

1533

* King Henry VIII rejects the authority of the Pope, who has denied him a divorce, and is excommunicated from the Catholic Church. He then forms the Church of England.

1534

* The English Convocation petitions the King for a translation of the whole Bible.

1535

* With King Henry VIII's permission, Miles Coverdale issues the first complete English Bible. It has been translated out of German and Latin.

1536

October 6

* William Tyndale is executed for translating the New Testament into English.

1537

* John Rogers, under the alias Thomas Matthew, issues an edition of the English Bible that takes the New Testament and half of the Old from William Tyndale's edition, and the remainder from Miles Coverdale's. King Henry VIII orders this Bible to be set up in churches.

1539

April

* The Great Bible, another English edition, appears. It has been translated from Hebrew and Greek by several learned men.

1546

* At the Council of Trent, Roman Catholics officially adopt their canon of scripture. They use the Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, which includes the “deuterocanonical” books later known as the Apocrypha.

April 8

* The conciliar decree “De Canonicis Scripturis” declares that all who do not accept the deuterocanonical books as Christian scripture are anathema, or accursed.

1560

* The Genevan Bible appears, and 150 editions are published in England and Scotland over the next fifty-six years. It divides the text into verses and contains many explanatory but sometimes controversial notes. Its strong Puritan flavor makes it distasteful to many English churchmen, and Archbishop Parker calls for a revision.

1568

* The Bishops' Bible, the revision of the Genevan Bible, is presented to Queen Elizabeth I and becomes the official English Church Bible, but has limited circulation.

1604

* At the Hampton Court Conference in London, England, the Puritan party asks for a new English translation of the Bible. King James I agrees and gives an outline of his plan for an Authorized Version. The work is to be assigned to the universities, reviewed by the bishops and chief learned of the Church, and ratified by the king.

1607

* Six companies are appointed to work on the Authorized Version of the Bible, consisting in all of fifty-four members, at Cambridge, Oxford, and Westminster. They are assigned to follow the Bishops' Bible as far as possible but to use the translations of William Tyndale, Thomas Matthew, Miles Coverdale, Whitchurch, and Geneva whenever they agree more closely with the original text.

1611

May 2

* The King James version of the Bible is first published, with a preface dedicating it to King James I and setting forth its aims and principles. It is the most doctrinally correct version of the English Bible thus far and makes the word of God accessible to many more people for centuries to come, including the future family of Joseph Smith.

1620

* The Puritan pilgrims arrive in Plymouth, North America, on the *Mayflower*. They seek freedom to worship as they choose but have no desire to extend this freedom to other faith groups.

1635

* Roger Williams argues that there should be a clear distinction between church and state and that no particular religion should be imposed upon the citizens, and teaches that all Christian churches have fallen away from the true apostolic succession. He is banished from Massachusetts by the other Puritans.

1638

* Robert Smith, Joseph Smith's first paternal ancestor to leave England for America, arrives in Massachusetts while still in his teens.

1669

* John Mack, Joseph Smith's first maternal ancestor to leave England for America, arrives in Massachusetts.

1739

* The Great Awakening, a movement to restore righteousness and religious zeal, spreads throughout the thirteen colonies. Evangelists and preachers hold services in myriad settings and promote greater participation in organized religion. This revival lasts for about twenty years.

1774

* The Shakers come to North America to escape persecution in England.

1776

July 4

* The British colonies in America issue the Declaration of Independence and proclaim their own sovereignty apart from Great Britain.

1785

* The state of Virginia adopts Thomas Jefferson's Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, which guarantees that no one can be forced to attend or support any church or be discriminated against on the basis of religion.

1787

* The United States of America drafts a new constitution under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, which guarantees freedom of religion in its first amendment.

September 17

* The Constitutional convention signs the new Constitution at Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

1789

* The new Constitution of the United States of America is ratified and put into operation.

1796

January 24

* Joseph Smith Sr. marries Lucy Mack.

1801

June 1

* Brigham Young, future second President of the Church, is born in Whitingham, Vermont.

1805

December 23

* Joseph Smith Jr. (hereafter referred to as Joseph Smith), future first President of the Church, is born to Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith in Sharon, Vermont. The choice of his name fulfills a prophecy by the ancient prophet Joseph in Egypt.

1807

March 1

* Wilford Woodruff, future fourth President of the Church, is born in Avon (now Farmington) Connecticut.

1808

November 1

* John Taylor, future third President of the Church, is born in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland (now Cumbria), England.

1811

* Joseph Smith Sr.'s mind becomes excited on the subject of religion, and in a dream he finds himself traveling through a barren field of dead timber with a spirit who tells him it represents a world without religion. Joseph is told he will find a box of food which if eaten will make him wise, and he tries to partake but is prevented from doing so by horned beasts. He awakes trembling but happy and convinced that even the religious know nothing of the kingdom of God.
* Joseph Smith Sr. has another religious dream, this one nearly identical to Lehi's dream of the Tree of Life.
* Joseph Smith gets typhoid fever and suffers complications including osteomyelitis, a swelling and infection in his leg that leaves him in agony for over two weeks. His brother Hyrum sits beside him almost day and night and squeezes the leg to help him endure the pain.
* Two attempts to drain the infection in Joseph Smith's leg fail. The doctors recommend amputation, but his mother refuses until they try once more.
* Dr. Nathan Smith, the only American doctor of the era to have successfully operated for osteomyelitis, becomes the principle surgeon on Joseph Smith's leg. Joseph refuses to be bound or drink brandy wine to dull his senses during the operation, and makes his mother leave the room so she is not frightened. The operation is a success. He walks with crutches for three years and sometimes limps slightly thereafter, but otherwise recovers.

1814

April 3

* Lorenzo Snow, future fifth President of the Church, is born in Mantua, Ohio.

1815

Mid-April

* Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, explodes in the largest volcanic eruption in recorded history, ejecting an estimated twenty-five cubic miles of volcanic debris and obscuring the sun more severely than any other volcano since 1600.

1816

Summer

* Killing frosts, caused by the weather changes brought on by Mount Tambora's eruption the previous year, destroy the Smith family's third-year crops.
* Joseph Smith Sr. leaves their Vermont home and moves to Palmyra, New York, then sends for the rest of the family.
* Caleb Howard, the Smith family's teamster, makes Joseph Smith walk forty miles a day through the snow with his crutches, causing him severe pain.

1818

* A man named Martin Harris is told by the Lord not to join any church until the words of Isaiah are fulfilled. He will not know what this means until February ten years later.

1819

* Joseph Smith Sr. has a dream in which a heavenly messenger tells him he is an honest man and lacks only one thing to secure his salvation. He awakes before learning what this is. Years later he will realize it is the principles and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

January

* The Smith family files a lawsuit against Jeremiah Hurlbut arising from his sale of a pair of horses to them for $65. The Smith boys have been working for Hurlbut to both pay down the $65 obligation and for other goods the previous summer.

February 6

* The trial of the Smith family against Jeremiah Hurlbut is held. Though only thirteen, Joseph Smith is permitted under New York law to stand as a witness after the court finds him competent, and his testimony is a significant factor in the Smith family's victory. This may contribute to the Smith family's estrangement from the community and the later animosity of a Doctor Philastus Hurlbut towards Joseph.

1820

Spring

* Inspired while reading James 1:5 in the King James Bible, Joseph Smith goes into the woods that will later be known as the Sacred Grove to ask forgiveness for his sins and to inquire of God which church he should join. Satan attempts to keep him from speaking, but he is saved when God the Father, Jesus Christ, and several angels descend from the heavens in what later becomes known as the First Vision. The Father addresses him by name and introduces His Beloved Son. They both tell him that he should not join any of the churches because they are all incorrect, their creeds are an abomination and their preachers are corrupt.
* Joseph tells his vision to a Methodist preacher. To his surprise, the preacher tells him that there are no such things as revelations anymore, and that his vision came from the devil.

1821

1822

* Joseph and Alvin Smith are employed by William Chase to dig a well on his property, and twenty feet down they find a transparent gray egg-shaped stone with white stripes. Joseph recognizes it as a seer stone and wishes to have it. William decides to keep it on account of its curiosity but is willing to lend it to him.

1823

* Clergyman Ethan Smith (no relation to Joseph Smith) publishes *View of the Hebrews*, theorizing that Native Americans are descended from the ten Lost Tribes of Israel who disappeared after being taken captive by the Assyrians. Parallels with the Book of Mormon are highlighted decades later, though not by any of Joseph's contemporaries, to suggest plagiarism. However, its most significant details and most compelling evidences for its thesis are not found in the Book of Mormon, which is fortunate as many of them are later found to be false or misleading.

September 21

* While praying at night for a remission of his sins, Joseph Smith is visited in his bedroom by the angel Moroni, who tells him of the golden plates and the Urim and Thummim and shows him in vision the hill where they are buried. He says that in time Joseph will obtain the plates, and that he must not show them to anyone unless he is commanded to, or he will be destroyed. Moroni then leaves. The brothers sharing Joseph's room do not awaken.
* Moroni returns almost immediately and repeats verbatim what he has just said. He then describes the great judgments of famine, sword, and pestilence which will come upon the earth in this generation. He leaves once more.
* Moroni returns a third time and again repeats the same things verbatim. He then warns Joseph that Satan will try to tempt him to get the plates for monetary gain, due to his family's poor financial circumstances. He says that Joseph must have no other motive than to glorify God and build up His Kingdom, or he will not be able to obtain them. Moroni leaves again, and as Joseph is contemplating this, the rooster crows and he realizes the visits have taken all night.

September 22

* Fatigued from the previous night, Joseph Smith is unable to do his chores and is sent back to the house by his father. Along the way he collapses of exhaustion and is visited again by Moroni, who again repeats everything from the previous night and then commands him to tell his father what is going on. Joseph Smith Sr. assures him the messenger is from God and tells him to cooperate.
* Joseph Smith goes to the hillside and is shown the golden plates buried in a stone box along with the Urim and Thummim and a breastplate. Thrice when he attempts to remove them, he receives painful shocks, and is then chastised for being tempted to obtain them for his family's financial gain. He is told that he will not be able to obtain them until he is both willing and able to keep the commandments, and to return on this day next year.

November 19

* Joseph Smith's beloved brother Alvin dies at the age of twenty-five after the calomel intended to treat his illness lodges in his stomach. Before his death he tells Joseph to do everything in his power to obtain the golden plates, and to follow every instruction and commandment he is given. Because Alvin had not been baptized, a local preacher tells Joseph that he is in hell, and that Joseph should get baptized while he still has a chance.

1824

September 22

* Joseph Smith visits the hill once more to be instructed by the angel Moroni.

1825

Spring

* A farmer and Presbyterian deacon named Josiah Stowell (or Stoal), having heard of Joseph Smith's spiritual gifts, hires him to help find a Spanish silver mine with his seer stone. Joseph is reluctant but agrees due to his family's financial hardship.

September 22

* Joseph Smith visits the hill once more to be instructed by the angel Moroni.

October

* Together with his father, Joseph Smith once more helps Josiah Stowell look for the mine. After less than a month he persuades the man to give up. In the meantime he boards with the Hale family in Harmony, Pennsylvania and has a mutual attraction with their daughter Emma, but because he is uneducated and a treasure seeker, her father Isaac does not approve of him.

1826

February or March

* Josiah Stowell's sons have Joseph Smith arrested. Most accounts say he is accused of being a disorderly person and/or imposter, but a few say he is charged as a vagrant with no visible means of livelihood. The former is far more likely.

March 20

* Joseph Smith undergoes a pre-trial examination in Bainbridge, New York. Josiah Stowell, as one of the legal witnesses, testifies under oath that his spiritual gift is authentic. His father also testifies of the gift but says he is mortified by this use of it and hopes it will find a better use in the future. Joseph is acquitted of the charges. Critics in the next century, though none of his contemporaries, use this incident to claim that he is a convicted con man.

September 22

* Joseph Smith visits the hill once more to be instructed by the angel Moroni.

1827

January 17

* Joseph Smith and Emma Hale elope across the state line to South Bainbridge, New York.

January 18

* Joseph and Emma Smith are married in the home of Squire Tarbell. The marriage site is now the Afton Fairgrounds, and a New York State Historical Marker commemorates the location. They return to Palmyra to live with Joseph's parents.

Late Summer

* As Joseph Smith is walking home and passes by the hillside containing the plates, he is stopped and chastised by the angel Moroni for not being engaged enough in the work of the Lord. He is told that the time has come for the record to be brought forth and he must be prepared for it.

August

* Joseph and Emma Smith return to the Hale home to collect Emma's belongings. Isaac Hale is outraged at Joseph for eloping with his daughter and says he would much rather have followed her to the grave. In an attempt at reconciliation, Joseph promises to give up the treasure seeking business.

September 22

* With Joseph Knight's horse and Josiah Stowell's spring wagon, Joseph Smith is accompanied by his new wife Emma to the hill where Moroni at last allows him to take the golden plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate. He is told that if he is careless with them he will be cut off, but that if he labors with all his might to keep them secure, they will be protected. Joseph hides them in a hollow log.

Fall

* A local farmer named Willard Chase sends a sorcerer to find out where the plates are. Joseph Smith retrieves them first and starts home through the woods, but is accosted thrice and has to run for his life carrying the heavy plates in a frock.

December

* A prominent local citizen named Martin Harris gives fifty dollars to Joseph and Emma Smith and helps them settle their debts so they can move back to Harmony, Pennsylvania where Joseph hopes to begin the translation in peace.

1828

* Joseph Smith begins translating the Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God. The exact method is unknown, but apparently involves placing his seer stone and his face in his hat to exclude the light and see what English text should be written. Because of this his stone is often conflated and confused with the Urim and Thummim that accompanied the plates, making its very existence unknown to many for years.

February

* Martin Harris visits Joseph Smith and then takes some transcribed Book of Mormon characters and their translation to Luther Bradish, Dr. Samuel Mitchell, and Professor Charles Anthon.
* Professor Anthon gives Martin Harris a certificate authenticating the characters and translation. When he learns that the plates came from an angel, he takes back the certificate and tears it up. When he learns that part of the plates are sealed, he says “I cannot read a sealed book”, fulfilling a prophecy in Isaiah 29:11. Martin Harris is convinced by this experience to commit his means to bringing forth the Book of Mormon.

June 14

* 116 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript have been completed, and Martin Harris requests to take them home and show them to his wife Lucy, who is growing impatient with him and thinks he is being defrauded. Joseph Smith asks permission from the Lord through the Urim and Thummim but is told no. After two more attempts at Martin's insistence, the Lord says yes. Martin promises in writing to only show it to five members of his family.

June 15

* Emma Smith gives birth to her first child, Alvin, who has undescribed birth defects and quickly dies.

July

* Joseph Smith returns to Palmyra to check on the manuscript pages. Martin Harris tells him that they are lost, and both of them are wracked with despair and anguish. They part ways with heavy hearts.
* Joseph Smith returns to Harmony and pleads for forgiveness. Moroni appears and takes back the plates and the Urim and Thummim, but says he can have them back eventually if he is humble and penitent.
* Joseph Smith receives a revelation through the Urim and Thummim regarding the lost 116 pages. He is told that the plans of God cannot be frustrated but that if he does not repent he will permanently lose the gift to translate. This later becomes Section 3 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Summer

* Joseph Smith is informed by the Lord that wicked men have made alterations to the 116 manuscript pages so that if he re-translates them they can point out the discrepancies and discredit him. His gift is restored and he has a revelation concerning the future destiny of the Church and the gospel. This becomes Section 10 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Fall

* Joseph Smith again receives the golden plates and the Urim and Thummim from Moroni and is promised a new scribe to help with them.

1829

* A schoolteacher named Oliver Cowdery, boarding with Joseph Smith Sr., learns of the golden plates, and after prayer and meditation receives confirmation from the Holy Ghost that when the school year is over he should visit the younger Joseph Smith and write for him.

March

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation telling Martin Harris that three witnesses will see the golden plates and declare it unto the world, and that if he repents of his sins and keeps the commandments he may be one of them. This becomes Section 5 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

April 5

* Oliver Cowdery visits Joseph Smith to learn more about the golden plates. Joseph recognizes him as the answer to prayers for a new scribe, and they stay up late discussing.

April 7

* Joseph Smith recommences translating the Book of Mormon with Oliver Cowdery as his scribe. The missing 116 pages will later be compensated for by another account also included in the plates, which was commissioned by the Lord centuries earlier in foresight of this incident.

April

* Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery inquire through the Urim and Thummim whether John the Revelator died or became immortal. They receive a translated portion of John's record wherein he is granted immortality until the Lord comes, and Peter, James and John are told that they possess gospel keys. This becomes Section 7 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Oliver Cowdery desires the gift of translation, and God tells him that he may have it through faith and the power of the Holy Ghost. This becomes Section 8 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Oliver Cowdery fails to translate. God tells him it is because he took no thought except to ask, rather than studying it out in his own mind and then asking if it was correct. Therefore his gift is taken away and he is told to be content as a scribe for the time being. This becomes Section 9 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Knight Sr. visits Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery from Colesville, New York, bringing provisions and money so they will not have to seek employment and delay the work of translation.

May 15

* While translating the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery become curious about baptism for the remission of sins, and go into the woods to pray about it. John the Baptist arrives and confers the Aaronic priesthood on them and has them baptize each other. After emerging from the water they prophesy many things to each other. The ordination blessing becomes Section 13 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

May

* Joseph Smith's brother Samuel visits him and Oliver Cowdery but is unconvinced about their experiences and translation work. He goes to the woods to pray about it and receives his own witness of their truthfulness.

May 25

* Samuel Smith is baptized by Oliver Cowdery.

June

* Joseph Smith receives revelations for David, John, and Peter Whitmer Jr. regarding their individual duties. They become Sections 14, 15 and 16 of the Doctrine and Covenants, respectively. John and Peter's revelations are exactly the same.
* Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris are moved upon by an inspired desire to become the three witnesses. Joseph Smith inquires of the Lord and is told through the Urim and Thummim that they may if they have faith and a full purpose of heart, and that they must then testify of what they have seen. This becomes Section 17 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer inquire about the restoration of the Melchizedek priesthood. A revelation in response mentions the future calling of the twelve Apostles and commands Oliver and David to seek them out. This becomes Section 18 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

June 11

* Joseph Smith files for and receives a copyright on the Book of Mormon, which is nearing completion. In accordance with New York state copyright law, which does not specifically address translations, he is listed as “Author and Proprietor”.

July 1

* Translation of the Book of Mormon is completed.

July

* Oliver Cowdery begins a printer's manuscript of the Book of Mormon to avoid risking the loss of the original. Some transcription errors are made between the two versions.

August 17

* An agreement is made with printer E.B. Grandin in Palmyra to print five thousand copies of the Book of Mormon for three thousand dollars.

August

* Oliver Cowdery delivers the first pages of manuscript to the printer. Typesetting commences and the first uncut sheets come off the press. Stephen Harding is given the first title page.

August 25

* Martin Harris mortgages his farm for three thousand dollars to pay for the printing of the Book of Mormon.

October 8

* Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery purchase a King James Bible from E.B. Grandin's bookstore for $3.75. On the flyleaf, Joseph Smith writes their names, the date and place of purchase, and “Holiness to the Lord”.

October

* Joseph Smith returns to Harmony, Pennsylvania.

November 6

* Oliver Cowdery writes to Joseph Smith explaining that the printing is delayed because of sickness and because E.B. Grandin is waiting for additional type. Oliver is up to Alma 36 in the printer’s manuscript.

November 9

* Oliver Cowdery responds to an inquiry by disowned Orthodox Quaker Cornelius Blatchly about the soon-to-be-published Book of Mormon. He discusses its translation and printing, defends Joseph Smith's listing as “author” on the title page, and testifies that he saw the golden plates himself under circumstances where no trickery was possible. However the circumstances he outlines, of a clear field far from any inhabitants, are the opposite of those described nine years later by Joseph Smith, in the woods near the Whitmer home.

December 10

* Cornelius Blatchly reprints Oliver Cowdery's letter in the *Gospel Luminary*, with critical interpolations and responses by himself. He concludes that the letter does not describe sufficient evidence to accept the Book of Mormon.

1830

January 16

* Joseph Smith Sr. and Martin Harris enter an agreement that they will have equal privilege in selling the Book of Mormon until E.B. Grandin is paid.

January

* A number of people hold a meeting and pass a resolution not to purchase the Book of Mormon when it is published. Alarmed, E.B. Grandin ceases printing until Joseph Smith returns to Palmyra and assures him the printing costs will be paid.

March 19

* The *Wayne Sentinel* in Palmyra runs an advertisement saying that the Book of Mormon will be ready for sale in a week.

March 26

* The Book of Mormon goes on sale. Another advertisement in the *Wayne Sentinel* announces this.

April

* Joseph Smith is given an extensive revelation about Church organization and government, as well as the precise date on which to organize the Church. This becomes Section 20 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

April 6

* The Church of Jesus Christ is restored and formally organized in Peter Whitmer Sr.'s house in Fayette, New York. It begins with six official members who have been previously baptized, as required by New York law regarding religious institutions, but is attended by about sixty people from as far away as a hundred miles. The Bible and Book of Mormon are unanimously accepted as scripture, and Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery are accepted as the presiding officers of the Church and ordain each other as elders. The sacrament is administered and the participants are given the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands.
* A revelation calls Joseph Smith as a seer, translator, prophet, apostle, and elder, whose inspired words shall guide the cause of Zion. This becomes Section 21 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Several people are baptized, including Orrin Porter Rockwell, Martin Harris, and Joseph Smith's parents.

April 11

* Oliver Cowdery delivers the first public discourse of the Church in the Whitmers' home. Six more people are baptized.

April

* Some people who have been baptized into other churches desire to join the Church without rebaptism. A revelation tells Joseph Smith that a proper baptism by priesthood authority is required. This becomes Section 22 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* At their request, Joseph Smith inquires of the Lord and receives a revelation calling Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Samuel H. Smith, Joseph Smith Sr., and Joseph Knight Sr. to preach, exhort, and strengthen the Church. This becomes Section 23 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Late April

* Newel Knight is possessed by a devil that twists and tosses around his body. He requests Joseph Smith to come and cast out the devil, and Joseph does so. In his weakened state Newel begins having visions of eternity and his body is elevated until it touches the ceiling. Many of the people who witness these events later join the Church.

May 26

* U.S. President Andrew Jackson signs into law the Indian Removal Act, which will forcibly relocate Native Americans in the eastern states to a permanent frontier in the western plains.

June

* Joseph Smith begins an inspired translation of the King James Bible with Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer as scribes. Although in some cases he may restore passages that existed in the original biblical manuscripts, for the most part it is more of a redaction, with him being moved by the Holy Ghost to modify current biblical passages with his new understanding based on the restored gospel.

June 9

* The first conference of the Church is held in Fayette, New York. Several recent converts are confirmed, Samuel H. Smith is ordained an elder, and Joseph Smith Sr. and Hyrum Smith are ordained priests. Ten brethren receive licenses authorizing them to represent the Church and Oliver Cowdery is appointed to keep the official church records.
* Many members at the conference prophesy, while others have the heavens opened to their view. Newel Knight sees a vision of the Savior and is told that he will someday enter the presence of the Lord.
* Shortly afterward, David Whitmer baptizes twelve people in Seneca Lake, including Joseph Smith's sister Katherine and brothers William and Don Carlos.

Late June

* Joseph and Emma Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and John and David Whitmer visit the Knight family in Colesville, New York. Joseph Knight Sr. and a number of others have read the Book of Mormon and desire baptism.

June 26

* Joseph Smith and the other brethren dam a stream in Colesville, New York to make a pond suitable for baptisms. The dam is demolished that night by a mob led by leaders of area churches who fear losing members.

June 27

* A Sunday meeting is held. Several members of the mob from the previous night attend and afterward harass the other attendees.

June 28

* Joseph Smith and the others repair the dam and hold the baptismal service. Thirteen people, including Emma Smith, are baptized. Neighbors mock them, hurl insults, and threaten to harm them.
* Before a meeting can be held to confirm the new members, Joseph Smith is arrested and taken to South Bainbridge for trial as a disorderly person. Mobs try to intercept him and the constable, but the constable is able to protect him.

June 29

* Joseph Smith is defended in court by Joseph Knight Sr.'s neighbors James Davidson and John Reid, men renowned for their integrity, and his old friend Josiah Stowell and two daughters testify in his defense. He is acquitted of the charge.
* As soon as the trial is over, Joseph Smith is arrested by a constable from Broome County on the same disorderly person charge. The constable takes him to a tavern where people mock him and spit on him and ask him to prophesy.

June 30

* In the second trial, Newel Knight is questioned by a hostile skeptic about the incident of having the devil cast out of him. He stands by the story but, after getting the questioner to admit that he cannot discern things of the spirit, says that describing what the devil looked like would be of no use. James Davidson and John Reid are able to convince the court of Joseph Smith's innocence, and he is acquitted once again.

July

* Seeking safety in Harmony, Pennsylvania amidst already intense persecution, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery receive three revelations to strengthen and instruct them. These are later combined into Section 24 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Emma Smith is told by the Lord through Joseph that she is an elect lady called to aid and comfort her husband. She is commanded to select hymns for the the church hymnbooks. This becomes Section 25 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and John Whitmer receive a revelation instructing them to study the scriptures and preach, and affirming the law of common consent. This later becomes Section 26 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

August

* Sally Knight and Emma Smith still need to be confirmed as church members, so Joseph Smith, Newel Knight, and John Whitmer decide to attend to that and hold a sacrament service.
* Joseph is going to procure wine for the service when he is met by a heavenly messenger. He is told that it does not matter what is used for the sacrament as long as it is done with an eye single to Christ's glory, and that the Saints should not use wine unless they make it themselves because the money from purchasing will end up in the hands of their enemies. This later becomes Section 27 of the Doctrine and Covenants, though part of it is not written down until September.

September

* A church member named Hiram Page has a special stone through which he professes to receive revelations, deceiving many church members and even the Whitmers and Oliver Cowdery. The Lord says that only Joseph Smith receives revelations for the entire Church, and that Hiram Page has been deceived by Satan. Oliver Cowdery is also told he will preach to the Lamanites, and that the city of Zion will be built somewhere by their borders, meaning the western frontier of the United States. This later becomes Section 28 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith receives a revelation in the presence of six elders elucidating the Second Coming, the Millennium, the pre-mortal existence, and the Atonement. This later becomes Section 29 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith receives three revelations; one chastening David Whitmer for failing to serve diligently, one calling Peter Whitmer Jr. to accompany Oliver Cowdery on his mission to the Lamanites, and one calling John Whitmer to preach the gospel. These revelations are first printed separately but then combined into Section 30 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith receives a revelation calling Thomas B. Marsh to preach the gospel and assuring him of his family's well-being. Marsh is counseled to be patient, pray always, and follow the Comforter. This later becomes Section 31 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

October

* Joseph Smith supplicates the Lord to know whether elders should be sent at this time to Native American tribes in the West. In response, the Lord calls Parley P. Pratt, Peter Whitmer Jr., and Ziba Peterson to join Oliver Cowdery in preaching to the Lamanites and to pray for an understanding of the scriptures. This later becomes Section 32 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith receives a revelation for Ezra Thayre and Northrop Sweet, telling them to declare the gospel and repent because the kingdom of heaven is at hand and is preparing for the coming of the Bridegroom (Christ). This later becomes Section 33 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

October 17

* Oliver Cowdery's mission companions bind themselves in writing to give heed to all his words and advice, and pledge to proclaim the fulness of the gospel to their brethren, the Lamanites.

October 18

* Oliver Cowdery, Parley P. Pratt, Peter Whitmer Jr., and Ziba Peterson begin their fifteen-hundred-mile westward trek to preach the gospel to the Native Americans.

November 4

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation for recent convert Orson Pratt, teaching him that the faithful become sons of God through the Atonement, that preaching of the gospel prepares the way for the second coming, and that prophecy comes by the power of the Holy Ghost. This later becomes Section 34 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

November 16

* Oliver Cowdery and his companions begin preaching the gospel in Ohio.

December

* Sidney Rigdon and Edward Partridge arrive in Fayette, New York, to see the Prophet Joseph Smith.
* Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon receive a revelation which expounds on some gospel topics and calls Sidney to serve as Joseph's scribe on his inspired translation of the Bible. This later becomes Section 35 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith receives a revelation for Edward Partridge, in which God forgives his sins and calls him to preach the gospel and receive the Holy Ghost through the hand of Sidney Rigdon. He is told that every man who receives the gospel and the priesthood is called to go forth and preach. This later becomes Section 36 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon receive a commandment for the Saints to gather in Ohio. This later becomes Section 37 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

December 20

* In Cincinnati, Ohio, Oliver Cowdery and his companions catch a river steamboat for St. Louis, Missouri. However, ice floes choke the Ohio River and force them to disembark at Cairo, Illinois and continue on foot.

1831

January 2

* The third General Conference of the Church is held in Fayette, New York, in the home of Peter Whitmer Sr.
* Afterward, members inquire about the commandment to move to Ohio, so Joseph Smith inquires of the Lord and receives a revelation promising them that when they arrive the Lord will reveal to them his law, endow them with power, and give further instructions pertaining to the growth of the Church. It later becomes Section 38 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Some members complain that Joseph invented the revelation to deceive them and enrich himself, but most reconcile themselves to it and make preparations to leave.

January 5

* James Covill, a Baptist minister for forty years, covenants with the Lord to obey any command that he is given through Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith receives a revelation for him calling him to be baptized and labor in the Lord's vineyard, and elucidating on the receiving and preaching of the gospel. This later becomes Section 39 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

January

* Under pressure from his former congregation, James Covill breaks his covenant with the Lord and rejects the gospel. Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon receive a brief revelation telling them that he gave in to fear of persecution and the cares of the world. This later becomes Section 40 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

January 13

* Oliver Cowdery and his companions arrive at Independence, by the western border of Missouri and of the entire United States.

Late January

* Joseph and Emma Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Edward Partridge set out for Kirtland, Ohio. Joseph Knight has graciously provided a sleigh for Emma, who is recovering from a month-long illness in addition to being six months pregnant with twins.

February 1

* Peter Whitmer and Ziba Peterson set up a tailor shop in Independence to earn needed funds while Oliver Cowdery, Parley P. Pratt, and Frederick G. Williams enter Native American lands to preach and introduce the Book of Mormon.
* Joseph Smith stops in front of a store in Kirtland, Ohio, and talks to the owner, Newel K. Whitney. Though they have never met, Joseph knows his name and face because he saw him in a vision praying for the Prophet to come to Kirtland.

February 4

* After inquiring of the Lord, Joseph Smith receives a revelation calling Edward Partridge to serve as the first bishop of the Church, with instructions for him to devote his time to this calling. Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon are also commanded to resume their inspired translation of the Bible. This later becomes Section 41 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

February 9

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation outlining an economic system called the law of consecration. It calls for each of the Saints to donate all of their property to the bishop, Edward Partridge, and then receive stewardships from the collective property based on their circumstances. At the end of each year, any surplus obtained from these stewardships beyond their own wants and needs are to be turned back over to the bishop and administered to the poor and needy. Though it is referred to as a “law”, participation is voluntary. This later becomes Section 42 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

February 14

* Oliver Cowdery writes to General William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in St. Louis, requesting permission to establish schools for instructing Native American children and teaching their elders the Christian religion, without interfering with any Missions already established. It is unknown whether General Clark ever responds.

February 17

* Five Native American tribes begin their forced relocation, as mandated by the Indian Removal Act of the previous year, in what becomes known as the “Trail of Tears”.

Late February

* During the excitement over a predicted eclipse, a young Mormon girl prophesies that an earthquake will destroy the city of Peking, China.
* Some individuals, including a professed prophetess named Hubble, profess to be receiving revelations for the Church. Joseph Smith inquires of the Lord about their stratagems and is told that only the President of the Church can receive commandments and revelations for the whole organization. The elders of the Church are also given a warning to deliver to the nations of the earth about the day of the Lord being at hand. This later becomes Section 43 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

March

* A Mormon convert from the Shaker sect, Leman Copley, still holds to many beliefs from his old religion. Joseph Smith receives a revelation repudiating the Shaker doctrines of abstaining from pork, lifelong celibacy, baptism by water being unessential, and Christ having already returned in the form of a woman named Ann Lee. This later becomes Section 49 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Leman Copley, Sidney Rigdon, and Parley P. Pratt are instructed to visit a settlement of Shakers and read the revelation to them, but the Shakers reject them.

April 5

* A newspaper article reports an earthquake in Peking, China. When Campbellite preacher Simonds Ryder reads this, he recalls that it was prophesied by a young Mormon girl six weeks earlier, and becomes converted. His conversion causes quite a disturbance in the vicinity and is heralded in newspapers as “Mormonism in China”.

April 30

* Emma Smith gives birth to twins, Louisa and Thaddeus, but they live only three hours.

May 1

* The emigrating Saints from the Colesville Branch arrive in Buffalo, New York, to find that bitter lake winds have blown ice into the harbor and will delay them for eleven days.
* Julia Murdock gives birth to twins, but dies following their birth. Her husband John is about to leave on a mission and allows Joseph and Emma Smith, who have just lost their own twins, to adopt them. The girl is named Julia and the boy is named Joseph.

May 14

* The Saints from the Colesville Branch arrive in Fairport, Ohio.

June 3

* The fourth General Conference of the Church is held in a schoolhouse in Kirtland township, with sixty-three priesthood holders in attendance. The first ordinations to the office of high priest are performed by Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight, and John Corrill and Isaac Morley are called and set apart to be counselors to Bishop Edward Partridge.
* Joseph Smith prophesies that John the Revelator is among the lost ten tribes of Israel, preparing them to return for their long dispersion, and Lyman Wight prophesies that the coming of the Savior will be like the sun rising in the east and cover the whole earth. He predicts that some of the brethren will be martyred and seal their testimonies of Christ with their blood.
* Joseph Smith, Harvey Whitlock, and Lyman Wight see the heavens open and Jesus Christ sitting on the right hand of the Father, making intercession for the Saints.
* Evil spirits attempt to disrupt the meeting with horrid noises and throwing several men violently around. Harvey Green is thrown on the floor in convulsions, and Harvey Whitlock and John Murdock are bound so they cannot speak. Joseph Smith commands Satan in the name of Christ to depart, and he does so. Joseph sees this as a fulfillment of 2 Thessalonians 2:3, which says that the man of sin would be revealed.

June 7

* French explorer Antonio Sebollo enters an Egyptian catacomb on the west bank of the Nile River across from the ancient city of Thebes, where he finds eleven mummies. Unbeknownst to him, two of the coffins also contain important documents on papyrus, including the Book of Abraham.

June 14

* Lyman Wight and John Corrill begin their trip to Missouri, proselyting along the way.

June 19

* Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Edward Partridge, Martin Harris, Joseph Coe, William W. Phelps, and Sidney and Elizabeth Gilbert begin their nearly nine-hundred-mile journey from Kirtland to the western border of Missouri.

Mid-July

* Joseph Smith and his company arrive in Independence, Missouri.

July 17

* Thirty years later, William W. Phelps claims that on this date, Joseph Smith, himself, and five other elders gather to inquire of the Lord who should preach the first sermon to the remnants of the Lamanites and Nephites. Joseph then receives a revelation commanding them to take Lamanites and Nephites as wives so that their posterity will become white, delightsome, and just, and later clarifies this to be plural marriage. Because Phelps' late claim is the only source, it is uncertain whether this actually happens, but critics nonetheless charge the Church with suppressing this alleged revelation due to its racism.

July 20

* In response to Joseph Smith's query of when the wilderness will blossom as a rose and where the temple will stand, the Lord tells him that Independence, Missouri is the place for the City of Zion and the temple, and commands the Saints to purchase lands and receive inheritances in that area. This later becomes Section 57 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

August 2

* With Joseph Smith presiding, twelve men representing the twelve tribes of Israel lay a symbolic foundation for the City of Zion and Sidney Rigdon consecrates and dedicates the land for the gathering of the Saints.

August 3

* Joseph Smith dedicates the Independence Temple site and, following the reading of Psalm 87 which extols the glory and majesty of Zion, lays the northeast and southeast cornerstones.

August 4

* As previously commanded, the brethren convene a conference in Kaw township with Joseph Smith presiding. Sidney Rigdon admonishes the Saints to obey every requirement of heaven, and other business of the Church is transacted before they disband and return to Ohio.

August 9

* Joseph Smith and company embark on the return journey to Ohio by canoe on the Missouri River. They spend the night at Fort Osage, a government-maintained outpost that provides protection from marauding Native Americans.

August 11

* William W. Phelps sees a vision of Satan in his most horrible power riding upon the water of the Missouri River. Others present hear his noise, and they fear for their safety.

August 13

* Lyman Wight and John Corrill arrive in Missouri.

August 21

* Nat Turner leads a failed slave uprising in Virginia that results in the deaths of over seventy whites and between one and two hundred slaves. An irrational fear of revolts sweeps over the slave states, including Missouri.

Late August

* Joseph Smith and his companions arrive in Kirtland. Joseph notes that their efforts to preach the gospel along the way were hindered because Satan had blinded the eyes of the people. He also reports to the Saints in Ohio the glorious events they experienced in locating the land of Zion.

September

* Elders Parley P. and Orson Pratt arrive in western Missouri.
* Joseph and Emma Smith move to Hiram, Ohio, about thirty miles southeast of Kirtland, where they live with the John Johnson family.

September 1

* Ezra Booth arrives in Hiram, Ohio.

September 6

* Ezra Booth is excommunicated.

October

* Zebedee Coltrin arrives in Missouri.

October 13

* Ezra Booth publishes the first of nine letters in the *Ohio Star* in Ravenna, detailing his objections to the Church. He believes that his conversion had influenced others to accept the gospel, and now wants to reverse that effect as well as dissuading others from joining the Church. The letters circulate widely and are later included in a book called *Mormonism Unvailed* [sic].

November

* Levi Hancock, compelled to lay over because of illness, arrives in Missouri.

November 1

* At a special conference of elders of the Church at Hiram, Ohio, Joseph Smith receives a revelation that serves as the preface or first section to the Book of Commandments and the future Doctrine and Covenants, explaining their purpose of compiling the more than sixty revelations that have been recorded thus far. William W. Phelps agrees to print ten thousand copies of the Book of Commandments, which is later reduced to three thousand copies.
* A few brethren make negative comments about the language and style of the revelations, so the Lord gives a revelation challenging them to select the least of the commandments and have the wisest man among them try to write a better one. This later becomes Section 67 of the Doctrine and Covenants. William E. McLellin, a schoolteacher and recent convert, presumptuously accepts the challenge and fails miserably, renewing the brethren's faith in the revelations and their commitment to bear testimony of their truth to the world.

November 3

* An appendix is added to the revelations being readied for publication in the Book of Commandments. This later becomes Section 133 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

November 8

* Joseph Smith is directed by the Holy Ghost to correct the errors he discovers in the written copy of his revelations.

November 20

* Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer start for Missouri with the manuscript for the Book of Commandments.

December

* Newel K. Whitney is called a a second bishop. His calling is to determine the worthiness of members living in Ohio and provide certificates to the bishop in Zion, Edward Partridge, attesting that they have been members in good standing before moving to Missouri.

December 8

* The *Ohio Star* prints the final of apostate Ezra Booth's nine letters detailing his objections to the Church.
* The *Ohio Star* prints a transcription of the covenant of cooperation signed the previous year by Oliver Cowdery and his companions who went to preach to the Lamanites. This becomes useful to historians after the original is lost.

December 19

* Bishop Edward Partridge purchases 63.43 acres in western Missouri from Jones Hoy Floumoy, including the ground previously dedicated for the temple site.

1832

* French explorer Antonio Sebollo falls gravely ill. Before his death he wills his mummies and papyri, including the Book of Abraham, to a certain Michael H. Chandler who claims to be his nephew.

January

* Bishop Edward Partridge has received $2,694.70 and expended $2,677.83. He buys more land and superintends the establishment of a storehouse to receive and distribute the consecrations of the Saints.

January 5

* Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer, with the manuscript for the Book of Commandments, arrive in Independence, Missouri after a long, cold journey.

January 25

* At a conference in Amherst, Ohio, Joseph Smith is ordained as President of the High Priesthood.

March 8

* Joseph Smith selects Jesse Gause and Sidney Rigdon from among the recently ordained high priests to serve as his counselors in the First Presidency.

March 24

* A mob of twenty-five or thirty, under the influence of whiskey, attacks John Johnson's household at night and drags Joseph Smith outside. He is ridiculed, choked, scratched, and stripped, and one of his teeth is chipped when they try to force a vial of acid into his mouth, causing him to speak with a slight whistle thereafter. They then tar and feather him before leaving. When he makes his way back to the house, Emma mistakes the tar for blood and faints at the sight. Friends spend all night cleaning him off.
* Joseph and Emma's adopted infant son, Joseph, who is already sick with measles, catches a cold from the mob having left the door open.
* The mob also drags Sidney Rigdon from his home by his heels. His head is severely lacerated by the rough, frozen ground, and he is delirious for several days.

March 25

* Joseph Smith preaches his planned Sunday sermon despite the ordeal of the previous night, with some of the mob members in attendance. Three people are baptized.

March 29

* Joseph and Emma's adopted son, Joseph, dies of the cold he contracted when the mob left the door open five days previous.

April 26

* A general council sustains Joseph Smith as President of the High Priesthood.

Early May

* Joseph Smith, Sydney Rigdon, and Newel K. Whitney leave for home by stagecoach. Near Greenville, Indiana, the horses are frightened and break and run. Joseph and Sidney leap from the stagecoach unhurt, but Bishop Whitney catches his coat and foot in one of the wheels and breaks his leg in several places. Joseph stays with him in Greenville while Sidney travels on to Kirtland with the news.

May 29

* A conference is held in the newly completed printing office in Independence, Missouri, for the purpose of dedicating it. Oliver Cowdery and William W. Phelps give remarks, and then Bishop Edward Partridge offers the dedicatory prayer.

June

* The first issue of the *Evening and Morning Star*, the first monthly LDS newspaper, is issued in Independence, Missouri by William W. Phelps. Over the next year it publishes revelations given to Joseph Smith that are later included in the Doctrine and Covenants, and urges members to faithfulness in performing religious and family duties. Because it is the only newspaper in the county and prints both national and international news, it is read by non-Mormons as well.

Early June

* Joseph Smith and Bishop Newel K. Whitney return to Kirtland, Ohio.

Fall

* Joseph and Emma Smith begin living in Newel K. Whitney's store in Kirtland, Ohio.
* A school known as the Colesville School is established in Kaw township, Missouri, with Parley P. Pratt as the first teacher.

September – November

* Joseph Smith writes the first extant account of his First Vision. This account only mentions the appearance of Jesus Christ because it is patterned after the apostle Paul's vision in the book of Acts, but the introductory paragraph does refer to the words spoken by God the Father.

November 6

* Joseph Smith III is born to Joseph and Emma Smith in Newel K. Whitney's store in Kirtland, Ohio. He is their fourth child and their first to survive.
* Joseph Smith and Newel K. Whitney return home to Kirtland.

December 25

* As the brethren are reflecting on slavery upon the American continent and throughout the world, Joseph Smith receives a revelation of a war between the Northern and Southern states that will begin with the rebellion of South Carolina and lead to the death and misery of many souls. The Southern States will call upon other nations such as Great Britain for assistance, and slaves will rise up against their masters, and war and natural disasters will eventually be poured out all over the earth. This prophecy becomes Section 87 of the Doctrine and Covenants and begins its fulfillment twenty-eight and a half years later.

December 27

* The Kirtland Temple is announced, although it is referred to as “the Lord's house” because the term “temple” is not yet in use.

1833

* Joseph Smith secretly marries Fanny Alger, a sixteen-year-old girl who has been living in the Smith home. She is believed to be his first plural wife.

January 24

* The School of the Prophets commences in Newel K. Whitney's store.

February 27

* Prompted by Emma's disgust with the mess left by brethren using tobacco in the School of the Prophets, Joseph Smith inquires of the Lord on the matter. He receives the Word of Wisdom, which promises physical blessings and spiritual in exchange for abstaining from certain substances and eating properly, especially in light of evil designs in the hearts of conspiring men. However, for several decades it is only a guideline, not a commandment, and the wording reflects this. It later becomes Section 89 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

March 8

* Joseph Smith is told by the Lord that the keys of the kingdom are committed to him and through him to the Church, and commanded to assign Sidney Rigdon and Frederick G. Williams as his counselors in the First Presidency. Frederick replaces Jesse Gause, who left the Church. The gospel is commanded to be preached to the Gentiles and then the Jews, and various individuals are counseled to walk uprightly and serve in the Lord's kingdom. This later becomes Section 90 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

March 9

* Engaged in his inspired revision of the Old Testament, Joseph Smith comes to the Apocrypha and inquires of the Lord whether it should also be translated. The Lord tells him that the Apocrypha is mostly translated correctly but has many untrue interpolations by the hands of men, and that it does not need to be revised because readers who are enlightened by the Spirit will be able to benefit from it already. This later becomes Section 91 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

March 15

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation directing Frederick G. Williams to be admitted into the United Order. This later becomes Section 92 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

March 18

* Sidney Rigdon and Frederick G. Williams are ordained as Joseph Smith's counselors in the First Presidency.

Spring

* The Missouri River floods, destroying the landing at Independence and shifting the channel of the river away from the community. A new town called Westport is established farther upstream, and business in Independence declines. Entrepreneurs in Independence blame the Mormons for this situation.

April

* The School of the Prophets ends.

Summer

* A school for elders is organized in Zion, modeled after the School of the Prophets in Kirtland. Parley P. Pratt is called to teach a class of about sixty elders who meet in shady groves. He testifies that the Lord gives him wisdom and enables him to edify them.

June 6

* Construction begins on the Kirtland Temple, with Hyrum Smith and Reynolds Cahoon starting to dig a trench for the foundation.

June 25

* Joseph Smith reveals his plan for the City of Zion. It is one mile square and divided into half-acre lots for fifteen to twenty thousand people, and features a complex of twenty-four temples in the center of a city with wide streets crossing at right angles. Lands to the north and south are to be used for barns, stables, and farms, with farmers living in the city itself to enjoy its cultural, social, and educational advantages. Whether Joseph receives this plan by revelation or creates it with his own initiative is unknown, but later temples support too many patrons to justify so many in one city. Many of its basic ideas are implemented in later settlements.

July

* The Mormon population in Jackson County, Missouri, has reached almost twelve hundred with more arriving each month. In addition to disdaining their beliefs, the original settlers also fear that they will wrest away political control, take over lands and businesses, and join forces with the Native Americans.
* The *Evening and Morning Star* runs an article called “Free People of Color” cautioning the missionaries about proselyting among slaves and former slaves. It is misinterpreted by local non-members to be an invitation for free blacks to join the Mormons in Jackson County, which panics and outrages them.

July 2

* Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon optimistically pronounce their translation of the Bible to be finished. It later becomes known as the Joseph Smith Translation or Inspired Version of the Bible.

July 16

* William W. Phelps publishes an “Extra” from the *Evening and Morning Star* trying to clarify the misunderstanding of the article “Free People of Color”, but it is too late.

July 20

* Four or five hundred disgruntled citizens, including prominent men such as Missouri lieutenant governor Lilburn W. Boggs, meet at the Independence courthouse and draft a document outlining their demands of the Mormons. They decide that no new Mormons will be allowed to settle and that all those currently settled must leave as soon as possible. A committee of twelve presents these demands to the Saints, gives them fifteen minutes to make a decision, and returns to the courthouse.
* The meeting degenerates into a mob which attacks the William W. Phelps' printing office and residence, stopping the publication of the *Evening and Morning Star* after fourteen issues and destroying most of the unbound sheets of the Book of Commandments. The also intend to destroy the goods of the Gilbert and Whitney Store, but are dissuaded when Sidney Gilbert promises to pack the goods in three days.
* Two young sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Caroline Rollins, grab as many of the sheets of the Book of Commandments as they can carry and run away. Pursued by the mob, they escapt through a gap in a wooden fence and hide in a cornfield until the men give up. They then bring the sheets to Sister Phelps and her family, who are hidden in a stable.
* Bishop Edward Partridge and Charles Allen are taken to the public square and commanded to renounce the Book of Mormon or leave the country. They refuse to do either, so the mob tars and feathers them. They bear the indignity with so much resignation and meekness that the crowd, which has been shouting vile oaths, disperses in silence.

July 23

* The cornerstones for the Kirtland Temple are laid after the order of the Holy Priesthood.
* The mob attacks again, this time with rifles, pistols, whips, and clubs. They set fire to haystacks and grain fields and destroy several homes, barns, and businesses as they search for leaders of the Church. Six leaders – Edward Partridge, Isaac Morley, John Corrill, John Whitmer, William W. Phelps, and Sidney Gilbert – offer their lives as a ransom for the Saints' safety, but the offer is rejected. Under duress the leaders sign an agreement to leave Jackson County by January 1 and the other members to leave by April 1.

August

* The Western Monitor in Fayette, Missouri, runs a series of articles censuring the mob action in Jackson County and suggesting that the Saints seek redress from the state authorities for what they have suffered.

August 21

* A council in Kirtland sends Elders Orson Hyde and John Gould to Jackson County to instruct the Saints not to dispose of their lands or property or move from the county unless they have specifically signed the agreement to do so.

September 28

* Orson Hyde and John Gould arrive in Jackson County with their message for the members to remain where they are and hold on to their property.

Early October

* William W. Phelps and Orson Hyde visit Governor Daniel Dunklin in Jefferson City, Missouri, and present their petition. They ask him to raise troops to defend tehm, give them permission to sue for damaged and lost property, and bring the mob element to justice.
* After consulting with the attorney general for a few days, Governor Dunklin concludes that force is unnecessary to carry out the laws, and advises the church representatives to seek redress and protection by petitioning the circuit judge and justices of the peace in Jackson County. Though this process proves ineffective, some lawyers including Alexander Doniphan become friends of the Saints.

October 14

* Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon begin a mission to Upper Canada at the request of a recent convert named Freeman Nickerson, who convinces them that his sons who live there will be receptive to the gospel. In Mount Pleasant they baptize twelve people, including his sons and their families.

October 20

* Church officials in Jackson County announce their intent to cease the policy of passive resistance and instead to defend themselves from any physical attack. A delegation to Clay County has already purchased powder and lead. When the old settlers see this, they spread rumors about the Mormons intending to take over Jackson County by force.

October 31

* A mob of about fifty horsemen attacks the Whitmer settlement on the Big Blue River, west of Independence, unroofing thirteen houses and nearly whipping to death several men, including Hiram Page. These depredations continue for two nights in Independence, Blue township, Kaw township, and again in the Whitmer settlement. Church leaders are unable to obtain a warrant against the raiders, so they post guards at each of their settlements.

November 4

* Several Missourians capture a Mormon ferry on the Big Blue River and soon thirty or forty armed men from each side confront each other in the corn fields. The mob fires first, wounding Philo Dibble until he is healed by a priesthood blessing from Newel Knight and mortally wounding Andrew Barber. The Mormons return fire and kill two Missourians and a few horses.
* Several church leaders are arrested in Independence. As they are undergoing trial in the courthouse, the town receives altered news of the battle claiming that the Mormons entered a citizen's house and shot his son. The enraged crowd threatens to kill the prisoners but they are taken to the jail for safety.
* Throughout the night citizens of Independence collect arms and ammunition in preparation for a general massacre of the Saints the next day. Hearing of this, the jailed church leaders inform the sheriff that they intend to leave the county and urge all other members to do the same.

November 25

* Orson Hyde and John Gould return to Kirtland with the news of what is happening in Missouri. Joseph Smith is deeply distressed. He writes that Zion is undergoing purification until it receives a celestial crown, but for how long, the Lord will not tell him.

December 18

* While giving blessings to his family, Joseph Smith is inspired to call and ordain his father, Joseph Smith Sr., as the first Patriarch to the Church. Joseph Smith Sr. then travels among the branches, holding special meetings where he gives many faithful Saints their patriarchal blessings, which provide them personal guidance and revelation for their lives and identify their lineages in the house of Israel.

1834

January 1

* It is decided to send Lyman Wight and Parley P. Pratt to Kirtland to counsel with Joseph Smith and arrange for relief for the Missouri Saints. Lacking the means to make the trip, they are outfitted with the aid of other members and proceed by horseback as quickly as possible, but are delayed along the way by inclement weather.

February 17

* The first stake is organized in Kirtland, with the three members of the First Presidency also serving as the stake presidency.

February 22

* Parley P. Pratt and Lyman Wight arrive in Kirtland from Missouri.

February 24

* The high council in Kirtland assembles in Joseph Smith's home to hear the report of Elders Pratt and Wight and to consider the request for help. At the conclusion Joseph Smith announces that he is going to Zion to help redeem it. A unanimous vote of the high council sustains his decision. He then asks for volunteers and thirty to forty of the men present step forward, selecting him to be commander-in-chief of the armies of Israel.

April 5

* Joseph Smith and John Johnson apply for and receive a tavern license.

April 19

* Philadelphia’s *Saturday Courier*, citing a now lost article from the *Independent Messenger*, carries a story about Joseph Smith attempting to prove his prophetic calling by walking on water, while hiding wooden planks beneath the surface. The story is recognized even by some of the Church’s antagonists as a fake with no source.

April 21

* Hyrum Smith and Lyman Wight go northwest from Kirtland to seek out more recruits, visiting branches in northern Ohio, Michigan and Illinois and recruiting more than twenty volunteers, more than half of them from Pontiac, Michigan. They lead those who join them to meet Joseph's company at the Salt River in eastern Missouri.

May

* The federal government denies the Saints' petition to restore their homes and possessions and give them military protection against the mobbers, arguing that because the offenses listed are violations of state law they have no authority to intervene.

May 1

* It is the day appointed for Zion's Camp to begin its one-thousand-mile march, but only twenty people are ready to go. Joseph Smith sends them fifty miles south to New Portage where they wait for the others to join them.

May 4

* Over eighty volunteers are assembled in Kirtland for Zion's Camp, nearly all of them young men. Joseph Smith promises them that if they are humble, faithful and patient and keep the commandments, they will all safely return from the journey.

May 6

* The eighty men in Kirtland join the twenty brethren waiting in New Portage, and the camp is divided into companies of tens and fifties, each with an elected captain, according to the ancient order of Israel. The men consolidate their money into a general fund which is managed by Frederick G. Williams, second counselor in the First Presidency.

May 8

* Zion's Camp resumes its long march west, being strengthened along the way with additional volunteers, arms, supplies, and money from Latter-day Saints living in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

May 17

* When called upon to settle a dispute among some of the brethren, Joseph Smith tells Sylvester Smith and other rebellious members of Zion's Camp that unless they humble themselves before the Lord and become united, they will meet with misfortunes, difficulties and hindrances, and they will know it before they leave this place.

May 18

* Nearly every horse in Zion's Camp is sick or lame. Joseph Smith promises that if the men humble themselves and get along their animals will immediately be restored to health. By noon the horses have recovered, except for Sylvester Smith's, which soon dies.

June 3

* Zion's Camp crosses the Illinois River at Phillips Ferry. The ferryman miraculously thinks there are five hundred men in the company.
* Joseph Smith and some others find a Native American mound with the remains of three altars atop it, and upon digging into it discover a human skeleton with an arrow between its ribs. Joseph inquires of the Lord and learns in an open vision that it belonged to a noble white Lamanite prophet-warrior named Zelph who was killed in the last great battle between the Lamanites and Nephites. Zelph's connection with the figures in the Book of Mormon is unknown.
* Joseph Smith stands on a wagon wheel and scolds the men for their faultfinding and lack of humility, telling them that a scourge will come upon them for their fractious and unruly spirits. If they repent and humble themselves they will not die, but will still have to suffer.

June 8

* Joseph Smith and Zion's Camp arrive at the Salt River in Missouri, now numbering 207 men, eleven women, eleven children, and twenty-five baggage wagons.

June 16

* At a courthouse in Liberty, Missouri, Judge John J. Ryland heads a meeting between citizens from Jackson County and Saints from Clay County in an effort to resolve their dispute. The non-Mormons propose that one side or the other purchase within thirty days all property in Jackson County owned by the other side at prices determined by three disinterested arbiters, knowing full well that the Saints have insufficient funds and cannot sell the land they have been commanded to settle. Tempers flare.

June 18

* Zion's Camp arrives within a mile of Richmond, the county seat of Ray County. Joseph Smith has a premonition of danger but after praying in the woods for safety is assured that the Lord will protect them.

June 19

* While camping just inside Clay County on a hill between two branches of the Fishing River, Zion's Camp learns that nearly four hundred men from Ray, Lafayette, Clay, and Jackson counties are gathered to cross the Missouri River at Williams Ferry and destroy them. Some of the Saints want to fight but Joseph Smith tells them to stay still and see the salvation of God. A few minutes later an intense storm fills the sky, ruining the mobbers' ammunition, scattering their horses, and raising the level of the river so they cannot cross.

June 21

* Colonel John Sconce and two associates of the Ray County militia ride into Zion's Camp to learn of the Mormons' intentions. Colonel Sconce admits that an Almighty power must be protecting them and, after hearing of their unjust suffering, promises to use his influence to offset feelings against them.
* Two men in Zion's Camp contract cholera.

June 24

* Several more in Zion's Camp are struck with cholera. In total, about sixty-eight people including Joseph Smith are eventually stricken by the disease, and fourteen die.

June 25

* Joseph Smith divides the disease-stricken Zion's Camp into several small groups to demonstrate their peaceful intentions to the Missourians.

July 2

* Joseph Smith tells Zion's Camp that if they will humble themselves before the Lord and promise to keep his commandments and obey the Prophet's counsel, the plague of cholera will be stayed immediately. The brethren covenant to do so with uplifted hands, and it is.

July 3

* Formal written discharges are prepared for each faithful member of Zion's Camp, and they disperse. Although they have not accomplished their objective, they have demonstrated their faith, obedience, and willingness to help fellow Saints, making a sacrifice similar to that of Abraham in the Bible.
* A presidency and the Church's second high council are organized in Clay County, Missouri to help Bishop Edward Partridge administer the Church's affairs in that area. Joseph Smith discourages the Saints there from holding church meetings, however, in an attempt to allay the fears of local citizens.

Early August

* Joseph Smith and a few other leaders of Zion's Camp return to Kirtland, to the relief of the Saints there who were worried about reports that he had been killed in Missouri. Work on the Kirtland Temple beings progressing more rapidly.

Fall

* Wilford Woodruff is ordained a priest and sent on a mission to Arkansas and Tennessee.

September

* The First Presidency is appointed to select the revelations to be published in an expanded compilation, and Joseph Smith revises some of them to correct printing errors and add information revealed since last year.

December 5

* Joseph Smith ordains Oliver Cowdery as the Assistant President of the Church. Oliver had been with him when the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods were restored, and must stand with him now according to the divine law of witnesses.

?

* Eber D. Howe publishes *Mormonism Unvailed* [sic]*: Or, a Faithful Colloquy of that Singular Delusion*. It includes the Hurlbut affidavits and the letters from apostate Ezra Booth, and presents the theory that the Book of Mormon was largely based on a manuscript by author Solomon Spalding. Despite a complete lack of evidence this theory is frequently recycled over the next two centuries.

1835

* The Quorum of the Twelve organizes the Church's branches into districts known as conferences.
* The hymnbook compiled by Emma Smith is published. It includes the words for ninety hymns, thirty-four that were written by church members and the rest drawn from popular contemporary hymnals. The Saints sing the hymns to popular tunes of the time, and frequently use different melodies for the same hymns.
* Latter-day Saint Jacob Haun, hoping to avoid the persecutions of his fellow Saints, establishes a small settlement known as Haun's Mill in northern Ray County, Missouri. It grows to include a mill, a blacksmith shop, a few houses, and a population of about twenty to thirty families at the mill itself and one hundred families in the greater neighborhood.

February 14

* Joseph Smith calls a special conference for the veterans of Zion's Camp and others, and says that the trials of the journey were not designed for nothing and that some of those who went are to be selected as Apostles. The meeting then adjourns for an hour.
* As the meeting reconvenes, the Three Witnesses pray and are blessed by the First Presidency. The witnesses then select the Twelve Apostles – Thomas B. Marsh, David W. Patten, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, William E. McLellin, Parley P. Pratt, Luke S. Johnson, William B. Smith, Orson Pratt, John F. Boynton, and Lyman E. Johnson. Because they are called at the same time, their seniority is decided by age, although David W. Patten does not know his age and is mistakenly thought to be younger than Thomas B. Marsh.
* Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Lyman E. Johnson are ordained Apostles.

February 15

* David W. Patten, Orson Hyde, William E. McLellin, Luke S. Johnson, William Smith, and John F. Boynton are ordained Apostles.

February 21

* Parley P. Pratt is ordained an Apostle.

February 28

* The First Quorum of the Seventy is organized from veterans of Zion's Camp. In accordance with a vision of church organization given to Joseph Smith, they are presided over by seven presidents – Joseph Young, Hazen Aldrich, Levi Hancock, Leonard Rich, Zebedee Coltrin, Lyman Sherman, and Sylvester Smith.

April 26

* Thomas B. Marsh and Orson Pratt are ordained Apostles.

May

* The Twelve Apostles begin a five-month mission to New York, New England, and eastern Canada. Besides doing missionary work and regulating and strengthening local congregations, they gather funds for temple construction, purchase of lands in Zion, and the Church's printing endeavors.

July 3

* Michael Chandler brings four of his Egyptian mummies with the papyri to Kirtland and asks Joseph Smith to translate them. Joseph translates a few of the characters to his satisfaction, and he provides a signed testimonial that they correspond in the most minute details with the probable meanings determined by scholars. The Saints purchase the mummies and papyri for twenty-four hundred dollars and Joseph works on the rest of the translation over at least the next seven months. He discovers that they contain the writings of Abraham and of Joseph who was sold into Egypt.

August 17

* At a solemn assembly, select revelations from Joseph Smith are unanimously accepted as scripture to be printed in the Doctrine and Covenants. The book's title refers to its two major divisions; the first part contains the seven *Lectures on Faith* from the School of the Elders, while the second includes one hundred and two sections of revelations, thirty-seven more than the *Book of Commandments*. The volume's preface points out the differences.

November

* Exterior plastering of the Kirtland Temple commences. Under the direction of master builder Artemus Millet, crushed china and glassware are mixed with the plaster to make the walls glisten.

November 9

* Joseph Smith is visited by a man named Robert Matthias who calls himself Joshua the Jewish minister, and tells him the story of the First Vision. A journal entry records a summary of what he says to the minister, and this becomes the second extant account from his own hand.

1836

January

* A seven-week Hebrew course begins under the direction of a young Hebbrew instructor, Joshua Seixas. Interest is greater than expected, so two additional classes are organized. A nonmember named Lorenzo Snow is among the attendees.

February

* The interior of the Kirtland Temple is completed under the direction of Brigham Young. Curtains and carpets are made by the sisters.

March 3

* Elijah Abel, a black man, is ordained an elder in Kirtland, Ohio by Joseph Smith or Zebedee Coltrin; most likely Joseph Smith.

March 27

* President Sidney Rigdon speaks for two and a half hours in the Kirtland Temple, declaring that it is unique among all the buildings of the world because it has been built by divine revelation. There is a brief intermission and then the officers of the Church are sustained.
* The Kirtland Temple is dedicated by Joseph Smith, giving a prayer that becomes Section 109 of the Doctrine and Covenants and a pattern for future dedicatory prayers.
* The choir sings “The Spirit of God”, a new hymn that has been written especially for the occasion by William W. Phelps. The sacrament is administered to the congregation and the Hosanna Shout is rendered.
* That evening, over four hundred priesthood bearers meet in the Kirtland Temple. While George A. Smith is speaking, a noise is heard like rushing wind and all the congregation simultaneously arises. Many members see angels and speak in tongues, and others in the neighborhood see a bright light like a pillar of fire resting upon the temple. It is compared to the day of Pentecost.

March 31

* The Kirtland Temple's dedicatory service is held a second time for the benefit of the many members who could not fit in the temple the first time.

Spring

* Bishop Edward Partridge and William W. Phelps go on two exploring expeditions in northern Missouri, a region commonly referred to as the “Far West”, hoping to find potential sites for the displaced Mormons in Clay County. They find an uninhabited area in northern Ray County along Shoal Creek, though they fear there is not enough timber available to support a large population.

April

* Joshua Seixas's Hebrew course in Kirtland ends.
* Before leaving on a mission to Toronto, Ontario, Elder Parley P. Pratt is blessed by Elder Heber C. Kimball that he will find a people prepared for the fulness of the gospel, and that it will spread into the regions round about and into England, and cause a great work to be done in that land.

April 3

* On Easter Sunday, during the Jewish Passover, the Lord appears to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple, accepting His house. Priesthood keys are then restored through three ancient prophets: Moses, the keys to the gathering of Israel; Elias, the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham; and Elijah, the sealing keys which allow priesthood ordinances for both the living and the dead. For centuries Jewish families have left an empty chair at their Passover feasts in anticipation of Elijah's return. This experience later becomes Section 110 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

May 3

* Bishop Edward Partridge and William W. Phelps begin purchasing land in the area of Shoal Creek, Missouri.

May 9

* John Taylor, future third President of the Church, is baptized along with his wife Leonora.

June 19

* Lorenzo Snow, future fifth president of the Church, is baptized.

June 20

* Frederick Granger Williams Smith is born to Joseph and Emma Smith.

June 29

* A mass meeting is held in the Clay County courthouse in Liberty to discuss objections to the displaced Mormons staying in the area. Some are concerned that the crisis will erupt into a civil war. They object to the Saints because they are poor, their religion stirs up prejudice, their customs and dialect are alien, they oppose slavery, and they believe the Native Americans are God's chosen people destined to inherit the land with them. Citizens suggest that the Mormons move to Wisconsin in the slave-free North where there are many areas suitable for settlement.

July

* William Burgess arrives in Kirtland and tells Joseph Smith that he knows where a large sum of money is hidden in the cellar of a house in Salem, Massachusetts. He claims to be the only person living who knows about the money or the location of the house.

July 1

* In a public meeting, church leaders in Clay County draft a reply to the citizens' suggestion that they move to Wisconsin. They express their gratitude for the citizens' kindness and their desire for a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and pledge to lead the Saints out of the county and halt the tide of immigration.

July 2

* Clay County leaders accept the Church's reply and begin forming committees to help the Saints in their move.

July 7

* Church leaders in Missouri inform Governor Daniel Dunklin of their intention to move to the sixteen hundred acres they have purchased in northern Ray County and request his assistance in breaking up potential mobs.

July 18

* Governor Daniel Dunklin replies to the church leaders, saying that while he sympathizes with the plight of the Saints, public sentiment may become paramount law and if the Saints are so obnoxious to that sentiment that the people are determined to be rid of them, it is useless to run counter to that.

July 25

* The stake presidency and high council in Clay County meet in an emergency session. They advise the scattered Mormon immigrants to scatter among the people in the settlements and find temporary lodgings and work.

Late July

* Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Oliver Cowdery leave Kirtland for New York City, where they spend four days consulting with creditors about their debts. Oliver also inquires about printing notes for a prospective Church-sponsored bank. From here they sail to Boston and travel by rail to Salem to meet William Burgess and find out more about the hidden money. After searching in vain, he tells them that Salem has changed too much since his last visit and that he cannot find it.

Early August

* William W. Phelps and John Whitmer locate a site for a city in northern Ray County, which they designate Far West. It is twelve miles west of Haun's Mill.

November

* Orson Hyde travels to Columbus, Ohio with a petition to the legislature requesting that they approve the proposal to incorporate a Church-sponsored bank. They refuse to grant a charter because the legislature has been taken over by Democrats who oppose an expansion of banks in Ohio.
* Oliver Cowdery travels to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to purchase plates for printing currency.

December

* Missouri state legislator Alexander W. Doniphan introduces a bill to create two small counties out of the sparsely settled regions of northern Ray County, named Daviess and Caldwell after two famous Native American fighters from his native Kentucky. Caldwell County will be exclusively for the Mormons and will keep them separate from their antagonists.

December 20

* Elijah Abel, a black man, is ordained to the Third Quorum of the Seventy by Zebedee Coltrin.

December 29

* Newly elected Missouri governor Lilburn W. Boggs signs the bill creating Daviess and Caldwell Counties in the north of the state.

1837

* Decades later, Oliver B. Huntington claims that in this year Joseph Smith Sr. gives him a patriarchal blessing telling him he will preach the gospel to inhabitants of the moon before the age of twenty-one. This claim is never substantiated by any other source.

January 2

* The Kirtland Safety Society Anti-Banking Company opens for business with Joseph Smith as treasurer and Sidney Rigdon as secretary. Though they have been denied a bank charter, other unchartered or unauthorized banks are operating in Ohio and so they assume it is legal to organize a private company that engages in banking activities.

February

* Several elders who consider Joseph Smith to be a fallen prophet hold a meeting in the Kirtland Temple, intending to appoint David Whitmer as their new leader. Faithful members including Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball are also in attendance. After listening to the arguments against Joseph, Brigham stands and testifies that Joseph is a prophet and that if they fight against him they will only destroy their own authority and sink themselves to hell.

February 19

* Joseph Smith speaks for several hours in the Kirtland Temple with the power of God, silencing the complainers and strengthening the Saints' support of him.

Spring

* The Panic of 1837 spreads west from New York into other parts of the United States and compounds the Saints' economic problems.

May

* There is a general suspension of payment in specie by all banks in Ohio.

June 4

* Joseph Smith approaches Elder Heber C. Kimball in the Kirtland Temple and tells him that God wants him to proclaim the gospel in England. He is overwhelmed but agrees to it. Orson Hyde is selected as his companion, and five others are set apart to assist them – Willard Richards, Joseph Fielding, John Goodson, Isaac Russell, and John Snider.

July 3

* Ground is broken for the Far West Temple. More than 500 men complete the entire foundation excavation, 80 by 120 feet, in half a day.

July 23

* The missionaries preach before three overflow crowds in the Vauxhall Chapel in Preston, England, the church of Joseph Fielding's brother James. As soon as several parishioners request baptism, Reverend Fielding denies them the use of his chapel any longer, so they begin preaching in private homes and on street corners instead.

July 30

* In an attempt to prevent the first baptisms in England from being performed, Satan and other evil spirits attack the missionaries in their home.
* Baptisms are held in the River Ribble in England. George D. Watt wins a foot race to the river, gaining the honor of being the first to be baptized in that country.

August

* Warren Parrish and Apostle John Boynton lead a group armed with pistols and bowie knives in an attempted takeover of the Kirtland Temple. In a panic, several people jump out of the temple windows. The police manage to quell the disturbance and eject the men, and when Joseph Smith returns they are disfellowshipped. Those who show sincere contrition are reinstated.

September 17

* A conference in Kirtland resolves to send Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon to Missouri to seek other locations for stakes of Zion so that the poor may have a place of refuge.

September 18

* Bishop Newel K. Whitney sends a letter to branches of the Church scattered throughout the United States asking them to send tithing in gold and silver for the relief of Kirtland and the building of Zion in Missouri.

Early November

* Joseph Smith and several others arrive in Far West and spend approximately ten days holding meetings. It is determined that there are resources and space in northern Missouri for the gathering of the Saints, and a committee is chosen to locate sites for new stakes. Joseph decides to postpone the building of a temple in Far West until he receives further direction from the Lord, but the size of the city is increased from one square mile to two.

November

* The Kirtland Safety Society is forced to close its doors, and the two hundred individuals who invested in it lose nearly everything they have. Joseph Smith's losses are the worst, as he has accumulated debts of approximately one hundred thousand dollars and is unable to immediately transform his assets into a form that he can pay his creditors with. Many Saints believe he is responsible for all of their problems.

November 7

* At a council of elders in Far West, Frederick G. Williams is rejected as second counselor in the First Presidency due to apostasy, and Hyrum Smith is sustained in his place.

1838

* A Methodist minister named LaRoy Sunderland attempts to discredit Mormonism by pointing out alleged grammatical errors, plagiarisms and anachronisms.
* Elder Parley P. Pratt publishes *Mormonism Unveiled: Zion's Watchman Unmasked, and its Editor, Mr. L.R. Sunderland, Exposed: Truth Vindicated: The Devil Mad, and Priestcraft in Danger!* It is a rude yet intelligent rebuttal to LaRoy Sunderland's critique of Mormonism in his newspaper *Zion's Watchman*. However, based on a misreading of the Book of Mormon, he falsely prophesies that the unbelieving Gentiles will be scourged and overthrown within five or ten years, and that Mr. Sunderland will be struck dumb and destroyed if he does not repent.
* Joseph Smith secretly marries Lucinda Morgan Harris, who is already married to George W. Harris.

January 12

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation explaining that only the First Presidency can form a stake, and realizes that the creation of the Far West Stake was therefore invalid. This is not included in the Doctrine and Covenants.
* Luke Johnson warns Joseph Smith of an assassination plot, and he flees with Sidney Rigdon to Missouri on horseback. Their enemies follow them for two hundred miles, even stopping at the same inn for the night and staying in an adjoining room. Emma Smith, who is six months pregnant, and her children join Joseph en route.

Early February

* The high council tries John Whitmer and William W. Phelps for misusing church funds and David Whitmer for willfully breaking the Word of Wisdom. Despite some feeling that the high council is not authorized to try the presidency, a majority votes to reject them, and a resolution to this effect is sent to the branches and accepted by the Saints. When the presidency claims that the trial is illegal and that they were not present to defend themselves, the high council is convinced they are endeavoring to palm themselves off as presidents after they have been removed.

February 10

* The high council, with the assistance of two Apostles, excommunicates William W. Phelps and John Whitmer and sustains Thomas B. Marsh and David W. Patten as acting presidents until the expected arrival of Joseph Smith. Additional action against David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery, and Lyman Johnson is also postponed pending his arrival.

March

* Joseph and Emma Smith arrive in Missouri with their children. Sidney Rigdon arrives a few days later, having separated from them at Dublin, Indiana.

April

* With the assistance of Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith begins the project of writing the Church's history from its beginning, because the history written by former church historian John Whitmer is incomplete and now unavailable in any case. This new history includes the third extant firsthand account of Joseph's First Vision, which is later canonized as part of the Pearl of Great Price. Written from the perspective of eighteen years of hindsight and eight years of the Church's existence, it focuses on different details than other accounts and omits others.

April 12

* At his own request, Oliver Cowdery is excommunicated.

April 26

* The Far West Temple is announced although ground was already broken last year.

May 19

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation that Spring Hill in Missouri is the location of Adam-ondi-Ahman, which according to Orson Pratt means “Valley of God, where Adam dwelt” in the original Adamic language, because it is the place where Adam shall sit as spoken of by Daniel the prophet. It becomes Section 116 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

June 2

* Alexander Hale Smith is born to Joseph and Emma Smith in Far West, Missouri.

June 11

* Joseph Smith officially gives Spring Hill, Missouri the name of Adam-ondi-Ahman.

June 19

* Sidney Rigdon bursts forth in a heated oration commonly referred to as the “Salt Sermon”, drawn from the text of the book of Matthew that refers to salt losing its savor and needing to be cast out. The implication is that dissenters should be cast out from among the Saints.
* Soon afterward an unauthorized document appears, addressed to Oliver Cowdery, David and John Whitmer, William W. Phelps, and Lyman E. Johnson, signed by eighty-four church members and pointedly ordering them to leave Caldwell County or face serious consequences. The dissenters flee in haste and are soon followed by their families. This alarms people both within and without the Church.

July

* Three separate meetings are held by the non-Mormon citizens of DeWitt, Carroll County, Missouri, on the subject of expelling the Mormons, whom they fear will soon outnumber them and wrest political control.

July 4

* The Far West Temple site is dedicated by Elder Brigham Young and the cornerstones are laid in the following order: southeast by the stake presidency, southwest by the elders quorum presidency, northwest by the bishop, and northeast by the teachers quorum presidency.
* At the dedication, Sidney Rigdon gives an impassioned oration declaring that the Saints will no longer tolerate persecution and that they will respond with violence even to the point of extermination. This is often confused with his “Salt Sermon” of the previous month. Non-Mormon spectators are disturbed and frightened, increasing tension between them and the Saints, especially when copies are imprudently published and circulated.

July 6

* A mile-long wagon train of over five hundred Kirtland Saints, known as the Kirtland Camp, embarks on the arduous three-month journey to join Joseph Smith and the others in northern Missouri. They have twenty-seven tents, fifty-nine wagons, ninety-seven horses, twenty-two oxen, sixty-nine cows, and one bull.

August 6

* William Peniston, running for Missouri state legislator against Mormon favorite John A. Williams, incites the election day crowd against the Mormons with an inflammatory speech labeling them as horse thieves, liars, and counterfeiters. Dick Welding punches one of the Mormons and knocks him down, and a brawl ensues that seriously injures several persons on both sides. Although few Mormons vote, Peniston still loses the election.

August 7

* Distorted reports of the election day brawl reach church leaders in Far West, saying that two or three of the brethren have been killed.

August 8

* The First Presidency and about twenty others leave for Daviess County. They arm themselves for protection and are joined en route by members from Daviess, some of whom have been attacked by the election day mob. They arrive at Adam-ondi-Ahman and are relieved to learn that none of the Saints have been killed after all.
* Joseph Smith and the others visit several of the old settlers in the vicinity to calm fears and determine political conditions. They ask Adam Black, justice of the peace and newly-elected Daviess County judge who has participated in the anti-Mormon activities, if he will administer the law justly and sign an agreement of peace. Black signs an affidavit that he will disassociate himself from the mob, and the Brethren return to Adam-ondi-Ahman.

August 9

* A council of prominent Mormons and non-Mormons enter into a covenant of peace to preserve each other's rights and deliver up all wrongdoers to be dealt with according to law and justice.

August 10

* William Peniston swears out an affidavit in Richmond, Ray County, stating that Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight have organized an army of five hundred men and threatened death to all the old settlers and citizens of Daviess County. Joseph waits in Far West waiting for further developments but, at the recommendation of Major General David Atchison and Brigadier General Alexander Doniphan, is willing to submit to arrest if he can be tried in Daviess County.

September

* The Kirtland Camp arrives at the Mississippi River and is informed that a war has erupted in western Missouri between the Saints and non-Mormons, and that they will be attacked and driven from the state if they continue their journey. Several members of the camp refuse to go on, but most of them continue.

September 7

* Joseph Smith and Lyman Wight are put on trial just north of the Daviess County line in the home of a non-Mormon farmer. Wary of possible mob activity, Joseph stations a company of men at the county line to be ready for trouble at a minute's warning. No incriminating evidence is presented against them, but Judge King bows to external pressure, orders them to stand trial before the circuit court, and releases them on five hundred dollars bond.

Early October

* Fighting breaks out between the Mormons and non-Mormons in DeWitt. The non-Mormons try to starve the Mormons with a siege.

October 2

* The Kirtland Camp joins Joseph Smith in Far West, Missouri.

October 4

* The Kirtland Camp arrives at Adam-ondi-Ahman, where they are to settle.

October 9

* Governor Lilburn W. Boggs replies to the Saints' pleas for relief, telling them that the quarrel is between them and the mob and that they should fight it out.

October 11

* Joseph Smith and the rest of the Saints in DeWitt gather up seventy wagons and abandon the city. The mob harasses and threatens them along the way, and several of them die from fatigue and privation.

October 17-18

* Many scattered Mormon families are forced to flee Adam-ondi-Ahman for safety and shelter amid a heavy snowstorm as mobs burn their houses and drive off their livestock.

October 18

* Apostle Thomas B. Marsh swears out an affidavit, which is mostly endorsed by Apostle Orson Hyde, stating that Joseph Smith's prophecies are believed by the Mormons to be superior to the laws of the land, and that he has said he will walk over the dead bodies of his enemies and be a second Mohammed to this generation.

October 25

* While attempting to retake three prisoners of the mobs, a group of seventy-five Mormon men is ambushed at dawn by Captain Samuel Bogart and his men in a skirmish that becomes known as the Battle of Crooked River. They free the prisoners and drive the enemy across the river, but several of them are wounded, including Elder David W. Patten.
* Elder David W. Patten is carried to the home of Stephen Winchester near Far West, where he dies of his wounds and becomes the first martyred Apostle in this dispensation.
* Joseph Smith advises all Saints in outlying areas to move to Far West or Adam-ondi-Ahman. Jacob Haun, at Haun's Mill, disregards this counsel and instructs his small community to remain. They plan to use the blacksmith shop as a fort in case of enemy attack.
* Exaggerated accounts and rumors of the skirmish reach Governor Lilburn W. Boggs, saying for instance that Bogart's entire force has been massacred or that the Mormons intend to sack and burn Richmond.

October 27

* Motivated by the tension stemming from Sidney Rigdon's Independence Day oration, the Battle of Crooked River, and other issues, Missouri Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issues Missouri Executive Order 44, which says that the Latter-day Saints must be treated as enemies and exterminated or driven from the state if necessary for the public peace. Technically it is not repealed for 138 years.

October 28

* Colonel Thomas Jennings of the Livingston County militia sends one of his men to Haun's Mill to conclude a peace treaty, and both sides pledge not to attack each other. The non-Mormons, however, do not disband as promised.

October 29

* A group of Missourians in Livingston County decide to attack Haun's Mill, probably intending to carry out the extermination order.

October 30

* Nine wagons with immigrants from Kirtland arrive at Haun's Mill to rest a few days before traveling to Far West.
* Approximately 240 men attack Haun's Mill, shooting at men, women, and children alike and invading the blacksmith shop that the settlers attempt to use as a fort. At least seventeen people are killed and about fourteen are wounded. The survivors hide throughout the evening and night, fearing another attack.

October 31

* A few able-bodied men bury the dead from the Haun's Mill Massacre in a dry hole that has been dug for a well. Joseph Young Sr. has become so closely attached to young Sardius Smith that he breaks down and cannot lower the boy's body into the grave.
* Over two thousand militiamen, under the temporary command of General Samuel D. Lucas, surround Far West and prepare to fulfill the governor's extermination order. The Far West militia barricades the city with wagons and timber, but the anti-Mormon forces outnumber them five to one. Neither side is eager to begin the battle, and the day is spent in a standoff.
* General Samuel D. Lucas sends a flag of truce which is meant by Colonel George Hinkle, the Saints' leading officer. Hinckle secretly agrees to his demands that certain leaders surrender for trial and punishment, Mormon property be confiscated to pay for damages, and the rest of the Mormons surrender their arms and leave the state. Returning to Far West, Hinkle convinces Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wight, Parley P. Pratt, and George W. Robinson that Lucas wants to talk to them in a peace conference.
* Hinkle turns the church leaders over to General Lucas as prisoners and they are marched into his camp, surrounded by thousands of savage looking men, many of whom are dressed and painted like Native American warriors. These men set up a constant shriek of victory throughout the night that terrifies the citizens of Far West, who fear that Joseph Smith may have already been murdered. Joseph Smith and the others are forced to lie on the ground in a cold rain and listen to a constant tirade of mockery and vulgarity from their guards.

November

* Charles C. Rich flees Missouri to avoid arrest for his involvement in the Battle of Crooked River.

November 1

* Sardius Smith is buried by his mother Amanda and her eldest son.
* Before dawn, General Samuel D. Lucas convenes a secret and illegal court martial of Joseph Smith and the other church leaders, and orders General Alexander Doniphan to execute them the next day. General Doniphan refuses, calling it cold-blooded murder, and vows to hold him responsible before an earthly tribunal if they are put to death. Intimidated by his response, Lucas loses his nerve.
* Word reaches Far West that the enemy intends to arrest the remaining participants of the Battle of Crooked River, so before dawn about twenty brethren sneak out and head northeast toward Iowa territory. Hyrum Smith and Amasa Lyman are arrested and join the other prisoners.
* As Colonel Hinkle marches the Mormon troops out of Far West, the Missouri militia enters the city to search for arms. They vandalize the town, plunder valuable possessions, rape some of the women, and force the leading elders at bayonet point to sign promises to pay their expenses. Many prominent men are arrested and taken to Richmond, while the rest of the Mormons are told to leave the state.

November 2

* The captured church leaders are to be taken to Independence for public display and trial. Thinking they might be executed, they beg to see their families one last time, and are allowed to return to Far West. Joseph Smith finds Emma and his children in tears because they thought he had been shot. He is denied a few private moments with them, but they cling to him until they are thrust from him by the swords of the guards. The other prisoners suffer similarly with their own families.
* Lucy Smith hurries to the wagon where Joseph and Hyrum are kept under guard and is barely able to touch their outstretched hands before it departs. After several hours of grief, she is comforted by the Spirit and the Lord tells her to let her heart be comforted because her children shall not be harmed by their enemies.

November 3

* As the prisoners begin their march, Joseph Smith tells them in a low but hopeful tone to be of good cheer because the Lord has told him that whatever they may suffer during captivity, not one of their lives will be taken.

November 6

* General John B. Clark tells the suffering citizens of Far West that he will not force them out in the depths of winter, and that for this leniency they are indebted to him. He also says they must not imagine for a moment that they will ever see their captured leaders again, for their doom is sealed.

November 13

* Hyrum Smith's son Joseph F. Smith, future sixth President of the Church, is born in Far West, Missouri.

Mid-November

* A thirteen-day trial begins in Richmond, presided over by circuit judge Austin A. King. The first witness, Sampson Avard, accuses Joseph Smith of responsibility for the wrongs of the Danites, and other witnesses are equally bitter. When the prisoners submit a list of defense witnesses, they are systematically jailed or driven from the county. At the end of the trial, Joseph Smith and five others are placed in Liberty Jail in Clay County, while Parley P. Pratt and several others remain in Richmond and most of the others are released.

December 19

* John E. Page and John Taylor are ordained Apostles.

1839

* Elijah Abel becomes a member of the Nauvoo Seventies Quorum.
* The printing press formerly used to print the *Elders' Journal* and then buried during the Missouri siege is recovered and brought to Nauvoo.

January 15

* The *Livingston Register* of Geneseo, New York repeats the *Saturday Courier*’s baseless story about Joseph Smith attempting to walk on water five years earlier.

January 26

* The Committee on Removal is organized by Brigham Young to facilitate the exodus from Missouri by feeding, clothing, and transporting the poor. By formal resolution nearly four hundred Latter-day Saints covenant to place all their available property at its disposal to provide means for removing the poor and destitute until there are none left who need to leave the state. Even Joseph Smith somehow sends one hundred dollars from Liberty Jail to assist the effort.

Mid-February

* A large-scale migration from Missouri begins. Wagons and teams, although not of the best quality, have been acquired, food reserves are in place, and there is a temporary break in the weather. Many of the Saints have sold precious possessions and lands at unreasonably low prices to obtain means to flee the state. Some people with oxen teams make several trips between Caldwell County and the Mississippi River, two hundred miles to the east, to convey friends and relatives out of danger.
* Emma Smith receives the manuscripts of her husband's translation of the King James Bible from Miss Ann Scott. James Mulholland, Joseph's secretary, had given them to her for safekeeping thinking that the mob might not search a woman.
* Emma Smith is helped by a neighbor, Jonathan Holman, to place her four children and meager belongings into a straw-lined wagon pulled by two horses.

Late February

* The Democratic Association of Quincy, in Illinois, convenes three times to consider ways of helping the homeless Mormon exiles. Sidney Rigdon is invited to report on their condition, collections are taken up, and resolutions are passed condemning Missouri's treatment of the Mormons. The association's leaders also try to help the Church gain redress from Missouri.

March 3

* Almost eighty years later, Reverend R.B. Neal releases a document purporting to be published on this date by Oliver Cowdery called “Defence [sic] in a Rehearsal of my Grounds for Separating Myself from the Latter Day Saints”. However, it is in fact a forgery which consists primarily of Cowdery's phrases taken from issues of the Latter Day Saints' Messenger and Advocate and placed in a different context. It also rewords a number of talking points from David Whitmer's “An Address to All Believers in Christ”.

March 17

* Apostle Thomas B. Marsh is excommunicated for apostasy, while Orson Hyde is relieved of his duties in the Quorum of the Twelve.

March 21

* Joseph Smith writes to Emma from Liberty Jail asking if John Cleveland, a friendly non-member, will allow her and the children to stay at his house for the duration of the prison sentence, and promises to reward him well if he will.

March 22

* Joseph Smith writes from Liberty Jail advising the Brethren to buy the property offered by Isaac Galland and urging the Saints not to scatter.

April

* Joseph Smith and the other prisoners in Liberty Jail are sent to Daviess County for trial, where a grand jury brings in a bill against them for murder, treason, burglary, arson, larceny, theft, and stealing. A change of venue is obtained, but while en route to Boone County for trial, the prisoners are allowed by the sheriff and other guards to escape because some officials have concluded that they cannot be successfully prosecuted.

April 22

* Joseph and Hyrum Smith arrive in Quincy, Illinois, after months of imprisonment in Missouri. Since Joseph wants his arrival to be unnoticed, they take the back streets of the city to the Cleveland home four miles away from town where Emma is staying. She recognizes him as he climbs off his horse and meets him joyfully halfway to the gate.

April 24

* A council meeting decides to send Joseph Smith and several others upstream to Iowa for the purpose of making a location for the Church.

April 25

* Joseph Smith examines lands on both sides of the Mississippi River.

April 26

* Apostles Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John E. Page, Orson Pratt, and John Taylor, accompanied by several others, return to the Far West Temple site just after midnight in fulfillment of the prophecy in Doctrine and Covenants Section 118. A large stone is rolled on the southeast cornerstone as recommencement of work on the foundation, and the apostles leave to prepare for their overseas missions.
* Wilford Woodruff and George A. Smith, cousin of Joseph Smith, are ordained Apostles.
* Theodore Turley, one of the Saints at Far West with the Apostles, visits the home of apostate Isaac Russell to say goodbye. Russell is astounded that his friend is in Far West with members of the Twelve and speechless to learn that the prophecy has been fulfilled.

April 30

* Joseph Smith negotiates land purchases from Isaac Galland in both Iowa and Illinois, totaling over twenty thousand six hundred acres.

May 4

* Elder Orson Hyde is officially suspended from exercising the functions of his office until he meets with the General Conference of the Church and explains his actions in endorsing a false affidavit against the Church by Thomas B. Marsh.

May 4-5

* At a conference held near Quincy, the body of the Church sanctions Joseph Smiths' land acquisitions and resolves that the next conference will be held in Commerce, Illinois, the first week in October.

May 10

* Joseph Smith returns to Commerce with his family and takes up residence in a small log house known as the Homestead close to the river on the southern end of the peninsula. They take many of the arriving Saints into their own meager quarters. Across the river in Montrose, several families including those of Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, and Orson Pratt live in empty military barracks left from the Black Hawk War.

May 17

* The First Presidency disavows a series of letters published in the local newspaper by Elder Lyman Wight, blaming the Missouri outrages on the national Democratic Party. They ask him in the future to make clear in such instances that he is representing his own views and not those of the Church.

Summer

* Parley P. Pratt and Morris Phelps escape from a jail in Columbia, Boone County, and make their way to Nauvoo. King Follett escapes with them but is recaptured.

June 27

* After repenting and confessing his error in endorsing a false affidavit against the Church, Orson Hyde is restored to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.
* The Apostles receive training on the basic principles of the gospel from the First Presidency in preparation for their mission to England.

July 1

* In a public letter, Joseph Smith calls upon all Saints everywhere to migrate to the new site, which he names Nauvoo, a Hebrew word meaning “beautiful”. Thousands respond to his call.

July 7

* The Twelve speak at a farewell meeting held in their behalf, each bearing powerful witness of the work they are engaged in. However, their departure for England is delayed by a malaria epidemic which hits the Nauvoo vicinity and strikes many of them.

July 12

* Joseph Smith Sr. is so ill with malaria that he is near death.

July 22

* Though ill himself, Joseph Smith is prompted to arise and extend help to others in Nauvoo and Montrose. He administers to and heals several sick members with malaria, including some who are near death such as Henry G. Sherwood and Elijah Fordham. The malaria epidemic continues, but this is nonetheless the greatest day of healing in church history.
* As the brethren are preparing to cross the river from Montrose back to Nauvoo, a nonmember who has heard of the healing miracles asks Joseph Smith to come and heal his dying twin babies about two miles away. Joseph says he cannot go but gives Wilford Woodruff a red silk handkerchief and tells him to administer to them, promising that when he wipes their faces with it they will be healed and that it will remain a bond between them as long as he keeps it. Wilford does so, and treasures the keepsake for the rest of his life.

August 4

* On a day of fasting and prayer, Joseph Smith renews his instruction to the Twelve to go forth without purse or scrip, according to the revelations of Jesus Christ.

August 8

* John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff decide to leave for England immediately, even though Wilford Woodruff and his wife Phoebe are still sick with malaria and Phoebe is almost without food or the necessities of life. As they are leaving, Joseph Smith comes along and promises that everything will be all right.

August 30

* The name “Nauvoo” is placed on the official plat of the city, its first formal use.

September 14

* Brigham Young is prepared to leave on his mission, but when he leaves Montrose, he is too ill to walk the five hundred feet to the river unaided.

September 17

* Brigham Young's wife Mary Ann, still weak from childbirth, arranges to cross the river and care for her husband who is staying at the home of Heber C. Kimball in Nauvoo.

September 18

* Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball decide it is time to start their mission, although both men are so ill they have to be helped into a wagon. As the wagon is leaving, they stop it momentarily to swing their hats three times over their heads and give a cheer for Heber's family, all of whom are bedridden with the exception of four-year-old Heber Parley who can just manage to take water to the others. Vilate Kimball and Mary Ann Young come to the door to see them cheering and smile.

October

* King Follett, the last of the Saints to be held in bond in Missouri, is released.

October 29

* Joseph Smith, Elias Higbee, Sidney Rigdon, and Orrin Porter Rockwell leave Nauveoo for Washington, D.C. to share their grievances against Missouri with the federal government. En route to Springfield they are joined by a new convert, Dr. Robert D. Foster. Because of illness Sidney is left at the home of John Snyder in the care of Dr. Foster and Porter Rockwell.

November

* The Church begins printing a newspaper called the *Times and Seasons* under the careful control and supervision of Joseph Smith. It publishes significant doctrinal items and policy statements, as well as conference addresses, circular letters from the Council of the Twelve Apostles, minutes of important church meetings, and reprints from other newspapers. There are dozens of articles on the Book of Mormon including items on archeological evidence and discussion of its geography.

November 28

* Joseph Smith and Elias Higbee arrive in Washington, D.C.

November 29

* Joseph Smith and Elias Higbee meet with a reluctant President Martin Van Buren to seek redress for the Saints' persecution in Missouri. He is unimpressed with their letters of introduction and tries to turn them away but their insistence wins through. The president is unsympathetic at first, but as the discussion progresses he promises to reconsider his position.
* Joseph and Elias contact various Senators and representatives. The Illinois delegation treats them especially well, and Senator Richard M. Young promises to introduce their petition seeking redress to Congress.

December

* The first missionaries arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland.

December 16

* The Nauvoo Charter is signed in Springfield, Illinois, granting the right to establish a local militia, a municipal court, and a university. Nauvoo's legislative and executive powers reside in the mayor, four aldermen, and nine councilors. The mayor and aldermen also serve as judges of the municipal court, a change of pattern from other chartered cities.

December 19

* Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, and Theodore Turley sail for England.

1840

* While listening to a sermon on the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Elder Lorenzo Snow is inspired to write down a couplet: “As man now is, God once was: as God now is, man may be.” He says he first heard the words from Joseph Smith Sr. in the temple years ago but did not know what to make of them.

January 11

* Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, and Theodore Turley arrive in England.

January 14

* Alexander and Jessie Hay become the first converts baptized in Scotland.

January 23

* John Taylor and Joseph Fielding begin working in Liverpool, England.

February 4

* John Taylor and Joseph Fielding baptize their first converts in Liverpool, England.

February

* John Taylor and Joseph Fielding baptize the entire family of George Cannon, brother of John's wife, Leonora.

February 6

* Joseph Smith may have a second meeting with President Martin Van Buren, or it may be a retelling of the November 29 meeting. President Van Buren tells them that although their cause is just, he can do nothing for them because he would lose the Missouri vote.

March

* The Nauvoo city council passes an ordinance incorporating the sites of Commerce and Commmerce City into Nauvoo. Other landholders soon see advantages in creating subdivisions which are attached to it as “additions”.
* The remaining Apostles leave for England.
* Wilford Woodruff is inspired to go to Herefordshire, accompanied by one of his converts, William Benbow. They contact William's brother and sister-in-law, John and Jane Benbow, and a group of six hundred people who have formed their own religious society called the United Brethren. Eventually the group's leader, Thomas Kingston, and all but one of the members accept the gospel and are baptized.
* Elder Orson Hyde, still in the United States, receives a vision wherein he sees London, Amsterdam, Constantinople (later Istanbul), and Jerusalem. The Spirit says to him that here are many of Abraham's children who will be gathered to the land given to their fathers, and here also is Elder Hyde's field of labor.

March 4

* The U.S. Senate committee announces that Congress will do nothing for the Saints and recommends that they seek redress in the state or federal courts, which they have already tried and found useless.

April

* The United States Post Office adopts the name change of “Nauvoo”.
* In General Conference, the Saints vote that if all hopes of redress for their injuries are futile, they will appeal their case to the Court of Heaven, believing that the Great Jehovah will soon avenge them of their adversaries.
* Orson Hyde tells of his vision and says that for some time the Spirit has been prompting him to proceed with a mission to the Jews that Joseph Smith foretold nine years earlier. Joseph calls him and John E. Page to go to the Jewish people in Europe and then dedicate Palestine for the return of the Jews.

April 6

* The remaining Apostles arrive in Liverpool, England, on the tenth anniversary of the Church's organization.

April 14

* Willard Richards is ordained an Apostle at a conference in Preston, England, with nearly sixteen hundred members from thirty-three branches attending. He was chosen to be an Apostle two years ago, but he has been serving as a missionary and priesthood leader in Great Britain and could not be ordained until other members of the Twelve arrived.

April 15

* Elders Orson Hyde and John E. Page head east to begin their mission. They preach and collect funds, including money to translate the Book of Mormon and other church literature into German, since they contemplate meeting German-speaking European Jews.

May 8

* Elder Orson Pratt organizes the first Scottish branch in Paisley, with the help of twenty Scots who have already been converted by Samuel Mulliner and Alexander Wright, who were baptized in Canada and then returned to their homeland.

May 18

* Elder Orson Pratt arrives in Edinburgh, Scotland.

May 19

* At Arthur's Seat, a prominent hill overlooking Edinburgh, Elder Orson Pratt prays that the Lord will help him find two hundred people to baptize in Scotland.

May 20

* At a council held in Herefordshire Beacon, England, with Elder Brigham Young presiding, it is decided to publish the Book of Mormon, an LDS hymnbook, and a monthly periodical in England. At Wilford Woodruff's suggestion, the new publication is to be called the *Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*. The Twelve conclude the conference by encouraging the British Saints to emigrate to Nauvoo.

May 27

* The *Millenial Star* is first published at Manchester, England, as a monthly publication edited by Parley P. Pratt which provides the British Saints with the first published material on Joseph Smith's revelations and history, as well as general news from the Church in the United States. Over the years it changes to a semi-monthly, then a weekly, and back to a monthly.

June 1

* Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball meet with approximately forty-six British Saints and organize them for their journey to Nauvoo.

June 5

* Forty members leave Liverpool aboard the *Britannia*, a six hundred ton square-rigged packet ship. John Moon, whose family forms the core of the passengers, is appointed en route to preside.

July 20

* The *Britannia* arrives in New York harbor after a forty-one day journey including three storms and considerable sickness.

July 31

* John Taylor baptizes the first Irish convert, Thomas Tait, at Loughbrickland. Few other converts are baptized, but an important groundwork is laid.

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* At Douglas, John Taylor dedicates the Isle of Man for the preaching of the gospel and holds a celebrated debate with a local minister.

August

* Orson Pratt has succeeded in baptizing only eighteen people in Edinburgh, Scotland.

August 15

* In a powerful sermon at the funeral of Seymour Brunson, one of the first settlers of Nauvoo, Joseph Smith reads much of 1 Corinthians 15, including verse 29 which refers to baptisms for the dead. He announces that the Lord will permit the Saints to be baptized in behalf of their friends and relatives who have departed this life, and that the plan of salvation will save all who are willing to obey the requirements of God's law.
* Jane Neyman asks Harvey Olmstead to baptize her in the Mississippi River in behalf of her deceased son, Cyrus. Joseph Smith asks what words were used in performing the ordinance, and then approves what has taken place. Several more baptisms are performed in the river or nearby streams in the ensuing weeks.

August 18

* Missionary work begins in London, England. Denied the opportunity to preach in the Temperance Hall or open-air Smithfield Market, Elders George A. Smith, Heber C. Kimball, and Wilford Woodruff are led by a local watchmaker to Henry Connor to Tabernacle Square, just outside the city limits. Elder Smith gives a sermon to a boisterous but interested audience that becomes more interested when told by a local minister that they should not listen to him, but none are willing to be baptized.

Fall

* Joseph Smith teaches Joseph Bates Noble the principle of plural marriage and asks him to perform a marriage ceremony between himself and Louisa Beaman, Joseph Noble's sister-in-law. He also warns Joseph Noble that in revealing this, he has placed his life in his hands, and not to betray him.

December

* Brigham Young visits London to aid the missionary effort there.

December 4

* Elder John E. Page lingers somewhat in Pennsylvania, so Elder Hyde, who feels a strong sense of urgency about their mission, arrives in New York City alone.

1841

* Joseph Smith writes to the Apostles in England, telling them to return to Nauvoo in the spring.

January 15

* Joseph Smith writes in the *Times and Seasons* that the Lord is not well pleased with Elders Orson Hyde and John E. Page, John E. Page in particular, for delaying their mission to Europe and Palestine, and that the First Presidency requests them to hasten their journey. Elder Page does not respond to the message.
* The First Presidency issues a proclamation to the Saints scattered abroad explaining and expressing appreciation for the Nauvoo Charter, and gratitude to the honorable citizens of Illinois, particularly those from Quincy. It charges the Saints to gather in and help build up Nauvoo and that, by a concentration of action and unity of effort, both their temporal and spiritual interests will be enhanced.

February

* Nauvoo is divided into “wards” for political purposes and to better organize the workforce for the temple construction. Each ward is assigned a particular day for working on the temple.

February 1

* John C. Bennett is elected the first mayor of Nauvoo. Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, and Hyrum Smith are elected aldermen. Immediately the city council creates a militia unit, the Nauvoo Legion, which gradually grows to three thousand enlistees.

February 13

* Elder Orson Hyde has no alternative but to leave New York City for Europe without John E. Page.

February 14

* A branch of the Church is organized in London with newly arrived missionary Lorenzo Snow as its president.

March

* Elder Orson Pratt leaves Scotland. In answer to his prayer the year previous to find two hundred converts in Scotland, membership at the Edinburgh conference numbers 226.

March 3

* Elder Orson Hyde arrives in Liverpool, England, and labors in that country for three and a half months. While there he contacts Jewish leaders in London.

March 7

* Joseph Smith has explained the principle of plural marriage to Zina Huntington and asked her to marry him, but after much internal conflict she declines and marries Henry Jacobs instead.

April

* In General Conference, John C. Bennett is presented and sustained as the Assistant President of the Church until Sidney Rigdon's health improves. He becomes Joseph Smith's companion, confidant, and advisor.

April 5

* Joseph Smith is married to Louisa Beaman by her brother-in-law, Joseph Bates Nobel, in a grove near Main Street in Nauvoo, with Joseph dictating the ceremony and Joseph Bates repeating it after him. To help keep the union secret, Louisa wears a man's hat and coat as a disguise. They spend their wedding night across the river at Joseph Nobel's house. For many years Louisa is recognized as the first plural wife of Joseph Smith, but she is in fact the third.

April 6

* The cornerstones are laid for the Nauvoo Temple under the direction of Joseph Smith, commencing construction. Most able-bodied men contribute either in the quarry or on the temple itself, often donating one day in ten as tithing labor. Women sew clothes and prepare meals for them. Each member is expected to contribute one-tenth of his possessions at the beginning of construction and one-tenth of all increase from that time until its completion, and their donations are logged in a book called the Book of the Law of the Lord.
* Thomas Sharp, a former lawyer and editor of the *Warsaw Signal*, is invited to the cornerstone laying to promote goodwill. As he witnesses the day's events and listens to speeches about the anticipated growth of Nauvoo and the Kingdom of God, he becomes convinced that Mormonism is a dangerous, un-American political movement aimed at domination of a vast empire. He launches a vigorous campaign against it in the columns of his newspaper, claiming that Joseph Smith intends to unite church and state and that the Saints possess too much power and autonomy in the Nauvoo Charter.
* The Twelve hold a glorious conference in Manchester, England before returning to the United States. Much joy is expressed at the conference because of the bounteous harvest the Lord has blessed them with. Membership in England is 5,864, not counting those who have already emigrated.

April 8

* Lyman Wight is ordained an Apostle.

April 16

* John Moon's group of British immigrants arrive in Montrose, Iowa aboard a river-steamer from St. Louis, Missouri. They write encouraging letters back to their friends in England, urging them to come and denying the negative comments in the British papers about traveling to such a distant place.

Late April

* Most of the Apostles leave England, except for Elder Parley P. Pratt who remains to preside over the British Mission and edit the *Millennial Star*.

Summer

* Joseph Smith's brother Don Carlos contracts malaria and dies.

Early June

* While visiting church members in Adams County, Illinois, Joseph Smith is arrested as a fugitive from Missouri. In Quincy, he obtains a writ of habeas corpus and appeals to Judge Stephen A. Douglas, who consents to give the matter a hearing a few days later at the circuit court in Monmouth, seventy-five miles northeast of Nauvoo.

June

* Thomas Sharp helps form an anti-Mormon political party in Hancock County, Illinois, which unites both Whigs and Democrats against the Church. It holds conventions in Warsaw and Carthage and public meetings in smaller communities.

June 9

* Joseph Smith's trial opens in Monmouth, with spectators excited about a possible lynching. Judge Stephen A. Douglas fines the sheriff twice for failing to keep them under control. The defense arguments about atrocities against the Saints in Missouri bring many people, including Judge Douglas, to tears.

June 10

* Judge Stephen A. Douglas dismisses the case against Joseph Smith on procedural grounds. His decision earns him the Church's gratitude but brings accusations from Whig newspapers that he (a Democrat) is openly courting the Mormon vote.

June 20

* Elder Orson Hyde leaves London for Rotterdam, Holland.

June 15

* Joseph Smith receives a letter from Hyrum Smith and William Law in Pittsburgh, confirming a rumor that John C. Bennett has an estranged wife and child in Ohio despite his claim to be unmarried. When confronted with these facts, Bennett takes poison in an apparent suicide attempt.

June 23

* In an article called “Martin Harris, the Mormon”, the *Rochester Daily Democrat* publishes a false report of the murder of Martin Harris, who in fact lives for another thirty-four years.

July

* In the Hancock County elections, an anti-Mormon slate is elected which thwarts the political influence of the Saints even when they vote as a bloc. Their power continues to grow, however, as more of them continue to arrive.

August 15

* Joseph and Emma Smith's son Don Carlos dies.

August 16

* Joseph Smith announces that the Twelve Apostles are to remain at home where they can support their families, relieve the First Presidency of some financial duties, and attend to the needs of the many immigrants. While they will continue to direct missionary work, they will stand in their place next to the First Presidency and become General Authorities over the stakes as well as the missions.

Fall

* Joseph Smith teaches the principle of plural marriage to Presendia Huntington Buell.

October

* Some Masons who are church members obtain permission to initiate a Masonic lodge in Nauvoo.
* In General Conference, Joseph Smith promises that the dispensation of the fulness of times will bring to light the things that have been revealed in all former dispensations, as well as other things that have never been revealed before.

October 2

* The cornerstone of the Nauvoo House is laid with several valuable records, including the original Book of Mormon manuscript, deposited in it.

October 3

* Joseph Smith declares that there shall be no more baptisms for the dead until the ordinance can be attended to in the Lord's House.

October 19

* Elder Orson Hyde arrives in Jaffa, later part of Tel Aviv, Israel. He is so exhausted from nineteen days at sea with a week's worth of provisions that he can hardly make it to shore.

October 21

* Elder Orson Hyde arrives in Jerusalem. When he first looks upon the holy city, his objective of the past nineteen months, he is moved to tears, and writes to Parley P. Pratt that it looks exactly like the vision he had.

October 24

* Before daybreak, Elder Orson Hyde quietly passes through the open gates of Jerusalem, crosses the Kidron Valley, and ascends the Mount of Olives overlooking the city. As he looks down at it, he marvels that he is seeing the city whose sins and iniquities swelled the Savior's heart with grief, and the Garden of Gethsemane where powers infernal poured the flood of hell's dark gloom around his princely head.
* While in this reflective mood, he writes and offers a dedicatory prayer asking that Israel might be gathered home to its inheritance, that a future temple might be built there, and that the barren desert may be nourished with water and prosperous crops. Afterward he erects a pile of stones as a witness of the occasion according to the ancient custom.

October 27

* Joseph Smith marries Zina Huntington Jacobs, who is already married to Henry Jacobs. She had declined his previous proposal, but an angel with a drawn sword has appeared to him and told him to establish the principle of plural marriage or he will lose his position and his life. Henry Jacobs is aware of this wedding and Zina continues to live with him.

November 8

* The basement rooms and baptismal font of the Nauvoo Temple are dedicated by Brigham Young.

November 21

* The first forty baptisms for the dead in the Nauvoo Temple are performed by Elders Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and John Taylor, with Elders Willard Richards, Wilford Woodruff, and George A. Smith performing the confirmations.

December

* Joseph Smith's Red Brick Store is completed.

December 2

* Joseph Smith receives a revelation regarding Marinda Johnson Hyde who, in the absence of her husband Orson Hyde, is living in a little log cabin with greased paper for windows and very little food. The Lord says she shall have a better place prepared for her and that she should hearken unto Joseph's counsel in whatever he teaches her. This is not included in the Doctrine and Covenants.

December 11

* Joseph Smith marries Presendia Huntington Buell, sister of Zina Huntington Jacobs, who is already married to Norman Buell. She continues to live with Norman.

December 21

* Elder Orson Hyde arrives at the harbor of Trieste, Italy.

1842

* Elder Erastus Snow organizes a branch of 120 members in Salem, Massachusetts.
* Church headquarters in England and the publication of the *Millennial Star* are moved from Manchester to Liverpool.

January 1

* Joseph Smith publishes a letter in the *Times and Seasons* explaining that the Church will not pick sides between Whigs and Democrats, but that the Saints are willing to fight for the cause of liberty and law alongside Stephen A. Douglas because he has proven himself to be a master spirit and their friend.

January 5

* Joseph Smith's Red Brick Store is opened for business. In addition to being a general store it serves as the center of social, economic, political, and religious activity in Nauvoo. On the second floor Joseph maintains an office which becomes the headquarters of the Church.

January 6

* Joseph Smith secretly marries Agnes Coolbrith, widow of his brother Don Carlos. Brigham Young writes of the event in his journal in code using Masonic symbols.

February 8

* Joseph Smith marries Sylvia Sessions Lyon, who is already married to Windsor Lyon. It is uncertain whether Windsor is aware of the marriage, but she does continue to live with him.

February

* Joseph Smith marries Mary Rollins Lightner, who is already married to Adam Lightner. Adam is out of town and probably unaware of the wedding, but she continues to live with him.

March

* Joseph Smith and many others in Nauvoo are formally introduced into the Masonic order, possibly in hopes that other Masons in the state and nation, many holding prominent positions, will look more kindly upon the Church. John C. Bennett is elected secretary of the lodge, as they are unaware that he has been expelled from an Ohio Masonic order for misconduct.

March 1

* The *Times and Seasons* begins a serial publication of the Book of Abraham.

March 7

* Joseph Smith writes a letter to John C. Bennett saying that slavery makes his blood boil and that he yearns for it to end.

March 9

* Joseph Smith marries Patty Bartlett Sessions, mother of his plural wife Sylvia Sessions, who is already married to David Sessions, by Willard Richards in the Newel K. Whitney store. She continues to live with David, though it is uncertain whether he is aware of this marriage. She adopts the role of approaching and educating Joseph's prospective wives, and acting as a witness at their wedding ceremonies.

March 15

* The *Times and Seasons* begins a serial publication of Joseph Smith's official testimony and history.

March 17

* In the Red Brick Store Joseph Smith, accompanied by John Taylor and Willard Richards, formally organizes eighteen women into the Relief Society with Emma Smith as its first president, Sarah M. Cleveland and Elizabeth Ann Whitney as counselors, and Eliza R. Snow as secretary. The organization is dedicated to the relief of the poor, the destitute, the widow and the orphan, and for the exercise of all benevolent purposes.

March 20

* At the funeral of a deceased child of Windsor P. Lyon, Joseph Smith speaks about the salvation of little children. He says that some pure and innocent souls are taken from mortality in childhood to spare them the wickedness that is increasing in the world, and that they are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and instantly taken to the bosom of Abraham.

April

* Joseph Smith marries Marinda Johnson Hyde, who is already married to Elder Orson Hyde, currently overseas.
* To counter the anti-Mormon comments of Thomas Sharp, Nauvoo begins a weekly nonreligious newspaper called the *Wasp* devoted to agriculture, business, science, art, and community events, printed on the same press as the *Times and Seasons* and edited by William Smith. Its name is later changed to the *Nauvoo Neighbor* under the editorship of John Taylor.
* Sarah Ann Whitney, one of Joseph Smith's secret plural wives, publicly marries Joseph C. Kingsbury to avoid suspicion. Kingsbury is a willing participant in the ruse.

April 2

* At a Sunday morning meeting in Ramus, Illinois, Elder Orson Hyde speaks about the Father and the Son dwelling in the hearts of the Saints and says that the Savior at his second coming will appear on a white horse as a warrior. Joseph Smith tells him that he will offer some corrections to his sermon in the afternoon meeting, and Elder Hyde says they will be thankfully received.

April 14

* Elizabeth Davis Durfee, a plural wife of Joseph Smith, is administered to by Relief Society President Emma Smith and and her two counselors and feels that they have more faith than the brethren. When others complain about women giving blessings, Joseph Smith says there is no sin if they have faith to heal the sick and God gives his sanction by doing so.

April 19

* An English clergyman from Missouri named Henry Caswall visits Nauvoo. He later claims that he showed Joseph Smith an ancient text of Greek psalms, a “psalter”, which Joseph wrongly identified as reformed Egyptian characters. This is very unlikely, both because Joseph has actually studied Greek and because Caswall makes no attempt to expose his alleged deception on the spot.

April 28

* Joseph Smith advises the women of the Relief Society to treat their husbands with mildness and affection and to meet them with a smile instead of an argument or a murmur. He promises that they will receive appropriate instruction through the order of the priesthood and that knowledge and intelligence shall flow down and the poor and needy shall be made to rejoice and pour forth blessings on their heads.

May

* Lilburn W. Boggs, former governor of Missouri responsible for an extermination order against the Saints, is wounded in an assassination attempt while sitting at home with his grandchildren. Missouri authorities accuse Joseph Smith and again try to extradite him from Illinois.
* A petition for redress of grievances related to the persecution in Missouri is presented to the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, but with no success.

May 3

* With the help of others, Joseph Smith arranges his office and Assembly Room to represent the interior of a temple as much as the circumstances will permit.

May 4

* Joseph Smith administers the first endowments to a few faithful brethren – Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Newel K. Whitney, George Miller, and James Adams – in the upper room of his Red Brick Store. It is virtually the only large place in Nauvoo where a group can assemble in privacy.

May 7

* A mock battle is arranged between the two cohorts, or brigades, of the Nauvoo Legion. Major General John C. Bennett asks Lieutenant General Joseph Smith to take charge of the first cohort and, when he declines to do so, urges him to take up a station in the rear of the cavalry without his staff. Joseph declines this as well and chooses his own position with his bodyguard Albert P. Rockwood at his side, having sensed that there is a plot to expose him to being killed during the mock battle.

Summer

* The *Millennial Star* begins a serial publication of the Book of Abraham.
* The *Sangamo Journal* in Springfield, Illinois publishes a serialized exposé of the Church by apostate John C. Bennett.

June

* J.N.T. Tucker, cousin of Palmyra printer Pomeroy Tucker, writes a letter to *Signs of the Times* claiming that he worked in E.B. Grandin's print shop while the Book of Mormon was being printed. He says that as a prank, he and some other workers laid aside one of the typed sheets and told Martin Harris it was lost and needed to be replaced. A few weeks later, Harris allegedly produced another page completely different from the first. This claim is false, as Tucker did not actually work in that print shop at the time.
* Joseph Smith marries Elizabeth Davis Durfee, who is already married to Jabez Durfee.
* Joseph Smith marries Sarah Kingsley Cleveland, who is already married to John Cleveland.

June 1

* In an article in the *Times and Seasons*, Joseph Smith quotes from a book called *View of the Hebrews*, which theorizes that Native Americans are descended from the ten Lost Tribes of Israel, in support of the Book of Mormon. This casts doubt on a later theory that he plagiarized from that book, as he would be unlikely to call such attention to his source of plagiarism.

June 29

* Joseph Smith marries Eliza R. Snow. She refers to him as her beloved husband, the choice of her heart and the crown of her life.

July

* Joseph Smith marries Delcena Johnson, a widow with six children. She lives with Louisa Beaman, another of Joseph's plural wives.
* Joseph Smith is married to Sarah Ann Whitney by her father, Newel K. Whitney. The Whitneys have received a revelation through Joseph making known to them that this is the will of the Lord, and so they are willing to cooperate.
* John C. Bennett persuades Lilburn W. Boggs, recovering from an assassination attempt two months earlier, to swear in an affidavit that Orrin Porter Rockwell tried to murder him under the orders of Joseph Smith. Governor Thomas Reynolds of Missouri convinces Governor Thomas Carlin of Illinois to send officers to arrest Porter and Joseph.

August

* Joseph Smith marries Martha McBride Knight, less than a month after the death of her husband Vinson. Vinson was also a polygamist, having one additional wife, Philinda Merrick.
* Knowing that if they return to Missouri they will be killed, Joseph Smith seeks seclusion on a Mississippi River island while Porter Rockwell flees to Pennsylvania under a fictitious name.

August 13

* Emma Smith sends for Eliza R. Snow, one of Joseph's plural wives, to come live with them. Eliza does so, and helps school the Smith children.

August 16

* Emma Smith writes a letter to Joseph in hiding, noting that he can still direct his business concerns if they are prudent in the matter and hoping to come see him in the evening.

August 17

* Emma Smith informs Joseph of rumors that his hiding place has been discovered, so he leaves with her and relocates to Carlos Granger's house.

August 18

* Joseph Smith writes a letter to Sarah Ann Whitney, one of his plural wives, and her parents, asking them to come visit him in hiding and presumably take care of the administration of ordinances. He asks them not to let Emma find out, either because of her opposition to polygamy or because she may be followed and spied upon by his enemies. This letter is later quote-mined by critics to make it appear that Joseph is seeking a romantic tryst without Emma's knowledge.

August 20

* Amasa Lyman is ordained an Apostle.

September

* Elder Orson Hyde returns to England, undoubtedly London.

September 25

* Elder Orson Hyde sails from Liverpool, England with a company of British emigrants.

November 13

* Elder Orson Hyde arrives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

December

* Under protection from newly elected Governor Thomas Ford, Joseph Smith goes to the circuit court of the United States in Springfield, Illinois, where he is released because the charges against him go beyond the evidence in Lilburn Boggs's original affidavit and therefore lack foundation. The Saints in Nauvoo rejoice that he can come out of hiding and be with them once more.

December 7

* Elder Orson Hyde returns to Nauvoo after one of the longest, most perilous, and most significant missions in church history, rivaling the travels of the Apostle Paul in its hardships.

December 24

* Joseph Smith and Willard Richards visit Joseph's plural wife Sylvia Sessions, who is sick while giving birth to her third child with her first husband. The child dies thirty minutes before they arrive.

December 26

* Emma Smith gives birth to a stillborn son.

1843

* Elijah Abel serves a mission in New York but is restricted by Apostles Heber C. Kimball, Orson Pratt, and John Page to working among other black people. This may be for his own safety, given the attitude of most whites towards his race.
* Joseph Smith marries Hanna Ellis. She lives in John Benbow's home in Nauvoo, where he visits her frequently.
* Joseph Smith marries Olive Frost.
* Joseph Smith marries fourteen-or-fifteen-year-old Nancy M. Winchester.

January

* Joseph Smith tells Elders Orson Hyde and Willard Richards that black people have souls and, given the right upbringing and education, would become equal or superior to whites. He mentions his support for segregation and a national equalization of the races, and generations later this sentence is cherry-picked by critics to make him appear racist.

January 22

* To a large congregation in the incomplete Nauvoo Temple, Joseph Smith speaks of the power of the priesthood being used to establish the Kingdom of God in the latter days, and explains that the temple endowment will prepare the disciples for their mission into the world. Referring to his own role, he declares that God Almighty is his shield, and he shall not be sacrificed until his time comes, at which point he shall be offered freely.

February

* Joseph Smith promises to supply more of the translation of the Book of Abraham, but his demanding schedule never allows him time to complete the work.
* Joseph Smith marries Ruth Vose Sayers, who is already married to Edward Sayers. She continues to live with Edward.
* Elder Erastus Snow leaves Salem, Massachusetts.

February 11

* Eliza R. Snow leaves the Smith home and moves in with a Brother Holmes. Several acquaintances say this is because Emma has discovered her relationship with Joseph.

February 28

* Joseph Smith approaches Emily Dow Partridge on her nineteenth birthday and teaches her the principle of plural marriage, which they refer to as celestial marriage.

March

* Joseph Smith marries Emily Dow Partridge. They do not spend their wedding night together but do spend the night together on other occasions.
* Joseph Smith marries Eliza Maria Partridge, sister of Emily Dow Partridge. She is unaware of her sister's previous marriage to him, and vice-versa.
* Orrin Porter Rockwell is arrested in St. Louis, Missouri, on his way home to Nauvoo from Pennsylvania.

Spring

* Joseph Smith marries Flora Ann Woodworth. He spends more time with her than with most of his plural wives and she is frequently mentioned in the diary of his personal secretary, William Clayton.

April 1

* Joseph Smith visits Macedonia, Illinois and stays at the Johnson home, where he explains the doctrine of plural marriage to Benjamin Johnson and asks to take his sister Almera to wife. To help Benjamin understand the doctrine, Joseph gives a sermon about the parable of the talents, which only he recognizes as referring to wives in this context. Almera is not yet convinced, so she accompanies Benjamin to Nauvoo to meet Joseph, Hyrum, William Clayton, and their sister Delcena who has already married Joseph.

April

* Joseph Smith marries Almera Johnson. He has already married her sister Delcena ten months earlier. She occupies Room No. 10 in his Mansion Home during her stay in Nauvoo.

April 3

* Jesus Christ does not come as prophesied by William Miller, the founder of Millerism.

April 6

* Joseph Smith says he has been praying as the Lord's prophet and learned that the coming of Christ cannot be until the judgments spoken of for this hour, which have already commenced, are poured out. He lists some events which must take place first: Judah must return, Jerusalem must be rebuilt with a temple, and water must come out from under the temple and heal the waters of the Dead Sea.

May 1

* Joseph Smith marries fifteen-year-old Lucy Walker without Emma's knowledge. Lucy has been anguished about this and preferred to die, but recently received a powerful testimony of the truth of the plural marriage covenant. She lives with him but they do not have marital relations.

May

* Joseph Smith marries Sarah Lawrence.
* Joseph Smith marries Maria Lawrence, sister of Sarah Lawrence.
* Joseph Smith marries fourteen-year-old Helen Mar Kimball, daughter of Apostle Heber C. Kimball.

May 18

* Joseph Smith dines with Judge Stephen A. Douglas, who is sympathetic to his cause. Joseph prophesies that Douglas will aspire to the presidency and that if he ever turns against the Saints, he will feel the weight of the Almighty's hand upon him. This is fulfilled in 1861.

June

* Four missionaries are called by the Twelve to serve in the Pacific. Two of them, Addison Pratt and Benjamin Grouard, have been sailors in the Pacific. They are joined by Noah Rogers and Knowlton Hanks. Like the Twelve, they leave their wives and families behind.
* Joseph Smith marries Elvira Cowles Holmes, who is already married to Jonathan Holmes. Joseph himself performed that previous marriage six months earlier.
* During the congressional race, John C. Bennett revives the charge of treason against Joseph Smith, and Missouri officials attempt to extradite him for a third time. Sheriff Joseph Reynolds of Jackson County, Missouri and Constable Harmon Wilson of Hancock County, Illinois attempt to arrest him and are in turn arrested by Stephen Markham and William Clayton for false imprisonment and threatening his life. The Nauvoo municipal court releases Joseph on a writ of habeas corpus, causing controversy within the state over their power.

June 12

* Joseph Smith is married to Rhoda Richards by her brother, Apostle Willard Richards.

Late June

* Melissa Lott is visited on her family farm by Eliza R. Snow, Elvira Holmes, Elizabeth Durfee and Elizabeth Whitney. Elizabeth Whitney is the mother of Sarah Ann Whitney, one of Joseph Smith's plural wives, and the others are wives themselves. It is possible that during their visit they prepare Melissa to accept plural marriage.

July

* Joseph Smith marries Desdemona Fullmer. Desdemona experiences some anxiety about Emma discovering the marriage.

August

* Hyrum Smith and John Taylor urge other church members to vote for Democrat Joseph P. Hoge in the congressional election, although Joseph Smith keeps his pledge to vote for Cyrus Walker, the Whig candidate. The Nauvoo vote helps swing the election in Hoge's favor. The Whigs charge the Mormons with misuse of corporate political power, and many Democrats become anti-Mormon as well because they fear that the power may one day be used against them.
* Joseph Smith and his family move into the Mansion House in Nauvoo.

August 21

* Emma Smith recognizes a gold watch given by Joseph as a gift to Flora Ann Woodworth, one of his plural wives. She demands its return and yells at him until he manages to calm her down.

Fall

* Construction is begun on the Seventies Hall in Nauvoo to train the seventies in missionary work.

September

* Joseph Smith publicly accuses Francis Higbee and others of collusion with the Missourians in their third attempt to extradite him. Higbee is offended and becomes his bitter enemy.

September 18

* Joseph Smith and William Clayton visit Joseph's plural wife, Sylvia Sessions, to borrow fifty dollars and drink wine.

September 20

* Joseph Smith marries Melissa Lott. She is rarely able to spend time with him but does share some intimate moments.

October

* The missionaries bound for the Pacific islands sail from New England.
* William Law becomes aware that Joseph Smith is indeed practicing polygamy in secret. With his arms around Joseph's neck and tears streaming down his face, he pleads with him to withdraw the doctrine. Joseph says he cannot and releases William from the First Presidency.

October 1

* The *Times and Seasons* publishes an editorial titled “Who Shall Be Our Next President?” It calls for someone who will be most likely to assist the Saints in gaining redress for their grievances.

November

* While Joseph Smith is discussing the necessity of entering polygamy to gain exaltation with Brigham Young and his sister Fanny, she insists that all she wants to do in the celestial kingdom is be a ministering angel without an eternal companion. Joseph says she is talking foolishly and does not know what she will want, and tells Brigham to seal her to him. She agrees to it and becomes his last known plural wife.

November 4

* Joseph Smith writes letters to John C. Calhoun, Lewis Cass, Richard M. Johnson, Henry Clay, and Martin Van Buren, the leading candidates for the presidency of the United States. He describes the persecutions the Mormons have suffered at the hands of the state of Missouri and asks how they will deal with the situation should they be elected. Only Calhoun, Cass, and Clay respond to the letters, and they express little sympathy for the cause of the Saints.

November 28

* A petition is written for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, seeking redress of grievances for the persecution in Missouri. It eventually garners 3,419 signatures.

Late December

* Joseph Smith tells the Nauvoo police that he is much more worried about traitors within the Church than about enemies in Missouri, because the Church's opponents can accomplish nothing unless trusted friends use falsehood and deceit to stir up wrath and indignation against it and bring their united vengeance upon the Saints' heads.

1844

* Walker Lewis, a black barber from Lowell, Massachusetts, is ordained an elder by William Smith.

January

* Ebenezer Robinson begins managing the Mansion House as a hotel. Joseph Smith maintains six rooms for himself and his family.

January 29

* A meeting is held in the mayor's office at Nauvoo with Joseph Smith, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and others. In view of the federal government's refusal to help the Saints, it is unanimously decided that Joseph Smith will run for President of the United States on an independent platform. He says that they will need every man who can speak in public to campaign and preach the gospel, and that he will be among them. He says to tell the people they have had Whig and Democratic Presidents long enough, and they want a President of the United States.

February 7

* Joseph Smith sets forth his presidential platform in a pamphlet called *General Smith's Views of the Powers and Policy of the Government of the United States*. He calls for full presidential power to suppress mobs with the military, the government to buy and free all slaves by 1850, reduction congressional pay from eight to two dollars per day, establishment of a national bank, extensive prison reform including revoking imprisonment for debt, annexation of Oregon and Texas, and extension of the United States from coast to coast if the Native Americans give their consent. The proposals are designed to appeal to voters in both major parties.

February 24

* 1,500 copies of *General Smith's Views of the Powers and Policy of the Government of the United States* are printed. Copies are mailed to the President of the United States and his cabinet, the justices of the Supreme Court, senators, representatives, editors of principal newspapers, postmasters, and other prominent citizens.

March

* Joseph Smith postpones further construction on the Nauvoo House in order to press forward on the temple.

March 9

* Thomas Sharp's anti-Mormon party holds a day of fasting and prayer to speedily bring down Joseph Smith, whom they see as a false prophet.
* The anti-Mormon party in Carthage appoints a grand “wolf hunt” in Hancock County as a pretext for a mob to gather and harass, pillage, and burn the farms of Saints in outlying areas.

March 11

* A council meeting is held in Nauvoo to organize the political kingdom of God, in preparation for the second coming of Christ and also to direct Joseph Smith's presidential campaign. The council consists of about fifty members, including many church leaders, and comes to be known as the Council of Fifty.

March 24

* Joseph Smith speaks at the Nauvoo Temple about the conspiracy against him by William Law and several other apostates, numbering approximately two hundred. He shares their lies about him having people's heads cut off and hearts run through with a sword, but says he will not swear out a warrant against them because he does not fear any of them, as they would not scare off an old setting hen.

Spring

* Elder Addison Pratt arrives in Tahiti, where he labors diligently as a missionary for three years.
* Joseph Smith tells the Apostles that something is going to happen soon of which he is not certain. He says the Lord bids him to hasten and give them their endowments before the temple is finished, and after doing so he says that now if he is killed they have all the keys and ordinances and can confer them on others, so that the hosts of Satan will be unable to tear down the Kingdom as fast as they are able to build it up.

April

* The cultural hall in Nauvoo is dedicated. It is a three-story public building that houses musical and theatrical productions and other cultural activities as well as city council and other meetings. It also serves as the Nauvoo Masonic lodge.
* Robert Foster and William and Wilson Law are excommunicated for un-Christian conduct.

April 5

* The 3,419-signature petition for redress of grievances is presented to the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, but fails to gain action from the government.

April 6

* The apostate conspirators plan to bring up the subject of polygamy at the business section of General Conference, and to accuse Joseph Smith of being a fallen prophet because few if any revelations have been published and circulated throughout the Church in the last few months. Joseph testifies at the beginning of the conference that he is not a fallen prophet and has never felt nearer to God than now, and that he will demonstrate before the conference closes that God is with him.

April 7

* Shortly after the funeral of a church member named King Follett who died in a construction accident, Joseph Smith gives a well-received General Conference sermon expounding on the doctrines that God was once a man and that people can someday become gods themselves and experience eternal progression. It also strongly implies that God's life was more like that of His Son Jesus Christ than that of a typical mortal.

April 9

* During General Conference, Brigham Young announces that elders will be called both to preach the gospel and to campaign for Joseph Smith's presidential bid. When he calls for volunteers, 244 men step forward.

April 15

* Electioneering missionaries are assigned to all twenty-six states in the Union and the Wisconsin Territory. Their number includes ten members of the Quorum of the Twelve – Elders Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt, William Smith, Orson Pratt, John E. Page, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, and Lyman Wight. Their political and religious speeches are kept separate.

April 28

* Apostates Robert Foster and William and Wilson Law meet with their sympathizers, declare Joseph Smith a fallen prophet and inaugurate a reformed church with William Law as president. They appoint a committee to visit families and try to convert them. A printing press is ordered and plans made to launch an anti-Mormon newspaper called the *Nauvoo Expositor*.

April 30

* The missionaries arrive in Tubuai, an island three hundred miles south of Tahiti. Elder Knowlton Hanks has died of tuberculosis during the voyage. They intend to sail to the Sandwich Islands (later Hawaii), but the islanders on Tubuai plead with Elder Addison Pratt to remain with them, so he sends his companions to Tahiti and stays. During his first year he baptizes sixty people, a third of the island's population.

May 8

* Thomas Sharp continues attacking the Church in the *Warsaw Signal* and hints that a breach is imminent due to trouble brewing between Joseph Smith and some church members.

May 17

* The Illinois state convention in Nauvoo formally nominates Joseph Smith for President of the United States and Sidney Rigdon for Vice President. A national convention is planned for Baltimore, Maryland, on July 13.

May 26

* According to the *History of the Church,* Joseph Smith boasts in a sermon that, by holding on to his followers, he has accomplished more as a religious leader than even Jesus. It is unlikely that he actually says this, because it is inconsistent with his personality and because the *History of the Church*, though in the first person, is actually written by scribes who write this part after his death and are probably more comfortable saying such things about him.

May 29

* Thomas Sharp tells readers of the *Warsaw Signal* that he would not be surprised to hear of Joseph Smith's death by violent means in a short time.

Late Spring

* William Law resolves to make Joseph Smith's polygamy public and files a lawsuit against him for living in an open state of adultery with Maria Lawrence, one of his plural wives. In a Sunday sermon, Joseph comments on the irony of being accused of committing adultery and having seven wives when he can only find one, although in reality he has married at least thirty-four women.

June 7

* The apostate conspirators publish the first issue of the *Nauvoo Expositor*, edited by non-Mormon Sylvester Emmons. It accuses Joseph Smith of teaching vicious principles, practicing whoredoms, advocating so-called spiritual wifery, grasping for political power, preaching that there are many gods, speaking blasphemously of God, and promoting an inquisition.

June 8

* The Nauvoo city council meets in a long session to discuss the identity of the *Nauvoo Expositor*'s publishers and their intent. Sylvester Emmons, its editor, is suspended from the council.

June 10

* The Nauvoo city council meets again. Using famous English jurist William Blackstone as its authority and having examined various municipal codes, it rules that the Nauvoo Expositor is a public nuisance in that it slanders individuals in the city, and that if nothing is done to stop it, the anti-Mormons will be aroused to mob action. Mayor Joseph Smith orders city marshal John Greene to destroy the press, scatter the type, and burn any remaining newspapers.
* Joseph Smith's order is carried out within hours. Orrin Porter Rockwell kicks down the door of the printing office and the press is destroyed, but the entire building is accidentally razed as well. This, unlike the legal destruction of the published issues of the libelous newspaper, is seen as a violation of property rights.

June 12

* In the *Warsaw Signal*, Thomas Sharp calls for all citizens to arise and wage war and extermination against the “infernal devils”, the Mormons, to avenge the robbing of property and rights.

June 13-14

* The publishers of the *Nauvoo Expositor* go to Carthage and obtain a warrant against the Nauvoo city council on charge of riot, but Joseph Smith and the other council members are released following a habeas corpus hearing before the Nauvoo municipal court. This further arouses the angry public. Also, even though there have been twenty similar destructions of printing presses in Illinois over the previous two decades, the Church's enemies claim this incident violates freedom of the press.

June 18

* Joseph Smith places Nauvoo under martial law.

June 22

* Joseph and Hyrum Smith realize they are the ones the citizens want, so to protect the other Saints they leave with Willard Richards and Orrin Porter Rockwell and cross the Mississippi River in a leaky skiff, taking most of the night to reach the other side. They intend to go west among the Native Americans and look for a place for the Church.

June 23

* A posse arrives in Nauvoo to arrest Joseph and Hyrum Smith, but does not find them. It threatens the Saints with an invasion of troops if they do not give themselves up, and return to Carthage.
* Some brethren go to see Joseph Smith and argue that the mobs will drive them from their homes despite his departure. Joseph says that if his life is of no value to his friends it is of none to himself, and he and Hyrum make plans to return to Nauvoo and submit to arrest the next day.
* In Nauvoo, Hyrum marries his daughter Lovina to Lorin Walker, and Joseph spends a final evening with his family. He wants to speak to the Saints once more but there is not enough time.

June 24

* At 6:30 a.m., Joseph and Hyrum Smith, John Taylor, and fifteen other members of the Nauvoo city council set out on horseback for Carthage, accompanied by Willard Richards and a number of other friends. Joseph pauses at the temple site and remarks that this is the loveliest place and best people under the heavens, and little do they know the trials that await them. He tells the assembled Saints that his work is finished and he is willing to die for them so that the city and its inhabitants will not be destroyed.
* The group arrives at a farm four miles west of Carthage, where they meet a company of sixty mounted Illinois militia who present an order from Governor Ford for all the Nauvoo Legion's state arms to be surrendered. At Captain Dunn's request, Joseph returns to Nauvoo to forestall any resistance and sends a note to the governor in Carthage explaining his delay. He prophesies that he is going like a lamb to the slaughter but is calm as a summer's morning, and if they take his life his innocent blood will cry from the ground for vengeance.
* In Nauvoo, Joseph Smith directs that three small cannons and about two hundred firearms be turned over to the militia. This revives agonizing memories of the Mormon disarmament that preceded the Missouri massacre. He bids farewell to his family again, and leaves for Carthage at six in the evening.
* Five minutes before midnight, Captain Dunn and the militia ride into Carthage with Joseph and Hyrum Smith and the other Nauvoo city council members as voluntary captives. The town is in a riotous state, with mobs of irate townsmen and farmers and more than fourteen hundred unruly militia including the local Carthage Greys. Captain Dunn manages to safely place the prisoners in the Hamilton House hotel, and Governor Ford calms the crowd by announcing that Joseph will be paraded before the troops the next day.

June 25

* Joseph Smith and the others surrender to constable David Bettisworth on the original charge of riot, and almost immediately Joseph and Hyrum are charged with treason against the state of Illinois for declaring martial law in Nauvoo.
* At eight thirty in the morning, Governor Ford orders the troops to the public ground where he addresses them. He tells them the prisoners are dangerous men and perhaps guilty, but are now in the hands of the law, which must take its course. This only incites the soldiers to greater rage. Joseph and Hyrum are then paraded before the troops, who shower them with vulgar insults and death threats.
* At four o'clock a preliminary hearing is held before Robert F. Smith, a justice of the peace who is also captain of the Carthage Greys and active in the anti-Mormon party. He releases each member of the Nauvoo city council on five hundred dollar bonds and orders them to appear at the next term of the circuit court. Most of them then leave for Nauvoo, but Joseph and Hyrum Smith remain for an interview with Governor Ford.
* A constable appears with a commitment to prison signed by Judge Smith to hold Joseph and Hyrum in jail until they can be tried for treason. Joseph and his lawyers protest that the mittimus is illegal, since there was no mention of that charge at the hearing, but the governor says he cannot interrupt a civil officer in the discharge of his duty. The Carthage Greys hustle Joseph, Hyrum, and eight of their friends, including John Taylor and Willard Richards, through a drunken crowd to Carthage Jail. It turns out to be the safest place in town.

June 26

* A hearing is held for Joseph and Hyrum Smith on the charge of treason, and they are required to remain in custody until another hearing can be held in three days. Governor Ford promises to take them with him when he goes to Nauvoo because some brethren have complained that they will not be safe in Carthage without him.
* In the jail, Joseph Smith spends the afternoon dictating to his scribe, Willard Richards, while Dan Jones and Stephen Markham whittle at the warped door with a penknife so it can be latched securely to prepare against possible attack.
* Willard Richards, John Taylor, and Dan Jones spend the night with Joseph and Hyrum Smith. They pray together and read from the Book of Mormon, and Joseph bears his testimony to the guards.
* As Joseph Smith and Dan Jones are lying on the floor, Joseph asks Dan if he is afraid to die. Dan replies that he is not and asks if that time has come, but Joseph says he will yet see Wales, his native land, and fulfill the mission appointed him before he dies.
* About midnight several men surround the jail and start up the stairs to the prisoner's room. When they hear the prisoners moving inside, they hesitate. Joseph Smith calls out that they are ready for the assassins and would as willingly did now as at daylight. The mob retreats.

June 27

* Joseph Smith sends Dan Jones to inquire of the guards the cause of the disturbance last night. Frank Worrell, officer of the guard and one of the Carthage Greys, says they have had too much trouble bringing Joseph here to let him ever escape alive, and unless Dan wants to die as well he had better leave before sundown.
* Joseph Smith sends Dan Jones to inform Governor Ford of what Worrell has told him. On the way, Dan sees an assemblage of men and hears their leader making a speech, saying that their troops will be discharged and pretend to follow orders and leave town, but as soon as Governor Ford and the McDonough troops have left for Nauvoo in the afternoon they will return and kill Joseph and Hyrum even if they have to tear the jail down. The crowd gives three cheers.
* Dan Jones tells Governor Ford all that he has heard and urges him to place more trustworthy guards, but the governor says he is worrying about nothing and that the people are not that cruel. Dan says his only remaining desire is that the Almighty will preserve his life to a time and place where he can testify that the governor has been warned of the danger. Outside, Chauncey L. Higbee warns him that they are determined to kill Joseph and Hyrum and that he had better leave to save himself.
* Joseph Smith writes a letter to Emma, sending his love to the children and all his friends. He writes another letter to well-known lawyer Orville H. Browning asking him to come and defend him. Soon afterward all his friends aside from Willard Richards and John Taylor are forced to leave the jail.
* Governor Ford violates his promise by leaving for Nauvoo without Joseph and Hyrum. He takes Captain Dunn's Dragoons from McDonough County, the only troops who have demonstrated neutrality in the affair, and leaves a company of Carthage Greys to guard the jail. In Nauvoo he delivers a speech claiming that an atonement must be made for the crime of destroying the *Nauvoo Expositor* press and placing the city under martial law, and that the public is afraid because the Saints have too many firearms.
* Colonel Levi Williams of the Warsaw militia reads to his men the governor's orders to disband, but Thomas Sharp addresses them and calls for them to march east to Carthage. Shouts follow for volunteers to kill the Smiths, and some of the men obscure their identities by smearing their faces with mud and gunpowder.
* Joseph Smith gives Hyrum a single-shot pistol and prepares to defend himself with a six-shooter smuggled in by Cyrus Wheelock. John Taylor sings the hymn “A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief”, one of Joseph Smith's favorites, to comfort the depressed brethren.
* At four in the afternoon the guard at Carthage Jail is changed, so that Frank Worrell is in charge.
* A few minutes after five, an armed mob storms Carthage Jail and begins shooting through the door as Willard Richards and John Taylor attempt to ward them off with their canes. Hyrum is shot in the face and dies. Joseph discharges six shots through the door, but is then shot four times as he attempts to jump out the window, giving as his last words a Masonic cry of distress that may be directed towards other Masons in the mob. John Taylor is wounded with four shots, and it is unclear whether his pocketwatch saves him from being shot in the heart or simply breaks on the windowsill. He crawls under the bed for protection.
* At Joseph Smith's death, the Church has two stakes, three missions, 26,246 nominal members, and one temple.
* Willard Richards, who has only had a bullet graze his ear, drags the wounded John Taylor into the next room, deposits him on straw, and covers him with an old filthy mattress. He expects to be killed at any moment, but is surprised when the mob flees and leaves him alone with his dead and wounded comrades.
* Joseph and Hyrum Smith's brother Samuel, having heard about death threats to them, arrives in Carthage physically exhausted from being chased by mobbers. The exertion and fatigue causes him to contract a fever. He helps Willard Richards move the bodies of his martyred brothers into the Hamilton House. After a coroner's inquiry, Elder Richards writes to the Saints at Nauvoo that they are dead.

June 28

* The bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith are placed on separate wagons, covered with branches to shade them from the sun, and driven to Nauvoo by Willard Richards, Samuel Smith, and Artois Hamilton. There they are met by a great assemblage.

June 29

* The bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith lie in state in the Mansion House while thousands of people silently file past the coffins. They are then buried in secret in the basement so that those who want to collect a reward for Joseph's head cannot find the remains. A public funeral is held and caskets filled with sand are buried in the Nauvoo cemetery.
* A conference is held in Boston, Massachusetts, with seven Apostles present – Elders Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Orson Hyde, William Smith, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, and Lyman Wight.

July 1

* Elder Wilford Woodruff and at least four other Apostles, not yet aware of Joseph Smith's death, attend the Massachusetts state convention in Boston. A fight breaks out and the police are called in, but Brigham Young says it has still done them good in Boston.

July 2

* Elder John Taylor, wounded in Carthage Jail, returns to Nauvoo. Throughout the month he improves steadily but remains bedridden.

July 8

* Elder Parley P. Pratt is the first of the Twelve to return to Nauvoo from his mission in the eastern United States.
* The *New York Weekly Herald* gives a garbled account of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and concludes “Thus ends Mormonism.”

July 30

* Samuel Smith, brother of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, dies of the fever contracted while running from a mob.

August 3

* Sidney Rigdon arrives in Nauvoo from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania claiming that he should be appointed as “guardian” of the Church. In the absence of most of the Twelve, he makes some inroads with his claim.

August 15

* The *Times and Seasons* publishes a transcript of Joseph Smith's King Follett Discourse reconstructed from Thomas Bullock's shorthand notes and William Clayton's longhand notes, both contemporaneous.

Fall

* The Seventies Hall is dedicated. Its first floor is filled with beautiful pews and a pulpit, while the second contains an office, a small museum, and a library of 675 volumes.

November 17

* Emma Smith gives birth to David Hyrum Smith.

1845

April

* Parley P. Pratt publishes the proclamation to the world's leaders from the Quorum of the Twelve that was commanded four years earlier but delayed by other demands and difficulties. It testifies of preparations for the Second Coming and the gathering of Israel, and that as the work of God progresses no one can remain neutral toward his Kingdom, and this polarization will result in Armageddon. It concludes with a plea to rulers and people of the United States to cease hindering the Saints, saying that if they will help instead their great national blessings will continue.

October 5

* General Conference is held in the assembly room of the Nauvoo Temple.

December

* Having heard vague reports about violence against the Church in Illinois, and fearing for the safety of his family, Elder Noah Rogers returns to Nauvoo from Tahiti.

December 10

* Endowments commence in the Nauvoo Temple.

1846

February 4

* The first covered wagons cross the Mississippi River to begin the trek westward.

February 7

* The final endowments are given in the Nauvoo Temple.

February 8

* The Nauvoo Temple is informally dedicated by Brigham Young prior to leaving for the west.

April 30

* The Nauvoo Temple is privately dedicated by Joseph Young, Senior President of the Seventy.

May 1

* The Nauvoo Temple is officially dedicated by Elder Orson Hyde.

July 16

* Ezra T. Benson is ordained an Apostle.

September 24

* At a church conference, Elders Addison Pratt and Benjamin Grouard bring together 866 members from ten branches in islands of the Pacific.

November

* Elder Addison Pratt leaves the Pacific islands for the United States, hoping to return with more missionaries.

1847

January 14

* Brigham Young receives a revelation about how to organize the westward journey and how the pioneers should conduct themselves. It later becomes Section 136 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

April 15

* The Pioneer Company begins its trek west.

July 24

* The first pioneers arrive in the Salt Lake Valley. This day is henceforth celebrated annually in Utah as Pioneer Day.

July 28

* The Salt Lake Temple is announced.

December 27

* The newly reorganized First Presidency is sustained in the Kanesville Tabernacle in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with Brigham Young as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

1848

June 9

* A wave of seagulls arrives and devours the crickets, then vomits them up in a river and comes back for more until they are gone. Though not considered miraculous by any of its contemporaries, this becomes known in later years as the “Miracle of the Seagulls”, despite the fact that it involves natural seagull behavior and does not actually save many of the pioneers' crops.

October

* Oliver Cowdery, who was excommunicated a decade earlier, humbly submits himself to the Church for rebaptism in Kanesville, Iowa.

October 9

* The interior of the abandoned Nauvoo Temple is burned by an arsonist.

1849

February 12

* Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards are ordained Apostles.

February 13

* Brigham Young says that the Africans, “Cain's seed”, have been cursed with blackness and prohibited from the priesthood. Whether this marks the beginning of the priesthood ban or whether it started earlier is unknown, and the reaction of black priesthood holders such as Elijah Abel is likewise unknown.

1850

* A pair of British soldiers who have joined the Church the previous year, George Barber and Benjamin Richey, bear their testimonies to members of the Plymouth Brethren in Calcutta, India. Because they are not well-informed about church doctrine and do not have priesthood authority, they ask church authorities back in England to send someone to perform baptisms.

May 27

* A tornado demolishes three of the abandoned Nauvoo Temple's exterior walls.

June 25

* The first missionaries, including Elder Lorenzo Snow, arrive in Genova, Italy. Over the next three years, 221 people are baptized and organized into three branches.

November 24

* The Swiss Mission is created. Elder Lorenzo Snow sets apart one of his companions, Thomas B.H. Stenhouse, as its first president.

1851

* Lorenzo Snow sends Elder Hugh Findlay to Bombay (now Mumbai), India. He immediately faces opposition from the established Protestant sects, the press, and military officers and chaplains, and it takes him nearly six months to baptize his first six converts.
* A city in Utah is christened Fort Louisa (later Parowan) in honor of Louisa Beaman, who is erroneously believed to be Joseph Smith's first plural wife.
* The Old Tabernacle on Temple Square begins construction.

February 15

* Elder Orson Hyde publishes a letter in the *Millennial Star* defining the Church's position on slavery, saying that it will respect the laws of the land and not interfere between slaves and their masters.

June

* Sent from England by G.B. Wallace, Elder Joseph Richards arrives in Calcutta, India, baptizes and ordains several and helps establish the “Wanderer's Branch”. He soon has to return home because he had obtained passage under contract as a sail maker and cannot find a replacement.

July

* At Pulehu, Maui, Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii), Elder George Q. Cannon baptizes the first Hawaiian convert.

December 25

* Elder William Willes, sent by Lorenzo Snow, arrives in Calcutta, India and finds only six members without leadership. Though most of them are British, a native Indian convert named Anna informs him that a whole church of Indian Episcopalian Christians will desire baptism as soon as arrangements can be made in regard to their social position and so forth.

1852

* The French government banishes the missionaries from Tahiti.

January 4

* While addressing the Utah territorial legislature on the slavery issue, Brigham Young declares in the name of Jesus Christ that any man having one drop of the seed of Cain, meaning African ancestry, cannot hold the priesthood.

March 24

* There are now twelve European and twenty Indian members in Calcutta, India.

April 6

* In Calcutta, India, William Willes baptizes eleven local men who have come from a distant village. Three of them are soon ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood.

April 9

* President Brigham Young gives the first of several controversial sermons in which he declares that Adam is our Father and our God, who came to Earth with one of his wives and took on mortality, and the only God with whom we have to do. Though presented as a doctrine, this becomes known as the Adam-God theory.

August

* Elder Joseph Richards returns to Calcutta, India, having sailed all the way around the Cape of Good Hope to England and back. He baptizes William Sheppard and his son, and afterward there is little activity for the next two months.

August 17

* Sergeant Major Matthew McCune and Sergeant William Adams, both church members, arrive in Rangoon where they have been sent with the British-Indian Army. They decide to hold lecture meetings each Tuesday and Thursday evening to teach the gospel to other members of their military unit, but attendance at the meetings quickly dwindles and they become interested in the Burmese people instead.

August 28

* President Brigham Young calls a special conference of the Church to call and send out 108 missionaries. It is held before the usual time in October so they will be able to reach their fields of labor with greater ease before winter.

August 29

* At the missionary conference the doctrine of plural marriage, previously practiced in secret, is officially announced.

Mid-September

* Elder Hugh Findlay establishes a branch of twelve members in Poona, India. They are a mixture of Europeans, Eurasians, and native Indians.

October

* Elder Hugh Findlay is directed to leave the military cantonment and finds new quarters in a miserable little house, which he also uses to hold church meetings.

October 16

* The missionaries called at the missionary conference are set apart and given priesthood blessings.

October 24

* Thirty-eight missionaries called to Calcutta, India; Siam (now Thailand); the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii); and Australia gather at Peteetnot Creek and organize a camp. Hosea Stout, bound for China, is made captain; Nathanial Vary Jones, bound for India, is made chaplain; Burr Frost, bound for Australia, is made sergeant of the guard; and Amos Milton Musser, bound for India, is made clerk.

November 12

* The camp of missionaries led by Hosea Stout is joined by a group of emigrants going to California to dig gold. They follow the Rio Virgin for the next three days and then begin the ascent to the top of Mormon Mesa in present-day Nevada.

December 3

* The camp of missionaries led by Hosea Stout arrives in San Bernardino, California. Church members there provide them with shelter, food, and money.

December 17

* The camp of missionaries led by Hosea Stout moves to Los Angeles, California.

December 22

* The camp of missionaries led by Hosea Stout arrives in San Pedro, California, and waits for passage to San Francisco.

December 29

* The camp of missionaries led by Hosea Stout manages to arrange passage to San Francisco on the *Fremont* for $17.60 per person, a full $37.50 less than the usual fare on steam packets.

1853

* The first missionaries arrive in South Africa. They proselyte mostly among British settlers but do baptize a few blacks.

January

* Although their meetings are poorly attended and their handbills and announcements are frequently destroyed, Matthew McCune and William Adams have baptized eight fellow soldiers.

January 3

* The *Fremont* sails for San Franciso, California, with the missionaries on board. Despite their discount they find it necessary to work on board to help defray expenses, which amount to around $700.

January 9

* The *Fremont* arrives in San Francisco, California. The missionaries have to raise funds for passage to their various missions, which comes to over a thousand dollars for each one and nearly two thousand for Calcutta, India. They are able to gather $150 from nonmembers, a member named T.S. Williams donates $500, and a wealthy member named John Horner donates the rest.

January 22

* The missionaries in San Francisco receive their passports from Washington, D.C. and are free to secure passage to their various destinations.

January 29

* The thirteen missionaries who are bound for India and Siam (now Thailand) embark from San Francisco aboard a clipper ship called the *Monsoon*.

February 14

* The site is dedicated for the Salt Lake Temple by Heber C. Kimball, and ground is broken by Brigham Young. It will not be completed for over forty years.

March 9

* Elders Hosea Stout, James Lewis, and Chapman Duncan sail from San Francisco for China.

April 25

* The missionaries aboard the clipper ship *Monsoon* arrive in Calcutta, India, having covered 10,976 miles in eighty-six days.

April 28

* Hosea Stout and his fellow missionaries arrive in Hong Kong, China.

April 29

* The missionaries hold a conference with four local members in Calcutta, India, to determine who will lead the mission and who will be assigned to the various parts of India. After they separate, the East Indian Mission virtually becomes several unconnected missions due to the poor state of communications between them.

May 5

* Hosea Stout and his fellow missionaries move into their own apartment, located at the Canton Bazaar in China. They hire a Chinese servant as a cook, market man, and chamber maid, because it is the custom and cheaper than shopping in the markets themselves.

May 6

* The missionaries hold their first preaching meeting in Hong Kong and teach a small group of British soldiers.

May 11

* The missionaries in Hong Kong make their first contact with Chinese people; a pair of curious Christians.

May 19

* A public meeting is held in Hong Kong for people interested in the Church.

May 20

* Another public meeting is held in Hong Kong for people interested in the Church, but the formerly interested people are now quite reserved, having learned from articles in three newspapers that the Mormons are polygamists.

May 31

* The final public meeting is held in Hong Kong, attended by about fifty people. The missionaries feel they do a good job of disproving various contending religions, but the crowd does not ask a single question and leaves almost immediately.

June 5

* Elders William Fotheringham and William F. Carter return to Calcutta from Dinapore.

June 7

* Elder Hosea Stout writes that he feels he and his companions have done all God or man could require of them in Hong Kong, having preached publicly and privately as long as anyone would hear and often when no one would hear.

June 9

* The missionaries in Hong Kong decide to go home, and arrange cabin passage to San Francisco aboard the *Rose of Sharron*.

June 15

* The first convert in South Africa, Henry Stringer, is baptized.

June 18

* Joseph Richards sails from Calcutta bound for California and Utah.

June 22

* Hosea Stout and his companions depart Hong Kong for San Francisco aboard the *Rose of Sharron*.

July 7

* Elder William F. Carter is very ill, so to preserve his life he is released from his mission call and sent home from Calcutta. He boards the *John Gilpin* and sails for Boston. His companion, William Fotheringham, works in Calcutta with Elders Jones, Musser, and Owens for the next month and a half.

August 19

* After William Willes has sent numerous requests for another companion near Delhi and twenty-five rupees to assist with travel expenses, Elders Fotheringham and Woolley decide to join him.

August 22

* Hosea Stout and his fellow missionaries arrive in San Francisco aboard the *Rose of Sharron*.

September 28

* Elder Levi Savage Jr. leaves Rangoon and sails to Moulmein, across the Gulf of Martaban, where he remains for some months attempting to learn the Burmese language.

Late December

* Elders Fotheringham and Woolley arrive in Agra, India. They obtain a hall and hold meetings for several nights, but when the crowds dwindle from twenty-four to one investigator on the fourth night, the meetings are discontinued. The missionaries are tired and discouraged.

1854

* The national Republican Party is formed in the United States. In its platform it urges Congress to prohibit in the territories the twin relics of barbarism – polygamy and slavery.

January

* Elder Elam Luddington and Elder Matthew McCune have baptized two more British soldiers in Rangoon.

February 3

* Elder Elam Luddington sails from Rangoon en route for Singapore.

Late February

* Elder Elam Luddington arrives at Penang, or Prince of Wales Island. After preaching the gospel there for five days, he sails again for Singapore.

March 6

* Elders Fotheringham and Woolley return to Calcutta. Their long expedition through India has not produced a single baptism.

March 11

* Elder Willard Richards dies.

April

* *The Seer* reprints Joseph Smith’s American Civil War prophecy with six pages of interpretation and editorial comment.

April 6

* Elder Elam Luddington arrives in Bangkok, Siam (later Thailand) aboard the *Serious*. His only converts are the ship's captain, James Trail, and his wife. Over the next four months he is stoned twice, rejected by most Westerners, and has no success attracting attention among the Siamese people.

August 12

* Elder Elam Luddington leaves Bangkok aboard the *Serious*. He goes to Singapore and then Hong Kong, hoping to find the elders who have been sent there.

1855

* Elders A. Milton Musser and Truman Leonard build a chapel at Karachi, India (later Pakistan).

April

* President Brigham Young writes to the editor of the *Millennial Star*, asking him not to republish any more issues of Elder Orson Pratt's periodical *The Seer*. He says that the periodical contains many beautifully written articles but also many erroneous doctrines. A formal rejection of it by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve will come ten years later.

May

* The Endowment House on Temple Square is dedicated by Heber C. Kimball. It allows the Saints to perform endowments in lieu of completion of the Salt Lake Temple.

1856

* The last remaining exterior wall of the abandoned Nauvoo Temple is leveled for safety reasons.

May 2

* Elder Robert Skelton is the last missionary to leave India. He thinks there are around sixty-one members in India and Burma at the time of his departure, in addition to the eleven who have immigrated to the Salt Lake Valley.

September 24

* The *Deseret News* publishes Joseph Smith's 1843 prophecy that Senator Stephen Douglas will feel the weight of the Almighty's hand upon him if he ever betrays the Saints.

November 22

* Heber J. Grant, future seventh President of the Church, is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

December 20

* Lyman Johnson dies.

1857

* Ex-Mormon John Hyde writes an anti-Mormon book.
* Thomas B. Marsh, a former Apostle who was excommunicated nearly two decades ago for apostasy, returns to the Church after much suffering outside of it.

May 13

* Elder Parley P. Pratt dies.

June 12

* Stephen Douglas betrays the Saints for political gain during a speech in Springfield, Illinois. It is known that he is personally acquainted with them and can speak with authority, and so his words carry weight when he confirms several vicious rumors that he knows to be false and calls for their prosecution.

September 7

* Captain Stewart Van Vliet arrives in Salt Lake City to obtain supplies for the army.

September 11

* Approximately 120 men, women and children, traveling through Utah to California in the Baker-Fancher wagon train from Arkansas, are massacred by a force consisting of Mormon militia members and Southern Paiutes in what becomes known as the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

September 15

* Brigham Young declares martial law in Utah.

October

* Lot Smith and others raid army supply wagons.

October 14

* John E. Page dies.

October 18

* In “Mormonism and its Origin, Number 4”, *The Golden Era* in San Francisco reports a garbled version of Joseph Smith's American Civil War prophecy and derides its meager chances of fulfillment, saying that the Union has stood the strongest test and not even been shaken.

Winter

* Johnston's Army winters at Camp Scott.

1858

* Missionaries serving in India return to the United States.
* The S.M. Rooker family, a Mormon family from Utah, becomes the first to settle at what will become the city of Denver, Colorado.

March 31

* Lyman Wight dies.

June

* Peace commissioners offer a pardon to the Church.

June 26

* Johnston's Army passes through Salt Lake City.

1859

* The *Millennial Star* publishes Joseph Smith's 1843 prophecy that Senator Stephen Douglas will feel the weight of the Almighty's hand upon him if he ever betrays the Saints.

June 27

* Presendia Huntington Buell climbs Ensign Peak with several friends to commemorate the death of her second husband, Joseph Smith, fifteen years ago. They offer up prayers to God, thanking him for raising up a prophet in these last days and restoring the gospel to the earth, and that they have been among the few who have received the truth.

October 9

* Brigham Young preaches that slavery is a curse on the African race and that they will never receive the priesthood until all the other descendants of Adam have had that opportunity.

November 24

* Naturalist Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, theorizing that all modern species are descended from older ones by survival of whichever organisms have traits best suited to their environment. This becomes known as the theory of evolution. Although Darwin sees his theory as perfectly innocuous and harmless to religion, it outrages much of the Christian world as it contradicts a literal reading of Genesis and is perceived to strike at mankind's unique relationship with God.

1860

June 23

* Stephen A. Douglas is nominated for the presidency of the United States at the Democratic convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

August 26

* George Q. Cannon is ordained an Apostle.

November 6

* Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States. Thanks to a split in the Democrat vote, Stephen Douglas, who had betrayed the Saints for political gain, carries only one state out of thirty-three – Missouri.

1861

* William W. Phelps claims that thirty years earlier Joseph Smith, himself, and five other elders gathered to inquire of the Lord who should preach the first sermon to the remnants of the Lamanites and Nephites. Joseph then received a revelation commanding them to take Lamanites and Nephites as wives so that their posterity would become white, delightsome, and just, and later clarified this to be plural marriage. Because Phelps' late claim is the only source, it is uncertain whether this actually happens, but critics nonetheless charge the Church with suppressing this alleged revelation due to its racism.

April 12

* Confederate forces fire without provocation on Fort Sumter, a key Union fort in South Carolina, marking the beginning of the American Civil War and the fulfillment of a prophecy by Joseph Smith.

May 5

* Referring to an 1851 pamphlet containing Joseph Smith's prophecy of the American Civil War, now ongoing, the *Philadelphia Sunday Mercury* asks “Have we not had a prophet among us?”

June 3

* Stephen A. Douglas, who had betrayed the Saints for political gain and then failed in his presidential ambitions, dies a broken man at the age of forty-eight.

October 20

* The final lines of a telegraph are strung together, linking the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific through an office in Salt Lake City. Brigham Young uses it to remark that Utah is still loyal to the Union, causing great relief to people in the east.

October 22

* General J. Arlington Bennett writes Brigham Young asking to recruit 1,000-10,000 Mormons for the Union army.

November 18

* President Abraham Lincoln orders some books about Mormonism from the Library of Congress, including an 1831 Book of Mormon. After his research he decides to leave the Mormons alone if they will leave him alone, comparing them to immovable logs on his childhood farm that had to be plowed around. Thus he declines to enforce anti-polygamy legislation during his presidency.

December 9

* Elder Luke S. Johnson dies.

1862

April

* President Abraham Lincoln asks Brigham Young to provide a full company of one hundred men to protect the stage and telegraph lines and overland mail routes in Green River County, in what is now southern Wyoming.

May 3

* Elder Orson Hyde prophesies in the *Millennial Star*, possibly referring to an unpublished prophecy by Joseph Smith, that when the demon of war has exhausted his strength and madness upon American soil he will remove his headquarters to the banks of the Rhine. This prophecy is fulfilled in the next century by Germany's role in both World Wars.

1863

* Construction begins on the Salt Lake Tabernacle in Temple Square.

March 8

* In the Salt Lake Tabernacle, Brigham Young gives a sermon criticizing federal government. He says that if Congress had the right to pass an anti-polygamy bill, they have the right to dictate that black people be used like human beings and not worse than dumb brutes, and that the whites will be cursed for their abuse of that race unless they repent.

June 4

* Famed British novelist Charles Dickens visits a docked ship called the *Amazon* and encounters a departing Mormon emigrant company. He is very impressed with their discipline and organization despite their numbers, and later writes about the experience in his collection of literary sketches *The Uncommercial Traveler*, saying that some remarkable influence must have produced such a remarkable result.

August 22

* Elder Wilford Woodruff prophesies the building of the Logan Utah Temple and the future destruction of New York City by earthquake, Boston by flood, and Albany by fire. President Brigham Young follows and confirms that this is a true revelation.

1864

* Elder Lorenzo Snow and Joseph F. Smith visit Hawaii to put a stop to the heresy caused by Walter Murray Gibson.

February 4

* Brigham Young Jr. is ordained an Apostle but does not enter the Quorum of the Twelve.

1865

* The South African Mission is closed. It is not reopened for nearly forty years.

May 9

* U.S. President Andrew Johnson declares the end of the American Civil War. The South has been defeated and the Union preserved.

October 21

* The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve issue a formal proclamation rejecting Elder Orson Pratt's periodical *The Seer* from the previous decade, stating that he is an excellent authority on true doctrine but that when he puts forth his own speculations as doctrine he violates his priesthood, and recommending that copies of the periodical should be destroyed whenever possible. Elder Pratt accepts their censure with humility and urges members to do as requested. Despite this, *The Seer'*s justifications for polygamy remain popular, and critics continue to quote it as a source of LDS doctrine.

1866

January

* Thomas B. Marsh dies.

July 1

* Joseph F. Smith, son of Hyrum and nephew of Joseph Smith, is ordained an Apostle but does not yet enter the Quorum of the Twelve.

August 19

* Brigham Young preaches that many inhabitants of the earth are cursed with a skin of blackness because their fathers rejected the Holy Priesthood and the law of God.

1867

October 8

* Elder Joseph F. Smith, ordained an Apostle the previous year, enters the Quorum of the Twelve.

1868

June 22

* Elder Heber C. Kimball dies.

October 9

* Elder Brigham Young Jr., ordained an Apostle four and a half years previous, enters the Quorum of the Twelve.

1869

September 3

* Ezra T. Benson dies.

1870

* The Old Tabernacle on Temple Square is torn down to make way for the Assembly Hall, though construction on that building does not begin for seven more years.

February 10

* With no dissenting votes, the Utah territorial legislature passes an act giving women the right to vote, but not hold office. It is hoped that this will change the predominant national image of Utah women as downtrodden and oppressed and help to stem the tide of anti-polygamy legislation from Congress.

February 12

* The acting Utah governor, S.A. Mann, signs into law the act allowing women to vote, making Utah the second territory to do so, after Wyoming the previous year. No actual states in the United States allow women to vote at this time.

February 14

* The first woman voter in the municipal election is reportedly Sarah Young, grandniece of Brigham Young.

April 4

* George Albert Smith, future eighth President of the Church, is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

July 3

* Albert Carrington is ordained an Apostle.

1871

May 14

* Brigham Young preaches that the Church differs from the Christian world in that it will not clash with or contradict the facts of science in any particular, and as such whatever science claims about the age or creation of the Earth poses no difficulty to the Saints.

October 8

* A fire breaks out in the barn behind the home of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary in Chicago, Illinois, which spreads over the next two days to destroy the heart of the city. Joseph Smith's papyri, including the Book of Abraham, are believed lost in this fire, but a few fragments are rediscovered in New York almost a century later.

November 9

* The St. George Utah Temple, originally known simply as the St. George Temple, is announced.

1872

* In his book *Roughing It* about his travels in the west, author Samuel Clemens, under his better-known alias Mark Twain, devotes a chapter to a cynical and unflattering review of the Book of Mormon, famously calling it chloroform in print. However, his remarks are mostly mocking and not nearly as harsh in tone as what he says about the Bible on other occasions.
* The Iwakura diplomatic mission from Japan stops in Salt Lake City en route to Washington, D.C. and receives an appropriate welcome from the Legislature. They express a great deal of interest in Utah and its settlement by the Mormons, as well as wonderment that missionaries have not been sent to Japan.

1873

February 23

* Japan's anti-Christian edicts are removed.

September 8

* David O. McKay, future ninth President of the Church, is born in Huntsville, Utah.

1874

February 16

* William Clayton, the clerk who took down Joseph Smith's revelation on polygamy, describes in an affidavit the circumstances of being told about the revelation, writing it down, and trying to persuade Joseph's first wife Emma.

1875

* Mormon missionaries first enter Mexico. One group sends selections of the Book of Mormon in Spanish to influential leaders throughout the country and teaches many people, but has no converts. The other baptizes Mexico's first five members in Hermosillo, Sonora.
* Charles J. Thomas, custodian of the still-unfinished Salt Lake Temple, is assigned to meet tourists, show them around Temple Square, and answer their questions. He keeps a book in which they can sign their names.
* Brigham Young Academy is founded.

June 25

* The Manti Utah Temple is announced.

September 1

* George A. Smith, Apostle and cousin of Joseph Smith, dies.

October

* The second Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square is dedicated by John Taylor. It is used for General Conferences for the next one hundred twenty-four years.

1876

May 7

* The St. George Tabernacle is dedicated by Elder Brigham Young Jr.

July 19

* Joseph F. Smith's son Joseph Fielding Smith, future tenth President of the Church, is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

October 6

* The Logan Utah Temple is announced.

1877

* Construction begins on the Assembly Hall on Temple Square.

January 1

* The St. George Utah Temple, the Church's first still-operating temple, is privately dedicated in a series of three dedicatory prayers: the baptistry by Wilford Woodruff, the main floor by Erastus Snow, and the sealing room by Brigham Young Jr.

February 4

* Amasa Lyman dies.

April 6-8

* The St. George Utah Temple is dedicated publicly by Daniel H. Wells.

April 25

* The site is dedicated and ground broken for the Manti Utah Temple by President Brigham Young. The site has previously been chosen by Moroni centuries earlier sometime during his wanderings through the Americas.

May 18

* The site for the Logan Utah Temple is dedicated by Elder Orson Pratt, and ground is broken by John W. Young.

August 29

* Brigham Young dies after thirty years, the longest tenure of any President of the Church.
* At Brigham Young's death, the Church has twenty stakes, nine missions, 115,065 nominal members, and one temple.

1878

* A small branch of the Church is established in Mexico City, Mexico.

November 28

* Orson Hyde dies.

1879

* One of the influential Mexican leaders who received church literature four years earlier, Plotino C. Rohdakanaty of Mexico City, requests baptism for himself and others.

March 16

* John H. Gilbert, the typesetter for the original Book of Mormon printing, writes to James T. Cobb in Palmyra denying J.N.T. Tucker's claim thirty-seven years earlier to have once stolen a page of the printing and received a completely different replacement from Martin Harris. He points out that Tucker did not even work in the print shop at that time, and that he once committed a crime and was acquitted on a plea of insanity.

April 9

* Moses Thatcher is ordained an Apostle.

1880

* The Assembly Hall on Temple Square is completed, but not dedicated for an additional two years.

October 10

* The Pearl of Great Price is ratified as one of the standard works, or canonical texts, of the Church. Also at this time, other revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants which had not been accepted as scripture because they were received after 1835 are unanimously accepted as scripture.

October 27

* Francis M. Lyman and John H. Smith are ordained Apostles.

1881

* Jesús Sanchez is baptized in San Marcos, Hidalgo, Mexico.
* Oliver B. Huntington writes in his journal that decades earlier Joseph Smith had described a Quaker-like race of men living on the moon, and that in 1837 Joseph Smith Sr. had given him a patriarchal blessing telling him he would preach the gospel to them before the age of twenty-one. These claims are never corroborated by any other source, but critics nonetheless accept them as established fact.

October 3

* Orson Pratt dies.

1882

* The Assembly Hall on Temple Square, completed two years earlier, is dedicated by Elder Joseph F. Smith.

October 16

* George Teasdale and Heber J. Grant are ordained Apostles.

1883

April 24

* William E. McLellin dies.

November 17

* Charles C. Rich dies.

1884

* Elijah Abel serves a mission in Canada.

April 9

* John W. Taylor, son of President John Taylor, is ordained an Apostle.

May 17-19

* The Logan Utah Temple, the Church's second operating temple, is dedicated by President John Taylor.

1885

* Several Mormon families move from the United States to Mexico.
* A Spanish translation of the Book of Mormon is completed.
* Cyrus Thomas, working with the Smithsonian Institution, finds a stone in a burial mound at Bat Creek, Tennessee, with a Hebrew inscription suggesting a migration of Jews. Its significance remains unknown for nearly a century. Although it most likely has nothing to do with the Book of Mormon, it does demonstrate that ancient links between the Americas and the Mediterranean exist.

May

* In a *Contributor* article titled “To the Youth of Israel”, Elder B.H. Roberts speculates that the descendants of Cain, by which he means Africans, are those who were not valiant in the great rebellion in heaven. This idea later becomes very popular as a rationalization for the priesthood ban.

1886

* President John Taylor commissions Charles Ora Card, president of the Cache Stake, to find a place of refuge and asylum to the north. He visits Canada and reports favorably on the prospects.

1887

* Struggling British physician Arthur Conan Doyle publishes *A Study in Scarlet*, the first Sherlock Holmes story ever written and one of only four full-length novels in the original canon. It features polygamous Mormons as the villains but relies entirely on sensationalistic hearsay about the Danites and polygamy; an honest mistake as correct information is hard to come by.
* Reverend M.T. Lamb, a Baptist minister, writes an anti-Mormon book decrying not only alleged anachronisms in the Book of Mormon but also what he sees as incongruities in the Saints' perceptions of Book of Mormon lands and the realities of population growths and travel distances.
* The Edmunds-Tucker Act officially dissolves the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a legal corporation and requires the Church to forfeit to the federal government all property in excess of fifty thousand dollars. The Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company is also dissolved, schools are placed under the direction of federally appointed territorial supreme courts, and many polygamous men are stripped of their voting rights or arrested and automatically sentenced to prison. Women's right to vote is abolished completely.
* The Amarna Letters, a mostly diplomatic correspondence between the Egyptian administration and its representatives in Canaan and Amurru during the New Kingdom, are discovered. They contain a much-derided phrase from the Book of Mormon, “the land of Jerusalem”, at least five times.

Early Spring

* Charles Ora Card returns to Canada to begin a permanent settlement, which becomes the city of Cardston, Alberta.

July 25

* President John Taylor dies. He is widely considered a martyr, as his illness was caused by the stress of hiding from the persecution of the federal government.
* At John Taylor's death, the Church has thirty-one stakes, thirteen missions, 173,029 nominal members, and two temples.

October 9

* President Wilford Woodruff enters the Salt Lake Tabernacle for the afternoon session of General Conference along with Lorenzo Snow and Franklin D. Richards. The Saints greet him with applause. He addresses them and then leaves before the singing to avoid arrest.

1888

* The Samoan Mission is formally organized.
* President Wilford Woodruff directs the formation of the Church Board of Education to oversee all educational enterprises of the Church. Over the next thirteen years over thirty academies are started in the larger settlements of Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Canada, and Mexico. They provide secondary education, which emphasizes classical and vocational training, as well as religious instruction.
* Emily S. Richards, wife of the Church's attorney, Franklin S. Richards, approaches church officials with a proposal to form a Utah suffrage association affiliated with the National Woman Suffrage Association.

May 17

* The Manti Utah Temple, the Church's third operating temple, is privately dedicated by President Wilford Woodruff.

May 21-23

* The Manti Utah Temple is publicly dedicated by President Lorenzo Snow, who reads the same dedicatory prayer originally offered by President Woodruff.

May 27

* Erastus Snow dies.

1889

* The mission in central Mexico is closed.
* Using illegal voting tactics, the Liberal Party gains control of the city legislature of Ogden, Utah. It then begins campaigning for the Salt Lake City election in February of next year.
* The colony of Iosepa (Hawaiian for “Joseph”) is opened in western Utah's Skull Valley for Hawaiian church members who have migrated to Utah to be near the Salt Lake Temple.
* Annual conferences are begun in Salt Lake City for Relief Society and Primary workers, significantly reducing the amount of travel required of general board members by allowing stake representatives to carry instructions directly back from the conferences.

January 10

* With church approval, a territorial association affiliated with the National Woman Suffrage Association is formed, with leading roles given to women who are not involved in polygamous marriages. Margaret N. Caine, wife of Delegate to Congress John T. Caine, is the president and Emily Richards was appointed a state organizer. Acting quickly, Mrs. Richards organizes local units throughout the territory, many if not all of them springing from the Church's auxiliary organizations such as the Relief Society.

April 7

* Wilford Woodruff is sustained in General Conference as President of the Church, with George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith as his counselors.

September 19

* Albert Carrington dies.

October 7

* Marriner W. Merrill, Anthon H. Lund, and Abraham H. Cannon are ordained Apostles.

December 23

* On the eighty-fourth anniversary of Joseph Smith's birth, church members are asked to fast and implore the help of Almighty God during the Church's current crisis.

1890

* The Red Brick Store in Nauvoo is torn down.

February

* The United States Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of an Idaho test oath requiring voters to swear they do not belong to a church that believes in plural marriage. The Saints' opponents thus send representatives to Washington, D.C., to lobby for a similar oath for Utah citizens, and the Cullom-Strubble bill is introduced.
* The Liberal Party gains control of the Salt Lake City legislature by illegally preventing church members from registering to vote.

Spring

* The Cullom-Strubble bill, which would deprive all church members in the nation of their right to vote whether they practice polygamy or not, appears likely to pass.
* President George Q. Cannon makes a trip to Washington, D.C., to find leading Republicans who are willing to cooperate with the Saints.

May

* In a five to four decision, the United States Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of all the government has done to the Church and its members under the Edmunds-Tucker Act.

Summer

* President George Q. Cannon makes a trip to Washington, D.C., to find leading Republicans who are willing to cooperate with the Saints. When he returns, he confides that prospects are brighter for Utah than they have been for many years.

July

* The Liberal Party wins the Salt Lake City school election, and with it control of secular education in the territorial capital.
* The U.S. Supreme Court rules that children from polygamous marriages cannot inherit their father's estate.

Early August

* The Liberal Party wins most of the elected offices in Salt Lake and Weber counties.

Late August

* President Wilford Woodruff receives confirmation that the government, in spite of an agreement two years earlier that temples would not be disturbed, is going to confiscate them.

September 24

* President Wilford Woodruff shows Bishop John R. Winder and President George Q. Cannon a document that is the result of a sleepless night conferring with the Lord about the Church's situation. It becomes known as the Manifesto, and states that the Church is no longer teaching plural marriage nor permitting any person to enter into it.

September 25

* The Manifesto is released to the newspapers of the United States, including the *Washington Post*.

Early October

* Utah's territorial delegate, John T. Caine, tells the First Presidency in a telegram that the Secretary of the Interior has told him that the federal government will not recognize the Manifesto unless it is formally accepted by the Church's General Conference.

October 6

* The Manifesto is presented in General Conference by Orson F. Whitney and unanimously accepted as scripture. It becomes Official Declaration – 1 at the end of the Doctrine and Covenants. However, some members, including Elders John W. Taylor and Matthias Cowley of the Quorum of the Twelve, are either confused about what it entails or refuse to abide by it. Many leave the Church and join or create fundamentalist polygamist sects. A “Second Manifesto” is necessitated thirteen and a half years later.
* President George Q. Cannon gives a discourse testifying that the commandment to practice plural marriage was of God, and that they endeavored to follow it despite persecution, and that the revelation ending its practice is likewise of God. He challenges anyone whose faith is tried by the Manifesto to pray and ask God about it for themselves.
* President Wilford Woodruff also testifies that he has taken the correct course of action and is willing to stand before God after he departs this world. In closing, he promises that the Lord will never permit him or any other Church President to lead the Saints astray, and that if he were to attempt that he would be removed from his place.

October 20

* John F. Boynton dies.

1891

* Dr. James E. Talmage is asked to write a work on theology that can be used in church schools as well as religion classes generally. First he delivers a series of popular lectures on the *Articles of Faith*, which are printed in the *Juvenile Instructor* and later become the basis for said book.
* Missionaries enter Tonga for the first time.

June

* As a prerequisite for Utah statehood, the Church-controlled People's Party is formally dissolved. Most members lean Democrat due to the Republicans' promotion and enforcement of anti-polygamy legislation, but the Church asks those without particularly strong convictions to vote Republican so that the Democratic Party does not become another Church party.

November 14

* At the Cache Stake Conference in Logan, Utah, President Wilford Woodruff describes the things he saw in vision that would have befallen the Saints had they not adopted the Manifesto; the confiscation of the temples and stopping of the ordinances, the imprisonment of the First Presidency and twelve and heads of families in the Church, and the confiscation of all the Saints' personal property. Excerpts from this talk are included alongside the Manifesto in the Doctrine and Covenants.

1892

* The excerpts from Oliver B. Huntington's journal regarding moon men are published in the *Young Women's Journal*.
* The *Deseret News* is leased out to George Q. Cannon and his sons.
* The Church begins annual ward conferences presided over by stake officials, in which members sustain their leaders and receive instruction and motivation.

April

* In a special ceremony with fifty thousand Saints filling Temple Square and adjoining streets, the capstone is placed on the Salt Lake Temple with an electric button, completing the exterior after thirty-nine years. Prior to this a march is played and a special temple anthem is sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a prayer is offered by President Joseph F. Smith, and the choir then sings “Grant Us Peace”. Afterward the congregation waves their white handkerchiefs and renders the Hosanna shout.

October 22

* The Dunedin New Zealand District, the first district in New Zealand, is organized.

1893

* The U.S. Congress passes a law allowing the Church's confiscated property to be returned.
* After some contention, the anti-Mormon Liberal Party disbands.
* The Deseret Sunday School Union begins Sunday School conferences in each stake.
* The First Presidency, concerned that some members are substituting rebaptism for true repentance, instructs stake presidents not to require rebaptism of Saints wishing to attend the Salt Lake Temple dedication.

April 6-24

* The Salt Lake Temple, the Church's fourth operating temple, is dedicated by President Wilford Woodruff over forty years after its groundbreaking. It is the Church's largest temple and becomes its international symbol. President Woodruff prophesies that from this time forward the power of Satan will be diminished and there will be an increased interest in the gospel message. The first day of the dedication is accompanied by a howling windstorm the likes of which no one can remember, which blows down many buildings around the city and does much damage throughout the valley.

November 13

* William Smith, Apostle and brother of Joseph Smith, dies.

1894

January 20

* The *Deseret Evening News* publishes a statement by the late William Smith, brother of Joseph Smith, reflecting on the First Vision and the effects it had on the Smith family.

March

* President Wilford Woodruff sees Benjamin Franklin in a dream, for whom he had been baptized and confirmed seventeen years earlier. The distinguished patriot seeks further ordinances, which President Woodruff promptly sees to in the Salt Lake Temple.

April

* President George Q. Cannon reads Doctrine and Covenants 128:9-21 in General Conference, and President Wilford Woodruff announces that he has received a revelation on the subject. He says it is the will of the Lord for the Saints to trace their genealogies as far back as they can and perform temple ordinances for their deceased ancestors to create a welding link through the generations of the human family. He says that few, if any, will not accept the gospel.

?

* The Church establishes the Genealogical Society of Utah.

July

* By means of astute political moves by lobbyists, particularly Bishop Hiram B. Clawson and non-Mormon Isaac Trumbo, the Utah Enabling Act is passed and clears the way for Utah to become a state.

July 3

* George Goddard reports his travels to Star Valley, Wyoming, in the *Deseret Weekly*, and references an earlier prophecy by Elder Moses Thatcher of a temple in that area. This prophecy will not be fulfilled for over 117 years.

September

* U.S. President Grover Cleveland issues a general amnesty for all Mormon men who have lived in compliance with anti-polygamy laws since the Manifesto.

1895

* Elder Moses Thatcher of the Twelve accepts the Democratic Party's nomination for Utah senator and Elder B.H. Roberts of the Seventy runs for Congress from the same party. They are disciplined for accepting the nominations without first consulting other church leaders. Neither man is elected.

Mid-February

* Nineteen of Utah's twenty-seven counties have women's suffrage organizations.

March

* At Utah's constitutional convention, B.H. Roberts and others express fears that if women's suffrage becomes part of the new constitution it will be rejected by Congress. Some non-Mormon delegates fear that Utah women will be used as pawns by their husbands and church leaders to threaten the rights of the non-Mormon minority. Others argue that women's traditional roles as wife and mother are threatened and that women were too good to get into the dirty mire of politics. Proponents ridicule these arguments, contending that women should be given the vote as a matter of simple justice and that they will be a purifying and cleansing force in politics.

March 28

* Spencer W. Kimball, future twelfth President of the Church, is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

November 5

* Utah's new constitution is adopted. It specifically prohibits plural marriage, ensures the complete separation of church and state, and extends to women the right to vote for a second time, along with the right to hold office.

1896

* Due to the increasing number of Saints employed in cities and outside of agriculture, the First Presidency issues instructions that henceforth they will observe fast day on the first Sunday of each month instead of each Thursday. The Saints in Great Britain have already been doing this.

January 4

* U.S. President Grover Cleveland proclaims that Utah has been granted admission into the Union as a state with Heber M. Wells, son of Daniel H. Wells, as its first governor.

January 6

* A general holiday is declared in Utah. Inaugural ceremonies are held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, which is filled with capacity. A huge flag covers the Tabernacle's dome and a new star is displayed at the building's front with an electric light inserted behind it, which shines throughout the ceremonies.

April

* The General Authorities release a document known as the Political Manifesto emphasizing the separation of church and state and the Church's intention not to encroach upon the political rights of any citizens. It adds that for peace and goodwill to continue in Utah, high church leaders should not accept political office or similarly demanding vocations without the approval of their associates and those who preside over them.
* Elder B.H. Roberts refuses to sign the Political Manifesto until being reasoned and prayed with by the other General Authorities. Elder Moses Thatcher still refuses to sign after similar efforts on his behalf, and is released from the Quorum of the Twelve but remains a member in good standing.

Summer

* Elder B.H. Roberts and a quartet of members from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir are sent by the First Presidency with on a goodwill mission to the eastern United States. They visit cities such as St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York. At St. Louis Elder Roberts delivers forty-two lectures, each about an hour and a quarter in length, and afterward sixty people are baptized.

July 19

* Abraham H. Cannon dies.

1897

* The Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association launches its own periodical, the *Improvement Era*. When told that there is no capital for such a venture, Elder B.H. Roberts launches a fund-raising drive. He becomes the magazine's first editor, with Elder Heber J. Grant as business manager.
* The Juarez Academy is started in the Mormon colonies of northern Mexico.
* The practice of rebaptism is discontinued. The First Presidency has been concerned that some members are substituting it for true repentance.

February 28

* The day before President Wilford Woodruff's birthday, over ten thousand Sunday School children crowd into the Tabernacle, filling the aisles, to honor him. He speaks and tells them of when he was ten years old and read about apostles and prophets in the New Testament and prayed that he might live to see real ones. He testifies that he has seen this prayer fulfilled many times over.

March 1

* Birthday celebrations are held for President Wilford Woodruff's ninetieth birthday, open to the general public.

July 20

* The Saints commence a five-day Pioneer Day celebration to commemorate their fiftieth year in the Salt Lake valley. A twenty-ton bronze monument to Brigham Young, sculpted by Cyrus Dallin, is unveiled in front of about fifty thousand people. The surviving twenty-four members of the original pioneer company, including Wilford Woodruff, are honored in the Tabernacle and each receive an inscribed gold medallion. Parades with floats fill the streets and the finest products of Utah agriculture, mining, and industry are displayed.

October 7

* Matthias Cowley and Abraham O. Woodruff are ordained Apostles.

1898

* At a reception for the general board of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, hosted by the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association, President George Q. Cannon announces the decision to begin calling some women as missionaries.
* The New Zealand Mission is separated from the Australian Mission due to success among the Maori people.

March 27

* At San Francisco, California, Elder Brigham Young Jr. sets apart Harriet Maria Horsepool Nye as the first formally commissioned sister missionary.

April 1

* Lucy Jane Brimhall and Amanda Inez Knight are called to serve in Great Britain as the Church's first single sister missionaries.

August 30

* Willard Call and George Seaman, members of the Utah artillery batteries sent to the Philippines and set apart as missionaries by Apostle John H. Smith, preach the gospel in Cortel de Mesic.

September

* With permission from the First Presidency, Elder B.H. Roberts again enters politics and receives the Utah Democratic Party's nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives. He is elected with nearly a six thousand vote plurality.

September 2

* While on vacation, Wilford Woodruff passes away in his sleep in the home of nonmember Isaac Trumbo in San Francisco, California.
* At Wilford Woodruff's death, the Church has forty stakes, twenty missions, 267,251 nominal members, and four temples.
* Elder Lorenzo Snow is informed of Wilford Woodruff's death. In the Salt Lake Temple, he prays for guidance and instruction and is disappointed when he receives no divine manifestation. However, on his way out, he sees Christ standing above the floor, who tells him to reorganize the First Presidency immediately and not wait as has previously been done.

September 13

* Wishing to see if they will be inspired as he was, Elder Lorenzo Snow tells the Apostles that he is willing to step down from leadership of the Quorum and yield to whomever they designate. Instead they sustain him as President of the Quorum.In another meeting, Elder Francis M. Lyman reminds the others of President Woodruff's instructions to reorganize the First Presidency without delay. After a brief discussion, Lorenzo Snow is sustained as the fifth President of the Church.

October 10

* Rudger Clawson is ordained an Apostle.

?

* President Lorenzo Snow becomes very concerned about the Church's debt, totaling nearly $1,300,000. The debt has been caused by government persecution, lack of tithing funds, and business enterprises. He concludes that if half the money spent on business had been used to spread the gospel, a great work could have been accomplished. He announces that the Church will cease borrowing money and undergo a period of retrenchment until the debt is paid off.
* The Church divests itself of its holdings in the Deseret Telegraph System, the Utah Sugar Company, the Utah Light and Railway Company, Saltair, and some of its mining property.

December

* President Lorenzo Snow brings the *Deseret News*, which had been leased to George Q. Cannon and his sons for the previous six years, back under Church control.

1899

* Under the direction of the First Presidency, Elder James E. Talmage's lectures on the Articles of Faith, with a few changes, are published in a book called *The Articles of Faith*.

May 17

* While speaking in the St. George Tabernacle, President Lorenzo Snow pauses in his discourse as he receives a revelation. He tells the assembled members that the Lord is displeased with them for neglecting the law of tithing, and that if they pay a full and honest tithing, the drought in St. George will end and the Church will be freed from debt. He gives similar discourses in other southern Utah communities.

March 28

* Harold B. Lee, future eleventh President of the Church, is born in Clifton, Idaho.

August 4

* Ezra Taft Benson, great-grandson of Ezra T. Benson and future thirteenth President of the Church, is born in the farming community of Whitney, Idaho.

December 9

* Franklin D. Richards, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, passes away in Salt Lake City.

1900

* An attempt to reopen missionary work in Italy is refused by the government.
* The Sunday School purchases the *Juvenile Instructor* from the George Q. Cannon family and makes it their official publication.
* The First Council of the Seventy, in conjunction with the General Church Board of Education, opens free six-month missionary training courses at Brigham Young Academy in Provo, the Latter-day Saints University in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young College in Logan, and the Latter-day Saints Academy in Thatcher, Arizona. It teaches theology, religious history, and teaching methods from the scriptures.

January

* The *Juvenile Instructor* begins a series titled “Lives of Our Leaders – The Apostles”. Each subsequent issue contains a biographical essay about one of the apostles.

January 25

* Elder B.H. Roberts is refused his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives due to being a polygamist. He has been opposed by a national petition with over seven million signatures, the largest number of petition signatures in American history up to this time.

April 5

* At a meeting in the Salt Lake Temple, the First Presidency and the Twelve unanimously decide that an apostle's position in the Quorum is determined by when he enters it, not by when he is ordained an apostle. It is also decided that following the death of a President of the Church, his counselors will resume their places in the Quorum according to seniority.

April 8

* Reed Smoot is ordained an Apostle.

November 10

* Enoch Abel, a black man and son of Elijah Abel, is ordained an elder despite the ban on priesthood for men of African descent. Very little is known about the circumstances of this.

December 31

* Beginning at 11 PM, five thousand Mormons gather in the Salt Lake Tabernacle for a special service to usher in the new year and new century. The organ pipes are lit up with electric lights spelling “Welcome, 1901, Utah”.

1901

* The mission in central Mexico is reopened due to the prosperity of LDS colonies in Chihuahua, and the earlier branches in that area are reestablished by Elder Ammon M. Tenney. Due to insurmountable political problems, no further action is taken.

February 14

* Speaking for the First Presidency, George Q. Cannon announces that a mission will be opened in Japan. Elder J. Grant receives an inspiration that he will be the one called to preside there. Twenty-five minutes later, President Cannon tells him exactly that.
* Although Elder Grant is heavily in debt, Elder John W. Taylor privately tells him that the Lord will give him enough money to go to Japan a financially free man. He is inspired to make a series of decisions that get him out of debt within four months.

March

* A small informational pavilion is built on Temple Square, and one hundred men and woman are called to serve as tourist guides. Anti-Mormon groups sometimes post guides of their own to mislead visitors.

April 12

* President George Q. Cannon passes away.

Summer

* Organ recitals in the Salt Lake Tabernacle are held twice a day, attracting many visitors.

June 26

* President Lorenzo Snow speaks of past missionary failures such as Noah's 120 years of preaching and Elder Orson Pratt's failed attempt to open a mission in Austria. He says that they did not fail in doing their duty, and that although he does not know whether the missionaries going to Japan will succeed, the Lord has said it is their duty to go and they need not worry about the results.

July 24

* On Pioneer Day, Elder Heber J. Grant leaves Salt Lake City for Japan along with Louis A. Kelsch, former president of the Northern States Mission, Horace S. Ensign, and eighteen-year-old Alma O. Taylor.

August 12

* Elder Heber J. Grant and his companions arrive in the harbor of Yokohama, Japan, after a turbulent ocean crossing. They immediately make tentative arrangements for translation and publication of church literature and seek permanent lodgings. Elder Grant introduces them and explains their purpose with a tract titled “An Address to the Great and Progressive Nation of Japan”, but they face much opposition from ministers of other Christian sects and from the government's anti-Westernization policy of “Japan for the Japanese”.

September 21

* In a secluded spot in the woods outside Yokohama, Elder Heber J. Grant dedicates Japan for missionary work.

October 6

* After being excused from the others because of his poor health, President Lorenzo Snow speaks in the final session of General Conference. He urges local priesthood leaders to handle local responsibilities so that the Apostles can be free to handle matters of worldwide import as the Lord intends. The Apostles are released from all their administrative duties in the stakes.

October 10

* Having exerted himself to project his voice during General Conference, President Lorenzo Snow passes away on his sickbed.
* At Lorenzo Snow's death, the Church has fifty stakes, twenty-one missions, 292,931 nominal members, and four temples.

October 17

* Joseph F. Smith is set apart as the sixth President of the Church.

October 24

* Hyrum M. Smith, son of President Joseph F. Smith, is ordained an Apostle.

November 10

* Joseph F. Smith is sustained as the sixth President of the Church. He chooses John R. Winder and Anthon H. Lund as his counselors.

1902

* The Relief Society inaugurates “Mothers' Classes” churchwide. Local branches provide their own study materials.

January

* Louie B. Felt, general president of the Primary Association, initiates the *Children's Friend* magazine.

August 4

* The Church opens its first bureau of information for visitors to Temple Square, a small octagonal building measuring twenty feet across.

1903

* Following the Boer War, the South African Mission is reopened.
* All branches in India have been discontinued by now.
* The practice of conducting separate junior and senior groups for Young Men's and Young Women's meetings is implemented throughout the Church.
* President Joseph F. Smith directs the purchase of the building and property of Carthage Jail, where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred, for four thousand dollars.

January 29

* Apostle Reed Smoot is elected to the United States Senate by the Republicans in the Utah state legislature. He is soon opposed by the same people who successfully stopped Elder B.H. Roberts from taking his seat in the House of Representatives.

February

* Elder Reed Smoot arrives in Washington, D.C. Unlike B.H. Roberts, he is not a polygamist and is able to prove it, so he is allowed to take his seat while the investigation runs its course.

March

* Elder Reed Smoot receives the senatorial oath. As a senator, his administrative skills, wise judgment, and integrity soon become apparent.

April 11

* Elder Brigham Young Jr. passes away.

June 26

* At the request of Robert Marshall, Elder John H. Cooper stops in Karachi, India (later Pakistan).

September 3

* Elder Heber J. Grant is released as the president of the Japanese Mission, having only baptized two people. He is comforted by a spiritual witness that Japan will one day become one of the most successful missions in the Church, and will astonish the world.

September 24

* Elder John H. Cooper leaves Karachi, India (later Pakistan), having baptized thirteen people including six members of Robert Marshall's family and seven others, including Henry J. Lilley. He has ordained some of the men elders and established the Karachi Branch.

October 8

* George Albert Smith, son of Elder John H. Smith and grandson of George A. Smith, is ordained an Apostle. He represents the fourth generation of the Smith family to serve as a General Authority, and this is the first and only time in history that a father and son serve in the Quorum of the Twelve simultaneously.

November 5

* The Church purchases Carthage Jail, the site where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred.

1904

January

* With the help of several non-Mormon lawyers, Elder/Senator Reed Smoot files a formal reply to the charges against him.

March

* The Reed Smoot hearings are held. President Joseph F. Smith is interrogated for three days, followed by Elder James E. Talmage; Francis M. Lyman, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; Andrew Jenson, assistant church historian; Elder B.H. Roberts, and Moses Thatcher.

April 6

* In response to allegations during the Smoot hearings and to clarify the original Manifesto, President Joseph F. Smith releases a “Second Manifesto” declaring that any officer of the Church who solemnizes a plural marriage, as well as the participating couple, will be excommunicated. He states that this pronouncement applies everywhere in the world. Unlike the original, this Manifesto is not canonized as scripture.

June 20

* Abraham O. Woodruff dies.

July 7

* Charles W. Penrose is ordained an Apostle.

1905

* The Latter-day Saints Hospital opens in Salt Lake City, the first of a series of Church-operated hospitals.

June 5

* A three-minute nickelodeon film titled “A Trip to Salt Lake City” shows a succession of several women depositing children in the berths of a train's sleeping car, followed by a single husband who is overwhelmed as all the children climb on him. It is believed to be the first fiction film dealing with the Church.

December 23

* A memorial is erected and dedicated by President Joseph F. Smith in Sharon, Vermont to commemorate the centennial of the Prophet Joseph Smith's birth. It is 38½ feet high, one foot for each year of his life. A Memorial Cottage is also built next to it to serve as a visitors' center.

1906

* Elders John W. Taylor and Matthias Cowley are expelled from the Quorum of the Twelve for their opposition to enforcement of the “Second Manifesto”, but remain members in good standing.
* The first Sunday School class for adults is inaugurated churchwide.
* Joseph F. Smith becomes the first church president to visit Europe. He spends about two months visiting missions in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, and England. At a conference in Bern, Switzerland, he stretches out his hands and declares that someday the European continent will be dotted with temples. Forty-nine years later, a suburb of Bern becomes the site of Europe's first temple.
* Reverend R.B. Neal, a leader in the American Anti-Mormon Association, releases a document called “Defence [sic] in a Rehearsal of my Grounds for Separating Myself from the Latter Day Saints”, purporting to have been published by Oliver Cowdery in 1839. However, it is in fact a forgery which consists primarily of Cowdery's phrases taken from issues of the Latter Day Saints' Messenger and Advocate and placed in a different context. It also rewords a number of talking points from David Whitmer's “An Address to All Believers in Christ”.

February 6

* Marriner W. Merrill dies.

April 9

* George F. Richards, Orson F. Whitney, and David O. McKay are ordained Apostles.

1907

* Rey L. Pratt begins serving as mission president in Mexico. His energy and enthusiasm stimulates and vitalizes the mission.

February 20

* The Republican Party, including President Theodore Roosevelt, defeats the proposal that Elder Reed Smoot be removed from his Senate seat, in part because they believe that he will be a significant influence in keeping Utah a Republican state.

April

* President Joseph F. Smith gratefully announces that the Church is now completely out of debt and can pay as it goes, thanks to the Saints' faithful tithing. This will allow the Church to more easily purchase historic sites, build visitors' centers, and so forth.

June

* The Church purchases the one-hundred-acre Smith homestead near Palmyra, New York, which includes the Sacred Grove.

June 9

* George Teasdale dies.

August 24

* The Uintah Stake Tabernacle is dedicated by President Joseph F. Smith in Vernal, Utah. He tells those present that he would not be surprised if one day a temple is built in their midst here. Ninety years later, the tabernacle itself is dedicated as a temple.

October 6

* Anthony W. Ivins is ordained an Apostle.

November 14

* Howard W. Hunter, future fourteenth President of the Church, is born in Boise, Idaho. He is the first President to be born in the twentieth century.

1908

* The Karachi Branch in India (later Pakistan) has dwindled to four people, the other nine having moved away or fallen away from the Church. The end of its history is unknown.

August 26

* President Joseph F. Smith states that Elijah Abel's priesthood was declared null and void by Joseph Smith and his next three successors, but provides no evidence for this claim.

1909

* At the recommendation of the General Priesthood Committee headed by Elder David O. McKay, weekly ward priesthood meetings are inaugurated. At first they are held on Monday evenings, but Sunday mornings gradually become the preferred time.
* The General Priesthood Committee systematizes the ages for ordination to levels of the Aaronic priesthood. It recommends that deacons be ordained at age twelve, teachers at fifteen, priests at eighteen, and elders at twenty-one. Some of these ages are later modified but the concept remains the same.
* The Granite Stake in Salt Lake City inaugurates a weekly home evening program for families. President Joseph F. Smith declares that the stake presidency's actions are inspired.
* James E. Talmage publishes *The Great Apostasy*.

August 21

* Moses Thatcher dies.

November

* Around the fiftieth anniversary of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, the First Presidency issues a statement drafted at their request by Elder Orson F. Whitney and titled “On the Origin of Man”. It reaffirms the doctrine that humans are spirit children of God and that Adam and Eve were our first parents. Some ambiguous sentences appear to be anti-evolution, but the theory of evolution is never actually said to be false. These sentences are removed in a reprint sixteen years later.

1910

* John H. Sheppard and his wife, recent LDS converts, move from England to Calgary, Alberta after Elder Charles W. Penrose tells them that if the Church is not there it will come to them. They are the first Mormons in the city.
* Mormons in Great Britain begin facing mob violence and persecution due to misconceptions that the missionaries are taking young girls back to Utah to live in polygamy. At times they receive police protection to attend church. A government investigation led by Home Secretary Winston Churchill is assigned to determine whether American missionaries or Mormonism itself should be banned from the country altogether.
* The Bishop's Building is dedicated across the street from the Salt Lake Temple and behind the unfinished Hotel Utah, providing offices for the Presiding Bishopric and most of the auxiliary organizations.
* The *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine* is launched, carrying helpful articles on research, pedigrees, and local history.

April

* A writer in the *Improvement Era*, believed by scholars to be President Joseph F. Smith himself, suggests that Adam and Eve may have been created through evolution, transplanted from another sphere of existence as immortals, or born here in mortality. None of these suggestions fits the traditional creationist view.

April 7

* Joseph Fielding Smith, son of President Joseph F. Smith, is ordained an Apostle.

June 23

* Gordon B. Hinckley, future fifteenth president of the Church, is born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

July 29

* Winston Churchill tells the British House of Commons that he cannot prevent the holding of LDS church meetings as long as they are in conformity with the law.

November 18

* Winston Churchill tells the British House of Commons that he has found no truth in the allegations of Mormons inducing women into polygamy, and that to his knowledge it is now forbidden by the Church’s own rules.

December

* The First Presidency Christmas message, prompted by the continuing evolution controversy, encourages people with differences of opinion to act rationally and not be intolerant of each other. It further states that the Church accepts real science with joy but rejects vain speculations and anything contrary to divine revelation or common sense.

1911

* Former apostle John W. Taylor is excommunicated for his continued opposition to the “Second Manifesto”.
* The Young Men's organization adopts a Boy Scouting program, which stresses wholesome virtues and physical skills.
* The Hotel Utah, one of the Church's largest investments, opens just east of Temple Square. President Joseph F. Smith defends the Church's interests in the venture by quoting Doctrine and Covenants 124:22-24, 60, and pointing out that it will fulfill a function similar to the Nauvoo House.
* Louie B. Felt, general president of the Primary Association, establishes a hospital fund.
* British author Winnifred Graham publishes a novel titled *The Love Story of a Mormon*, which depicts Mormon missionaries with hypnotic powers trying to capture young women to live in polygamy. In 1922 it is adapted into a film called “Trapped by the Mormons”.

March 6

* Winston Churchill tells the British House of Commons that he is making inquiries but has no official information at present showing that young girls are being induced to emigrate to Utah, or that polygamy is still being practiced there. He also says he is making inquiry into the matter of whether the government will do anything to abate the nuisance of Mormon missionaries in Liverpool.

April 19

* The British House of Commons asks Winston Churchill whether he is aware that Mormon missionaries have been expelled from Germany on the grounds that their faith is against the interests of public morality. He says he has not yet made the necessary inquiries but agrees with the grounds stated.

October 13

* Elder John H. Smith dies.

December 8

* James E. Talmage is ordained an Apostle.

1912

* Reverend F. S. Spalding, Episcopal Bishop of Utah, publishes *Joseph Smith, Jr., As a Translator,* which shares the consensus of several reputable scholars from distinguished universities that Joseph Smith's translations of the Book of Abraham facsimiles are entirely incorrect. Mormons are outraged but make little attempt to address the criticisms, mostly attacking the author's character instead.
* A non-Mormon using unethical practices procures photographs of the interior of the Salt Lake Temple, and attempts to blackmail the Church for forty thousand dollars. Elder James E. Talmage recommends that the Church simply release photographs of its own, and does so in a book about temples called *The House of the Lord*.
* Granite High School in Salt Lake City houses the Church's first “released-time” seminary classes for daily religious instruction, with seventy students attending. The experimental program quickly spreads because of its success.

April 10

* Several missionaries plan to return to the United States from Great Britain on the new luxury liner RMS *Titanic*, but they miss the boat when they decide to wait for one of their number, Elder Alma Sonne, who is held up elsewhere.

April 15

* The RMS *Titanic* sinks and 1,502 people drown. Though it is later commonly believed that no Mormons perish in this tragedy, at least one, Irene Colvin Corbett of Provo, Utah, does.

July

* Weapons owned by Mormon colonists in northern Mexico are seized by Mexican rebels. In response, church leaders order their evacuation by the twenty-sixth. They journey 180 miles on a crowded train and a wagon and horse caravan to El Paso, Texas, where they live uncomfortably in a deserted lumber yard and the upper floor of an old corrugated iron building.

August 15

* Missionaries return to San Marcos, Hidalgo, Mexico, to reestablish contact with Jesús Sanchez, who has remained faithful in their absence and suffered some persecution. They encounter the Monroy family, who ask Sanchez about the foreigners and become more curious about his beliefs.

1913

* The Church becomes officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and lowers the age of entry into the Young Men's program to twelve. It eventually becomes one of the largest Boy Scout sponsors in the world.
* Joseph Fielding Smith, son of President Joseph F. Smith and grandson of Hyrum Smith, receives a patriarchal blessing from Patriarch Joseph D. Smith. He is promised that a time will come when the accumulative evidence he has gathered in defense of the prophet Joseph Smith will stand as a wall against the Church's enemies, and that in this defense he will never be confounded.

February

* The first of a series of monthly articles appears in the *Improvement Era*, responding to Reverend Spalding's book *Joseph Smith, Jr., As a Translator* by suggesting possible answers for the discrepancy between Joseph Smith's and the Egyptologists' translations of the Book of Abraham facsimiles.

February 2

* The first sacrament meeting is held in the city of Calgary, Alberta, in the home of the Dudley family.

March

* The first branch in Calgary, Alberta is organized as a dependent branch of the Cardston 1st Ward.
* In San Marco, Hidalgo, Mexico, church member Jesús Sanchez falls deathly ill and into a coma. Jesucita Monroy persuades his daughter to ask for the Mormon missionaries to come and give him a blessing.

March 29

* Jesús Sanchez dies. Missionaries W. Ernest Young and Willard Huish arrive later that day, too late to save him.

March 30

* A funeral is held for Jesús Sanchez. Afterwards, the missionaries are invited to eat lunch and discuss religion with Jesucita, Jovita, and Guadalupe Monroy. Their brother Rafael later joins them and they stay up all night talking.

April 1

* The missionaries visit the Monroys once more before returning to Mexico City.

May 24-26

* Mission president Rey L. Pratt holds a mission conference in San Pedro Mártir, Mexico. The Monroy family attends, forms a strong bond with him, and is invited to his home in Mexico City to meet the rest of his family. They are impressed by the unity felt among the members.

June 11

* Rafael, Jovita, and Guadalupe Monroy are baptized in a river by Elder W. Ernest Young, with Rey L. Pratt witnessing. For rejecting the Catholic Church they are isolated from the community and face some harassment as well as a failed boycott of their store.

June 27

* The Cardston Alberta Temple, known at first simply as the Alberta temple, is announced. Cardston is a small Mormon settlement in the south of the province.

July 21

* Jesucita Monroy and two other family members are baptized.

July 27

* The site is dedicated for the Cardston Alberta Temple by President Joseph F. Smith.

July 28

* Despite her initial concerns about the Church, Rafael Monroy's wife Guadalupe is baptized.

Late August

* The instability and violence of the Mexican Revolution, particularly the hostility towards foreign influences, necessitates the evacuation of all American missionaries from Mexico. Before leaving, Rey L. Pratt assigns local male members to lead the congregations, hoping to keep them going in the meantime. Rafael Monroy, a member for less than three months, is ordained an elder and assigned to be branch president of the congregation in San Marcos, Hidalgo.

September

* The *Improvement Era* carries its final monthly article responding to the book *Joseph Smith, Jr., As a Translator*.

November 9

* Ground is broken for the Cardston Alberta Temple by Daniel Kent Greene. Construction is later slowed by World War I.

1914

* The general board of the Relief Society issues uniform lessons for its weekly “Mothers' Classes” inaugurated twelve years earlier. A pattern develops of studying theology the first week, followed by homemaking, literature, and social science respectively for the rest of the month.
* The Relief Society launches a magazine called the *Relief Society Bulletin* under the editorship of Susa Young Gates, daughter of Brigham Young. It carries articles on such topics as current events, genealogy, home ethics, gardening, literature, art, and architecture.
* The Great War, later known as World War I, breaks out in Europe. It was anticipated over seventy-seven years previous when Orson Hyde prophesied that the demon of war would remove his headquarters to the banks of the Rhine.
* Every man of military age in the Pudsey Branch in England, except for those engaged in government or munition work, enlists in the military.

January 25

* Vicente Morales begins visiting the Monroy family as a local missionary on assignment from the branch president of the San Pedro Branch. He visits at least once every two weeks thereafter and becomes interested in Jesucita's niece Eulalia.

May 14

* Missionary Arthur L. Beeley writes to the British Home Office requesting to know the outcome of Home Secretary Winston Churchill's investigation into the issue of Mormon propaganda in England.

May 22

* A.J. Eagleston of the British Home Office responds to Arthur L. Beeley, telling him that no official report was published for Winston Churchill's investigation but that the extensive inquiries made did not reveal any grounds for legislative action.

September 14

* Elder James E. Talmage begins writing *Jesus the Christ* at the request of the First Presidency. He compiles a series of lectures he has given a decade earlier on the life of the Savior, and writes most of the book in a room of the Salt Lake Temple.

1915

* Willard and Rebecca Bean are sent to Manchester, New York to take care of the Joseph Smith farm, preach the gospel, and make friends for the Church. They are the first Latter-day Saints to live in the area in eighty-four years.
* The Young Women begin the Beehive Girls program for girls aged twelve.
* The *Relief Society Bulletin* is renamed the *Relief Society Magazine*.
* Rey L. Pratt is assigned by the First Presidency to direct proselytizing among Spanish-speaking people in the United States, particularly in areas such as Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

January 3

* Vicente Morales marries Eulalia Monroy and becomes part of her family. He works for her cousin Rafael doing odd jobs around the farm and the store.

April 19

* Elder James E. Talmage finishes the actual writing of *Jesus the Christ*. Before publication it will be read to the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for their input and approval.

April 27

* The Family Home Evening program begun by the Granite Stake is recommended by the First Presidency to be adopted for monthly churchwide use. Members are promised that as parents gather their children to teach them the word of the Lord, they will see increased love and obedience at home, and greater power to combat evil influence and temptations.

June 1

* President Joseph F. Smith is in Hawaii on business when he is moved by a spiritual impulse to dedicate the site for the Laie Hawaii Temple.

July 7

* Soldiers of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata take over the small village of San Marcos, Hidalgo, and demand food and supplies from many villagers including the Monroys, who comply. A neighbor named Andres Reyes tells the soldiers that Rafael is an officer in the Carranzista army and has a hidden cache of weapons and ammunition in his mother's store.
* The Monroy family is imprisoned and their store and house are searched for weapons and ammunition. Rafael Monroy is hung from a tree and beaten in an attempt to extract information.

July 17

* Rafael Monroy and Vicente Morales are executed by soldiers of Emiliano Zapata. The soldiers admire Rafael's bravery and say he died “with his boots on”. Over the years it is assumed throughout the Church that they are martyred for rejecting Catholicism and refusing to deny their Mormon faith, but that is only one among many factors including Monroy's middle-class status and career as a merchant, relationship to American citizens (especially his brother-in-law, R.V. McVey), and apparent support of the opposing revolutionary army.

July 18

* Rafael's sisters and his mother, Jesucita, are released from prison and allowed to collect the bodies. A funeral is conducted by church member Casimiro Gutiérrez.

July 19

* Rafael Monroy and Vicente Morales are buried. Over the next few days, the Zapatista soldiers threaten to kill all the Mormons, but a few days later the Carranzistas return to San Marcos.

August 27

* Jesucita Monroy writes a letter to Rey L. Pratt in the United States, telling him what has happened to Rafael Monroy and Vicente Morales. She largely blames R.V. McVey for making the soldiers suspicious of their family and asks Elder Pratt to convey the news to him.

September

* Elder James E. Talmage publishes *Jesus the Christ*, an 800-page biography of the Savior of mankind beginning in the pre-mortal existence and including both doctrinal and historical insights. Though not a standard work of the Church, it carries the explicit approval of the First Presidency and Council of the Twelve.

October 1

* The Laie Hawaii Temple, first known simply as the Hawaii Temple, is announced.

1916

* The First Presidency organizes the Social Advisory Committee, which is assigned to discourage the youth from improper dances, smoking, and immodest dress. At the ward level it sponsors various wholesome recreational activities.
* The First Presidency releases an exposition titled *The Father and the Son*, explaining the relative roles of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and the different sense in which each is considered our “father”. It also explains the difference between the Holy Ghost, a member of the Godhead, and the Spirit of the Lord, which is the light of Christ that enables everyone to know right from wrong before they possess the greater power of the Holy Ghost.

March

* The third edition of Elder James E. Talmage's book *Jesus the Christ* is released, with several minor alterations in wording and additional notes and references.

October 10

* John W. Taylor dies.

November 18

* Francis M. Lyman dies.

1917

* The Church Administration Building opens in Salt Lake City. It is a five-story granite structure with marble and fine woodwork, symbolizing the Church's strength and stability and providing dignified accommodations for the General Authorities as well as badly needed space on its upper three floors for the Church historian's office and the Genealogical Society.
* The United States enters the Great War, later known as World War I.
* Utah gives $520,000 of aid to the Red Cross instead of the requested $350,000; buys $9,400,000 worth of war bonds instead of the quota of $6,500,000, and enlists 24,382 men, far exceeding its quota.
* The Church as an institution purchases $850,000 worth of war bonds, while auxiliary organizations purchase bonds from their own funds amounting to nearly $600,000.
* Elder B.H. Roberts serves as the chaplain of Utah's volunteer 145th Field Artillery Regiment.
* The Church sells over two hundred thousand bushels of wheat to the United States government for the starving peoples of war-torn Europe, and puts the proceeds into a special wheat fund for future charitable purposes.

January 18

* Stephen L. Richards is ordained an Apostle.

April 22

* A fictional silent film called “A Mormon Maid” depicts a young woman named Dora in the 1840s whose family is saved from an Indian attack by Mormon pioneers. The Mormons then try to force her and her mother into polygamy.

May 30

* The first Relief Society in Japan is organized in Tokyo.

December 9

* Rey L. Pratt returns to Mexico as the president of the Mexican Mission and visits the San Marcos Branch for a reunion which, owing to the execution of branch president Rafael Monroy two years earlier, must be rather emotional.

1918

* The *Improvement Era* carries an article by Rey L. Pratt called “A Latter-day Martyr”, describing the execution of Rafael Monroy. It is based on Jesucita's letter to him but plays up the religious martyrdom aspect and omits other factors.
* Following the Great War, later known as World War I, many Latter-day Saints leave Utah to find employment in California and other states. An increasing number of members outside the U.S. remain in the lands of their births, as instructed, and help strengthen the Church in their areas.

January 23

* Hyrum M. Smith, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the eldest son of President Joseph F. Smith, dies. President Smith, in poor health himself, is stunned and distraught.

April 7

* Richard R. Lyman is ordained an Apostle.

October 3

* President Joseph F. Smith is pondering the Atonement and reading third and fourth chapters of 1 Peter, which describe Jesus preaching to the spirits in prison, when he receives a vision of the spirit world. He sees the righteous dead and the missionary work among those who did not receive the gospel in mortality, thus giving everyone who ever lives an opportunity to accept the Atonement and be saved.

October 4

* President Joseph F. Smith describes his vision during the opening of General Conference. It is written down immediately afterward.
* President Joseph F. Smith and his son, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, both disavow portions of the so-called White Horse Prophecy of Joseph Smith, reminding members that true revelations for the guidance of the people will come through the proper channels of the Church.

October 31

* President Joseph F. Smith's vision of the spirit world is submitted to his counselors, the Council of the Twelve, and the Patriarch, who unanimously accept it. Much later it becomes Section 138 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

November 19

* President Joseph F. Smith dies. Before his death he gives a special blessing to his successor, Elder Heber J. Grant, and tells him that the Lord makes no mistakes in choosing someone to lead the Church.
* At Joseph F. Smith's death, the Church has seventy-five stakes, twenty-two missions, 495,962 nominal members, and four temples.

November 23

* In the Salt Lake Temple, Heber J. Grant is ordained and set apart as the seventh President of the Church. He is the first native Utahan to be president. Because of the worldwide flu epidemic, which eliminates all public meetings, he is not sustained until June of next year.

1919

* A bookstore run by the Deseret Sunday School Union and one run by the *Deseret News* combine to form the Deseret Book Company.
* Elder George Albert Smith is called to preside over the European Mission.

January 7

* Melvin J. Ballard is ordained an Apostle.

February

* The Mountain Congress of the League to Enforce Peace holds its convention in Salt Lake City in an effort to promote President Woodrow Wilson's proposed League of Nations treaty. Former President William Howard Taft is in attendance, and President Heber J. Grant conducts some of the sessions.

June

* Heber J. Grant is sustained as the seventh President of the Church. He chooses Elders Anthon H. Lund and Charles W. Penrose as his first and second counselors, respectively.

July

* Elder Anthony W. Ivins, representing the First Presidency, speaks in favor of the proposed League of Nations. However, it is opposed by apostles Reed Smoot (who is also a Senator), Charles W. Nibley, J. Reuben Clark, and David O. McKay. Lay members are also divided in their opinions, causing some contention and divisions within the Church.

October

* In General Conference, President Heber J. Grant pleads with the Saints to fill their hearts with love and forgiveness, and heal the division caused by disagreement over the League of Nations.

October 3

* The Mesa Arizona Temple, originally known simply as the Arizona Temple, is announced.

November 27-30

* The Laie Hawaii Temple, the Church's fifth operating temple and the first outside of Utah, is dedicated by President Heber J. Grant.

1920

* Unable to build enough church schools for all member families, and unable to support the legally required public schools as well as local church schools, the Church begins converting most of its academies into public schools or community junior colleges.

Summer

* Special summer school workshops are held at BYU providing training for stake leaders in teacher development, social and recreational leadership, charity, and relief work.

Fall

* Missionaries return to Germany.

December 4

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon, editor of the Improvement Era, begin a worldwide tour to gather information for church leaders about the conditions of foreign Latter-day Saints. They start by traveling to Japan on the Empress of Japan. Elder McKay is seasick for most of the voyage and jokes that he may have vomited up everything he ate since the pre-mortal existence.

December 20

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon arrive in Japan.

1921

* Elder George Albert Smith ends his tenure over the European Mission.
* The decision is made to remove the *Lectures on Faith* from the Doctrine and Covenants to avoid confusion over their non-canonical status.
* A young member named W.E. Riter writes to Elder James E. Talmage concerning five criticisms of the Book of Mormon that have been raised in a discussion with non-Mormon chemist James Couch. This inspires Elder B.H. Roberts to research criticisms for the benefit of future generations, and he plays devil's advocate with the Book of Mormon and tries to find and address evidence that it was plagiarized or made up. His studies raise more questions than answers for the time being but lead to a book called *Studies of the Book of Mormon* which is not published for general use for another sixty-four years.
* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith is appointed as church historian and recorder.

January 9

* Within the walls of the “Forbidden City” in Beijing, Elder David O. McKay dedicates China for the preaching of the gospel.

March 17

* John A. Widtsoe is ordained an Apostle.

Spring

* The South African Mission is reopened a second time.

March 2

* Anthon H. Lund dies.

April 12

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon arrive in Tahiti, but are unable to contact the mission president, who is touring the mission. They sail to Rarotonga and then on to Wellington, New Zealand.

April 30

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon leave Auckland, New Zealand, and sail for Samoa aboard the *S.S. Tofua*.

August 2

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon sail from New Zealand for Sydney, Australia.

November 28

* The site is dedicated for the Mesa Arizona Temple by President Heber J. Grant.

December 24

* Elder David O. McKay and Hugh J. Cannon arrive home at the conclusion of their world tour. They have traveled sixty-two thousand miles.

1922

* At the request of the First Presidency, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith publishes *Essentials in Church History*, a one-volume, easy-to-read story of the Restoration. It is used for a few years as a manual for the Melchizedek Priesthood and subsequently goes through nearly thirty editions.
* The Primary Association opens the Primary Children's Hospital in a renovated home in downtown Salt Lake City.
* The Corporation of the President is organized to administer the Church's tax-free properties.
* Zion's Security Corporation is founded to manage church property considered strictly investment and revenue producing. The Church voluntarily pays taxes on such property even though it can generally claim nonprofit status.
* A silent film called “Trapped by the Mormons”, based on the 1911 novel *The Love Story of a Mormon*, depicts Mormon men with hypnotic powers trying to capture young women to live in polygamy. It follows the novel closely apart from changing the name of every major character.

April 25

* Ground is broken for the Mesa Arizona Temple by President Heber J. Grant.

May 6

* President Heber J. Grant dedicates the Deseret News radio station, KZN, and delivers a message over the airways for the first time in church history. He bears his testimony that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the true and living God.

1923

January

* President Heber J. Grant and Charles W. Penrose organize the Los Angeles Stake, the Church's eighty-eighth stake, which covers three thousand members and all of southern California.

May

* During his second American lecture tour, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle speaks in the Salt Lake Tabernacle on the subject of psychic phenomena and communications with the dead. He is introduced by Levi Edgar Young, General Authority and professor of Western history at the University of Utah. He and his children are well received by the Mormons despite his book *A Study in Scarlet* which unintentionally contained many slanderous untruths about the Church.
* Sir Arthur and Lady Doyle are guests of honor at a luncheon in the Alta Club in Salt Lake City, attended by forty representative men and women of the community. Levi Edgar Young is toastmaster and also Elder John A. Widtsoe is present. Sir Arthur shares his thoughts on the pioneer photos in the church museum and his gratitude for the tolerance and cordiality with which he has been received, saying that he did not expect to be allowed to speak in the Tabernacle.

June 5

* A letter appears in the *San Francisco Chronicle* from Charles W. Nibley, Presiding Bishop of the Church, criticizes Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for accepting several thousand dollars from the Mormons as a speaking fee despite his treatment of them in *A Study in Scarlet*. In the same edition, Sir Arthur replies that he has not taken a cent, and that he has great respect for the Mormons and expects an apology from Bishop Nibley. There is no record of one.

August 26-29

* The Cardston Alberta Temple, the Church's sixth operating temple and the first outside of the United States or its territories, is dedicated by President Heber J. Grant. He declares that someday there will be temples in Europe as well, but not until the spirit of peace has increased among its people.

September 1

* An earthquake devastates Tokyo, Japan, killing between 120,000 and 150,000 people. Missionary work completely stops as the few missionaries present help with the reconstruction effort.

September 23

* President Heber J. Grant presides at a special meeting in the Sacred Grove to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the appearance of Moroni to Joseph Smith. Present are Sister Augusta W. Grant, John Harris Taylor, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, Elder Rudger Clawson, Elder James E. Talmage, and Elder Brigham H. Roberts, president of the Eastern States Mission.

1924

* KZN, the Deseret News radio station, begins broadcasting sessions of General Conference within the United States.

Summer

* The Deseret News radio station's call letters are changed from KZN to KSL.

June 12

* The *Deseret News* announces the closure of the Japanese Mission.

June 13

* Mission President Hilton A. Robertson in Japan receives a telegram from Salt Lake City advising him that twelve thousand yen are being wired to him. There is no explanation, but he and the missionaries have a good idea why the money is being sent, as rumors have circulated for years about the possible closure of the Japanese Mission.

June 15

* A Tokyo newspaper contains a short telegram stating that the Mormon missionaries will be immediately withdrawn from Japan.

July 1

* The second Johnson Act in the United States goes into effect, excluding Japanese immigrants. This is observed as a day of humiliation throughout Japan, and Tokyo blazes with posters saying “Hate Everything American”. The already unsuccessful missionary work in Japan is greatly hindered by this attitude.

August 7

* The departure of the final missionaries from Yokohama aboard the S.S. *President Cleveland* marks the closure of the Japanese Mission after baptizing only 174 converts in twenty-three years.

1925

February 3

* The Mission Home, a missionary training center in Salt Lake City with LeRoi C. Snow as its first director, is dedicated by President Heber J. Grant. It provides two weeks of intensive instruction on manners, punctuality, and missionary methods, as well as instructions from General Authorities on gospel principles. Its first class numbers only five elders.

May 16

* Charles W. Penrose dies.

September

* During the Scopes Trial in Tennessee regarding the teaching of evolution in public schools, the *Improvement Era* carries a re-issue of the 1909 First Presidency statement on the origin of man, signed by the current First Presidency and with the ambiguously anti-evolution statements removed.

October

* President Heber J. Grant announces the need for one thousand additional missionaries.

December 25

* Elder Melvin J. Ballard stands in the park of Tres de Febrero in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and dedicates all of South America for the preaching of the gospel. He says that the work of the Lord will grow slowly at first, like an oak out of an acorn, but that thousands will join and the Lamanites will become a power in the Church.

1926

Fall

* Under direction from the First Presidency, J. Wyley Sessions and his wife Magdeline are sent to Moscow, Idaho, to establish the first Institute of Religion classes to supplement the secular learning of college students at the University of Idaho. Fifty-seven students are enrolled and the idea quickly spreads to other secular colleges with significant numbers of Latter-day Saints.

1927

* The 1,000th ward is organized.
* Elder B.H. Roberts begins writing a book on church history and doctrine called *The Truth, The Way, The Life*, which he hopes will become a study course for seventies throughout the Church. It contains the controversial idea that pre-Adamite peoples lived on the Earth and were wiped out in a great cataclysm.
* Elder John A. Widtsoe gives a lecture at an outdoor institute for church school educators, in which he discusses the theory of biological evolution and persuades at least one participant to accept it. (NOTE: might be 1925 – check this!)
* Percy D. McArthur, a Latter-day Saint and California champion in the 440-yard race, represents the Los Angeles Athletic Club at the national track meet in Lincoln, Nebraska, and ties with two others in a dead heat. Rather than participate in the Olympics next year, he accepts a call to the Mexican Mission.

August 21

* Thomas S. Monson, future sixteenth President of the Church, is born.

October 23-26

* The Mesa Arizona Temple, the Church's seventh operating temple and the first in Arizona, is dedicated by President Heber J. Grant. For many years it is known as the “Lamanite temple” because it is the destination for Hispanic and Native American church members, especially from Mexico.

1928

* A committee of five apostles rejects Elder B.H. Roberts' book because of the pre-Adamite references, but suggest that it may be published with alterations. He declines. It will not be published until 1994, decades after his death.

April

* The Church completes the purchase of the hillside where Joseph Smith received the golden plates. It is referred to as the Hill Cumorah, though it is almost certainly not the same Hill Cumorah mentioned in the Book of Mormon.

September 25

* The first Institute of Religion building, adjacent to the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, is dedicated by President Charles W. Nibley.

1929

* The *Improvement Era* is merged with the *Young Women's Journal* and becomes the Church's leading magazine for adults.
* Early-morning Seminary classes are inaugurated in Salt Lake City and Pocatello, Idaho.

July 15

* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcasts the first episode of its network radio program, *Music and the Spoken Word*, with Anthony C. Lund directing them. It is a thirty-minute program of inspiring messages and music.

October 29

* The bottom falls out of the New York stock market, ruining millions of investors and sending people into a panic. Government intervention worsens and prolongs this incident into the Great Depression, which has a profound effect on the Church and its members.

1930

* The early-morning seminary program in Pocatello, Idaho is discontinued.

April

* At a genealogical conference, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith denounces the concept of death or mortal existence before the fall of Adam.

April 6

* Thousands of church members pack into the Salt Lake Tabernacle to celebrate the Church's centennial by sustaining church leaders and rendering the hosanna shout. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir performs Handel's chorus “Hallelujah” from “The Messiah”, the Salt Lake Temple is illuminated by giant floodlights for the first time, and a free newly written pageant depicting the various dispensations of the gospel, called “The Message of the Ages”, is presented and received so well that performances continue for over a month.
* Elder B.H. Roberts presents his monumental six-volume *A Comprehensive History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

October

* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith's remarks about death before the fall are reprinted in the *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*. Elder B.H. Roberts complains to the Apostles because Elder Smith's views are now on public record while his are still confined to his unpublished manuscript.

1931

* Susa Young Gates publishes *The Life Story of Brigham Young*, a biography of her father.

January

* The Apostles review the arguments of Elders Joseph Fielding Smith and B.H. Roberts with regard to death before the fall. Elder James E. Talmage, a geologist, sides with Elder Roberts and criticizes Elder Smith's poor use of science.

April

* The Aaronic Priesthood Correlation Plan is introduced to help meet the needs of young men and prepare them for missionary service. It correlates the teachings of quorum meetings, Sunday School, and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association to better complement and work with each other.

April 7

* The First Presidency states that neither viewpoint in the ongoing pre-Adamite controversy is a doctrine of the Church or important to the work of salvation, and suggests that they drop the issue. However, it is felt by some that Elder Smith's talk has led church members to believe that the Church opposes science, and that this should be rectified.

May 16

* Orson F. Whitney dies.

August 9

* Elder James E. Talmage gives a talk in the Salt Lake tabernacle called “The Earth and Man”, in which he discusses the fossil record and sequence of life appearing on Earth. Some believe this is done at the request of the First Presidency to counterbalance Elder Joseph Fielding Smith's creationist views. In any case, a majority of apostles approve it and several are present for it.

October 8

* Joseph F. Merrill is ordained an Apostle.

November 21

* “The Earth and Man” is printed in the *Deseret News* and later in a separate pamphlet.

December

* “The Earth and Man” is printed in the *Millennial Star*.

1932

* Unemployment in Utah reaches 35.9 percent, and per capita income falls by 48.6 percent. In rural areas, families lose their farms when they cannot meet the mortgage payments.
* 399 missionaries serve, only five percent of the potential. Most of the rest are unable because their families need them to work at home and cannot afford to send them. This results in increased member-missionary involvement and subsequently increased success, leading President Heber J. Grant to consider it a hidden blessing.
* In the Pioneer Stake, which has been especially hard hit by the Great Depression, stake president Harold B. Lee establishes a storehouse stocked with goods produced on stake projects or donated by church members.
* A.P.A. Glad, bishop of the Salt Lake Twenty-eighth Ward, creates a special class for inactive adult men to help them feel comfortable and return to church. After eight months of persistent effort, forty men are brought back into activity.
* Elder George Albert Smith is elected to the national executive committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

1933

* Expenditures from tithes have dropped from $4 million in 1927 to $2.4 million, resulting in many church activities being curtailed.
* LDS students in southern California begin the Deseret Club to bring them together for intellectual and social activities within the influence of church ideals and standards.
* The *Millennial Star* begins to be published in London, England instead of Liverpool.
* Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party rise to power in Germany. Gestapo agents frequently observe church meetings, and most branch and mission leaders are thoroughly interrogated about their religion and warned to stay out of political matters. Elder James E. Talmage's book *The Articles of Faith* and several hymns are forbidden due to their favorable treatment of Israel and the Jewish people. Church meetings are often canceled during Nazi rallies, and the Scouting program has to be dropped because of the Hitler Youth. Some German Mormons cease attending church, while others seek to emigrate.
* Utah becomes the thirty-sixth state to hold a constitutional convention and vote for repeal of Prohibition, becoming the decisive vote. President Heber J. Grant publicly expresses his disappointment in church members for not following his counsel, and insists that much avoidable suffering, sorrow, spiritual degeneration, and deterioration of physical health will result.

July

* The First Presidency sets forth fundamental principles and specific relief measures that can be carried out throughout the Church. It emphasizes self-sufficiency and says that able-bodied members must not accept something for nothing except as a last resort. Individual wards should meet the needs of their own members before helping other units, and all Saints should avoid extravagant living and set aside resources for possible future times of greater stress.

July 27

* Elder James E. Talmage dies.

Fall

* The Church introduces an Adult Aaronic program to help inactive men, based on the class created by Bishop A.P.A. Glad the previous year.

October 12

* Charles A. Callis is ordained an Apostle.

December 9

* In an issue of the *Church News*, a naive writer named Dale Clark praises Adolf Hitler and favorably compares aspects of his regime to the Church, as well as expressing gratitude that the necessity of proving oneself to not have Jewish lineage has made German genealogical records more accessible.

1934

* Guadalupe Monroy, sister of Raphael Monroy who was executed during the Mexican Revolution, writes *Historia de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Dias de la rama de San Marcos, Tula, Hidalgo*. It provides historians with a source of much personal information about the town and the Monroy family.
* Elder George Albert Smith receives the Silver Buffalo, the highest award presented by the Boy Scouts of America, in recognition of his outstanding service.

July 5

* Elijah Abel, son of Enoch Abel and grandson of Elijah Abel, is ordained a priest despite the priesthood ban for men of African descent.

September 23

* Anthony W. Ivins dies.

October 11

* J. Reuben Clark Jr. and Alonzo A. Hinckley are ordained Apostles.

1935

* President Heber J. Grant and his counselors reply to the late James E. Talmage's son, Sterling, telling him that “The Earth and Man” presents well-considered views but is not binding on the Church. They also claim that its publication was opposed by all but one of the other Brethren, President Ivins, but this contradicts all earlier first-hand accounts including President Grant's.
* The Presiding Bishopric announces a goal of performing one million priesthood assignments within the year, hoping to involve the youth more completely in church activity. Certificates of achievement are provided for local quorums meeting specified standards.

April 20

* The First Presidency assigns stake president Harold B. Lee, due to his success with the Pioneer Stake storehouse, to introduce churchwide the welfare program they have already devised years ago. President Lee prays and receives inspiration that no new organization is needed because the Church already possesses everything it needs to implement the plan.

June 30

* The Laie Hawaii Stake, the first stake in Hawaii, is formed.

August 20

* Young Gordon B. Hinckley is assigned by Elder Joseph F. Merrill to inform President Heber J. Grant and his counselors of the critical need for teaching materials in missionary work. They hold a fifteen-minute meeting with him that ends up stretching for an hour as they raise questions.

August 22

* Gordon B. Hinckley is asked to come work for the Church as secretary of the newly organized Radio, Publicity, and Mission Literature Committee, which also includes six of the Twelve Apostles. The Committee's purpose is to direct the preparation of missionary lectures, tracts, and other literature, as well as scripts for radio programs.

September 29

* Elijah Abel, son of Enoch Abel and grandson of Elijah Abel, is ordained an elder despite the priesthood ban for men of African descent.

1936

* The annual output of church welfare projects increases to include 37,661 bottles of fruit, 175,621 cans of fruit or vegetables, 134,425 pounds of fresh vegetables, 105,000 pounds of flour, 1,393 quilts, and 363,640 items of clothing. Fast offerings also increase.
* While visiting in the Los Angeles area, Elder John A. Widtsoe recognizes the value of the Deseret Club in the lives of students, and brings it under the sponsorship of the Church Board of Education. It is organized on campuses where there are not enough Church members to justify a full Institute of Religion program. Eventually it is replaced by the Latter-day Saint Student Association.
* The First Presidency directs the Snowflake Stake in northeastern Arizona to open formal missionary work among the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni tribes. Soon other stakes become similarly involved.
* Four missionaries in Germany are recruited as basketball judges for the Berlin Olympics.
* Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, receives its first meetinghouse.

April

* At General Conference, all stakes are instructed to organize a mission, and supervision of these missions is assigned to the First Council of the Seventy. Baptisms and member activity, as well as overall spirituality, sharply increase as a result.

April 5

* A portion of General Conference is broadcast to Europe via international shortwave radio.

April 6

* Following the close of General Conference, the Church Security Plan, soon renamed the Church Welfare Plan, is introduced to stake presidencies and ward bishoprics in a special meeting. Unlike the New Deal and similar legislation it embodies principles of self-reliance. The immediate goal is established of providing sufficient food and clothing for all the needy in the Church, and challenging members to increase their fast offerings.

May

* Elder Melvin J. Ballard is invited to Washington, D.C. to explain the Church Security Plan to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. They each pledge full cooperation with the other's efforts to meet the challenges of the Depression, and President Roosevelt says he hopes the Church's success will inspire other groups to launch similar programs.

October

* The First Presidency reviews basic principles underlying the Church Security Plan, stating that their purpose is to abolish the curse of idleness and the evils of a dole, and re-establish work as the ruling principle in the lives of church membership.

December 22

* Alonzo A. Hinckley dies.

1937

* Elder LeGrand Richards ends his presidency of the Southern States Mission and leaves the missionaries with an outline titled “The Message of Mormonism”, intended to help them study and present the gospel in a systematic and logical manner. It is used by a number of missions and stake missionaries, and thirteen years later is expanded to create the book *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*.
* The Co-operative Securities Corporation is created to hold title to Church Security System properties and to coordinate its finances. It also makes loans to individuals who cannot borrow from banks or other ordinary channels.
* With the encouragement of the First Presidency, the Relief Society sponsors courses in sewing, baking, and food preservation. Individual instruction is provided in the home, and group classes convene at welfare canning or sewing centers.

March 3

* The Idaho Falls Idaho Temple, originally known only as the Idaho Falls Temple, is announced.

March 6

* The Los Angeles California Temple, originally known only as the Los Angeles Temple, is announced, but the groundbreaking is delayed for over a decade with the outbreak of World War II.

March 23

* Land for the Los Angeles California Temple is purchased from the Harold Lloyd Motion Picture Company.

April

* President J. Reuben Clark Jr. urges the Saints to avoid debt and to have on hand a year's supply of food, clothing, and, where possible, fuel.

April 8

* Albert E. Bowen is ordained an Apostle.

1938

* Brigham Young University, Ricks College, and the LDS Business College lose their separate boards of trustees and are brought under the direct supervision of the General Church Board of Education to achieve more centralized control.
* The Church restores Carthage Jail, where Joseph and Hyrum Smith were martyred, to its original condition.

April 14

* Sylvester Q. Cannon, son of George Q. Cannon, is ordained an Apostle.

August 8

* In response to charges of humanistic ideas entering the curriculum, President J. Reuben Clark Jr. sets forth the mission of the Church's educational program to an assembly of teachers at Aspen Grove near the BYU campus. In an address titled “The Charted Course of the Church in Education”, he insists that the fundamental truths of Jesus Christ's divine mission and the Restoration must be declared fearlessly, and that doubt must not be sown in the hearts of trusting students.

September

* The Church initiates the Deseret Industries thrift store program with Stuart B. Eccles as its first manager. Its aims are to provide another opportunity to help the needy, to reduce waste by keeping possessions in use as long as possible, to provide employment opportunities for old or handicapped members, and to provide good quality items at low cost.

September 2

* Elder J. Golden Kimball is killed in a single-vehicle auto accident in the Nevada desert fifty miles east of Reno, becoming the only General Authority ever to die in an accident. Some speculate that this is due to his sinful habits of swearing and breaking the Word of Wisdom.

September 14

* As troops mass on both sides of the German-Czech border and war seems inevitable, the First Presidency orders the evacuation of all missionaries from both countries. The tensions are later resolved at a meeting in Munich where Hitler is allowed to annex western Czechoslovakia, and the missionaries return.

November 22

* For his eighty-second birthday, President Heber J. Grant receives a copper box filled with one thousand silver dollars to give to his favorite charity. He has them placed in paperweights and sold to raise money for the construction of a planned Primary Children's Hospital that will replace the current one.

1939

* A Committee of Correlation and Coordination, headed by three members of the Twelve, is appointed by the First Presidency to study the Church's auxiliary programs and discard any duplication or overlapping in their objectives.
* President Heber J. Grant is invited to Boise, Idaho, where fifteen prominent local businessmen offer to the Church any available site in Boise to build Idaho's first temple. President Grant chooses Idaho Falls instead due to the concentration of membership in eastern Idaho, but tells them that when membership increases in the Boise area a temple will be built there as well.
* President J. Reuben Clark Jr. uses his State Department contacts to keep church leaders apprised of developments in Europe on an almost hourly basis.
* Ezra Taft Benson moves to Washington, D.C., to serve as the executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

July 11

* Four missionaries in Czechoslovakia are arrested by the German Gestapo and held in Pankrac Prison, normally reserved for political prisoners. Their mission president, Wallace F. Toronto, spends the next six weeks working persistently for their release.

July 30

* Elder Melvin J. Ballard passes away.

August 23

* Wallace F. Toronto succeeds in securing the release of the four missionaries arrested by the Gestapo in Czechoslovakia.

August 24

* The First Presidency orders the evacuation of missionaries from Germany and Czechoslovakia for a second time. Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, who is in Europe conducting the annual tour of missions, is instructed to take charge.
* Most Czechoslovakian missionaries, along with President Toronto's wife and children, leave immediately for Denmark, but he remains behind to help the recently imprisoned elders recover their passports and other possessions.

August 25

* In Germany, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith and mission president M. Douglas Wood receive the First Presidency's telegram ordering the evacuation, and direct all missionaries to leave for Holland at once. Most of them, knowing they cannot take German currency out of the country, use their excess funds to purchase cameras and other goods.

August 26

* Holland closes its borders to almost all foreigners, fearing that the influx of refugees will seriously deplete its already short food supply, and German radio warns that by the next night all railroads will be under military control and no guarantees can be made for civilian travel. Seventeen out of thirty-one West German missionaries, unable to afford tickets to the alternate evacuation point in Copenhagen, Denmark, are stranded.
* Mission President Wood assigns a missionary named Norman George Seibold to find the lost thirty-one missionaries, unaware of how many have made it out safely. They have no idea where to start looking, so Elder Seibold takes a train through the countryside, relying on spiritual inspiration to know which stops to get off at.

August 28

* Mission President Wood learns that fourteen of the missionaries have made it to Holland, and receives a telegram from Elder Seibold stating that the others will arrive in Denmark this evening.

August 31

* Mission President Toronto and his missionaries conclude their business in Czechoslovakia, but before they are able to leave, one of them is rearrested and again thrown in prison. President Toronto is inspired and able to show them that it is a case of mistaken identity, and the elder is promptly released.
* President Toronto and the missionaries board a special train sent to evacuate the British delegation, the last train to leave Czechoslovakia.

September 1

* Mission President Toronto and the missionaries pass through Berlin and board the last ferry from Germany to Denmark.
* Germany invades Poland, causing the outbreak of World War II. It was anticipated over seventy-seven years previous when Orson Hyde prophesied that the demon of war would remove his headquarters to the banks of the Rhine.

December 19

* Ground is broken for the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple by David Smith.

1940

* Weekly genealogy meetings are discontinued and their purpose is incorporated into the Sunday School curriculum. At the same time the *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine* is discontinued and its purpose incorporated into the *Improvement Era*.
* Herbert Klopfer is called as the president of the East German Mission. He is also drafted into military service and stationed in Berlin, so that he is able to conduct mission business from his military office.

June 16

* Matthias Cowley dies.

September

* Japan signs a ten-year mutual assistance treaty with Germany and Italy and begins occupying French Indochina.

October

* Prompted by the vulnerability of Britain's overseas holdings and Japan's recent occupation of French Indochina, the First Presidency withdraws all missionaries from the South Pacific and South Africa. Communications remain open, however, and the mission presidents are allowed to stay.

October 19

* The site for the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

1941

* The Church stops sending new missionaries to South America.
* The Institute director in southern California reports that five high schools in the Los Angeles are have more than one hundred LDS students each, and several others approach that number. However, wartime restrictions preclude Seminary programs from being developed for them.

February 9

* Reed Smoot, Apostle and Republican Senator, dies.

April

* The First Presidency announces the appointment of a new group of General Authorities called Assistants to the Twelve, to help the Twelve Apostles with the increased administrative burden of a growing church. Five are initially called: Marion G. Romney, Thomas E. McKay, Clifford E. Young, Alma Sonne, and Nicholas G. Smith.
* Hugh B. Brown is appointed as servicemen's coordinator for the Church. Having attained the rank of major in the Canadian army during World War I, he is able to capitalize on this title in making contact with military authorities.

April 10

* Harold B. Lee is ordained an Apostle.

Summer

* Seventeen-year-old German Latter-day Saint Helmuth Hübener begins illegally listening to BBC radio broadcasts and discovers the truth about the Nazi regime. He recruits three friends, two of them fellow Mormons, to help him produce and secretly distribute anti-fascist texts and leaflets sharing this information.

October 19

* The capstone of the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple is laid, completing its exterior, and the interior is expected to be completed by the end of next year. However, World War II shortages begin less than two months later and delay completion for four more years.

December 7

* Japan launches a pre-emptive strike on Pearl Harbor, a naval base in Hawaii, to dissuade the United States from entering the war.

December 8

* The United States declares war on Japan, then on Germany. Its involvement further delays the Church's temple building and missionary efforts, and prevents much business from being conducted.

December

* The First Presidency's annual Christmas message declares that only through living the gospel of Jesus Christ will enduring peace come to the world. They exhort members to keep all cruelty, hate, and murder out of their hearts even during battle.

1942

* Attendance at General Conferences are limited to specifically invited priesthood leaders, and the Tabernacle is closed to the public.
* The Relief Society's centennial celebration is postponed due to the war.
* The annual Hill Cumorah pageant is canceled for the duration of the war.
* The Church agrees not to call young men of draft age on missions. Afterward, most of those called are women and high priests, and members are forced to take more responsibility for sharing the gospel with those around them.
* The site for a future temple in Oakland, California is finally purchased after fourteen years of negotiations due to various obstacles.

January

* The First Presidency suspends all stake leadership meetings for the duration of the war.

February 5

* Helmuth Hübener is arrested by the Gestapo after a Nazi Party member at his workplace catches him trying to translate his pamphlets into French and give them to prisoners of war.

April

* The First Presidency releases an official statement in General Conference, comprehensively and authoritatively reviewing the Church's attitude on war. It promises that as long as servicemen on either side are righteous and pure in heart, God will not hold them accountable for having to kill their enemies in the service of their country's leaders. The statement is widely distributed in pamphlet form.

April 27

* U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt speaks of the need for increased taxes, wage and price controls, and rationing of gasoline and other strategic materials. The Church has already prepared for this with its restrictions on auxiliary meetings and travel, and with the food storage encouraged of members beginning four and a half years ago. Elder Harold B. Lee is convinced this was the result of revelation.

August 11

* Helmuth Hübener is tried at the Volksgerichtshof in Berlin, found guilty of conspiracy to commit high treason and treasonous furthering of the enemy's cause, and sentenced to death by beheading. The court tries him as an adult despite his age because he has shown evidence of a highly developed mind. Two of his friends are given prison sentences.

October

* A Church Servicemen's Committee is organized with Elder Harold B. Lee as chairman. Its purpose is to work with United States military officials to secure the appointments of Latter-day Saint chaplains. Army and navy officials are reluctant to appoint chaplains who do not meet the usual requirements of being professional clergymen, but the Army Chief of Chaplains favorably remembers how a local Mormon bishop has cared for the spiritual well-being of servicemen in his area, and gradually the appointments are approved.

October 27

* Helmuth Hübener's lawyers fail to reduce his sentence to life imprisonment. He writes a letter to a fellow member of his congregation, in which he expresses his trust in God's judgment and a better world. Later that day he is beheaded by guillotine at Plötzensee Prison in Berlin. Later a youth center and pathway in Hamburg are named in his honor, and an exhibit in the converted prison shares his story.
* Arthur Zander, a local LDS leader and member of the Nazi Party known for posting “Jews Not Welcome” on the meetinghouse door, posthumously excommunicates Helmuth Hübener to make a point. He will not be reinstated until after the war.

November

* George Jumbo, a Navajo Latter-day Saint, travels to Salt Lake City for back surgery. Before returning home he visits President Heber J. Grant with his wife, Mary, who pleads for missionaries to be sent amongst their people. With tears in his eyes, President Grant asks Elder George Albert Smith to arrange it and make sure that it increases rather than fading away.

Winter

* The Beehive Girls donate 228,000 hours collecting scrap metal, fats, and other needed materials, making scrapbooks and baking cookies for soldiers, and tending children for mothers working in defense industries. A special “Honor Bee” award is offered for such service.

1943

* Elder Richard R. Lyman is excommunicated.
* Since the cessation of sending new missionaries to South America two years earlier, none remain on the continent. Missionary work is now limited to North America and Hawaii, and their numbers are reduced as more and more young men are drafted into military service.
* Only 261 missionaries are called to serve.
* Mutual Improvement Association youth in the United States and Canada raise more than three million dollars to purchase fifty-five badly needed rescue boats to save the lives of downed airmen.
* Elder John A. Widtsoe publishes his book *Evidences and Reconciliations*, which says among other things that evolution may be accepted with no difficulty but should not be the foundation of a life philosophy.
* Herbert Klopfer, president of the East German Mission, is ordered to the Western front. He leaves his mission affairs and family in the hands of his two counselors. He then visits some Saints in Denmark, who fear him at first because of his German uniform but come to trust him as he bears his testimony of the gospel.

April

* President Heber J. Grant announces the purchase of the site for a temple in Oakland, California, which shall be constructed in due course.

May 29

* Sylvester Q. Cannon dies.

June 21

* Rudger Clawson dies.

October 7

* Spencer W. Kimball and Ezra Taft Benson are ordained Apostles.

1944

* Herbert Klopfer, president of the East German Mission, is listed as missing in action on the Eastern front.

April 20

* Mark E. Peterson is ordained an Apostle.

1945

* Fawn McKay Brodie, niece of Elder David O. McKay, releases *No Man Knows My History: The Life of Joseph Smith*. It is an unflattering biography which treats him as a fraud and attempts to psychoanalyze his motives for everything on the basis of little or no evidence. Despite the obvious flaws in such methodology, it becomes a favorite work of critics for generations, but it also prompts members to see the Book of Mormon in a more serious light.
* The Navajo-Zuni Mission is organized. Outreach to other tribes in the United States and Canada soon follows.
* The number of Latter-day Saints in the military approaches one hundred thousand, more than one out of every ten members.
* The stationing of American servicemen in Italy results in a flood of postwar conversions for the Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses. For unknown reasons, the Church does not capitalize on this opportunity, and remains with virtually no native presence in the country.

March

* The Church begins microfilming 365 English parish registers for genealogical purposes.
* Herbert Klopfer, president of the East German Mission, dies in a Russian hospital.

May 14

* President Heber J. Grant passes away.
* At Heber J. Grant's death, the Church has 149 stakes, thirty-eight missions, 954,004 nominal members, and seven temples.

May 21

* George Albert Smith becomes the eighth President of the Church.

June

* The *Improvement Era* carries a Ward Teaching message called “Sustaining the General Authorities of the Church” which advocates blind obedience and equates independent thought with apostasy. Many church members are understandably confused and disturbed, and critics use it as a gold mine of quotes for generations to come.

Fall

* The Church sends relief supplies to the struggling people of war-torn Europe. Pending government cooperation, they have to be sent through the regular mail, so only small packages are accepted and the cost is prohibitive.

September 23-25

* The Idaho Falls Idaho Temple, the Church's eighth operating temple and the first in Idaho, is dedicated by President George Albert Smith.

October 11

* Matthew Cowley is ordained an Apostle.

Early November

* About two hundred people gather at the Mesa Arizona Temple for a special Lamanite conference hosted by President David O. McKay, second counselor in the First Presidency. Some come from as far as Mexico City and most make significant economic sacrifices to make the trip. The conference becomes an eagerly anticipated annual event.
* Two days later, the Mesa Arizona Temple presents Spanish-language endowment sessions for the first time.

November 3

* President George Albert Smith meets with U.S. President Harry Truman for twenty minutes, trying to arrange for the Church to send relief supplies to Europe more easily. President Truman is incredulous but then pleased that the Church intends to do so without financial compensation, and promises his support.

November 16

* Dr. J. Raymond Cope, leader of the First Unitarian Society in Salt Lake City, writes to President George Albert Smith expressing his concern about the June Ward Teaching message, which appears incongruous with his knowledge and experience of the Mormon religion.

December 7

* President George Albert Smith responds to Dr. J. Raymond Cope, thanking him for his concern and explaining that the Ward Teaching message was indeed in error and should not have been permitted to pass uncensored.

1946

* Many young men who postponed their missions due to the war now choose to serve, and the number of missionaries rises from 477 to 2,244.
* Teenaged German martyr Helmuth Hübener, excommunicated after his death by a local leader named Arthur Zander who was a member of the Nazi Party, is posthumously reinstated into the Church.
* The *Improvement Era* and the *Church News* criticize Fawn Brodie's book *No Man Knows My History*. She dismisses them as propaganda.
* Hugh Nibley releases a sixty-two page pamphlet titled “No Ma'am, That's Not History” in response to Fawn Brodie's Joseph Smith biography the previous year, criticizing her for attempting to read the mind of a man who has been dead for a century. It is sold in the Church's Deseret Bookstores for decades.
* President George Albert Smith calls Elder Spencer W. Kimball to give special attention and leadership to the Lamanite people, beginning the fulfillment of a line in his patriarchal blessing.

January

* The Church has shipped thirteen thousand small packages of relief supplies through the mail to Europe, and many more have been sent by individual members.

January 14

* Elder Ezra Taft Benson is assigned by the First Presidency to reopen the missions in Europe and attend to the spiritual and temporal needs of the Saints there. He is promised that his influence will be felt for good by all he meets and that he will be accompanied by a power and spirit not of man.

January 29

* Elder Ezra Taft Benson leaves Salt Lake City for England, accompanied by Frederick W. Babbel, who served in the Swiss-German Mission just before the outbreak of war.

Mid-March

* Elder Ezra Taft Benson completes the necessary arrangements with European government and military authorities to have additional relief supplies sent from the United States.

May

* Fawn Brodie is excommunicated for her book *No Man Knows My History*. She makes no effort to regain her membership but tries to remain on good terms with her LDS family.

July 16

* Atop a beautiful hill near Larsmo, Finland, Elder Ezra Taft Benson dedicates Finland for missionary work and blesses it that it may be receptive to the gospel.

July 17

* A surprising 245 people attend a public church meeting in Helsinki, Finland and manifest genuine interest.

?

* Elder Matthew Cowley is called as president of the Pacific Mission.

December

* Elder Ezra Taft Benson returns home, having traveled more than sixty thousand miles during his ten-month assignment in Europe.

1947

* Nominal church membership passes the one million mark.
* Two branches are formed to meet the needs of married and single students at BYU. They are considered experimental, but soon set the highest attendance record in the East Provo Stake.
* The Finnish Mission is organized.
* The First Presidency assigns Edward L. Clissold, who has served as a military officer in Japan with the Allied occupation forces, to return and open the Japanese Mission. He finds the climate far more conducive to successful missionary work than in former decades, with a spiritual void yearning to be filled.
* The First Presidency assigns Heber Meeks, president of the Southern States mission, to look into the possibility of proselytizing in Cuba. Meeks asks his LDS friend Lowry Nelson, sociologist at the University of Minnesota, about the mixed racial picture in Cuba and whether the missionaries could avoid conferring priesthood on men of African descent. Nelson sends his reply to both Meeks and the First Presidency, expressing his dismay at the policy.
* While touring the Mexican Mission, Elder Spencer W. Kimball envisions a glorious future for the Lamanite people. He sees them as the owners of banks and businesses, as construction engineers, political leaders, lawyers, doctors, and influential authors and newspaper publishers.
* Archibald F. Bennett, secretary of the Genealogical Society, spends four months in Europe conferring with government and religious officials, and obtains permission for the Church to microfilm records in England, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, northern Italy, and France. In the wake of war most archivists are eager to create copies of their records in case the originals are destroyed, and each library or church is given a copy of its own for public access.
* In Qumran, near the northwest corner of the Dead Sea, goat herders accidentally discover rolls of leather and copper manuscripts in earthen jars in some dark caves. They date from 200 B.C. to a century or so A.D. and include manuals of discipline as well as every book from the Old Testament except for Esther, giving evidence of a highly literary people in the Jerusalem area just preceding and following the time of Christ.

January 21

* Charles A. Callis dies.

April

* As the pace of missionary work picks up and the administrative load of mission presidents increases, the First Presidency receives a revelation to direct them to call counselors from among the missionaries and local Melchizedek Priesthood bearers.

July

* The Church releases “A Centennial Message from the First Presidency” in the *Improvement Era* in honor of the upcoming centennial of the pioneers' arrival in the Salt Lake valley. It compares the sterile desert faced by those pioneers to the moral lethargy and spiritual decline of the modern world, and urges the modern Saints to be just as prepared to meet these challenges as their forebears were.

July 21

* An issue of *TIME* magazine features an article about the Church in honor of the Pioneer Day centennial, with President George Albert Smith, pioneer handcarts, and the Salt Lake Temple depicted on the cover.

July 24

* The Church celebrates a hundred years in the Salt Lake valley. A gigantic “Days of 47” parade includes numerous floats honoring the pioneers, and the United States post office issues a commemorative stamp in their memory.
* President George Albert Smith dedicates a sixty-foot-high “This is the Place” monument near the mouth of Emigration Canyon east of Salt Lake City, named for the apocryphal phrase that Brigham Young is said to have uttered upon his arrival in the Salt Lake valley.

Fall

* Golden R. Buchanan, a member of the Sevier Stake Presidency in Richfield, Utah, observes the deplorable condition of some migrant Native American workers in the area, and admonishes the Saints at a stake conference to take better care of their Lamanite brethren.
* Afterward a member from a neighboring town tells him of a teenage Native American girl named Helen John who wants to remain with her LDS employers and go to school rather than return to the reservation. President Buchanan envisions a program that would allow hundreds of Native American children to live in LDS homes, having greater access both to education and the principles of the gospel.
* President Buchanan outlines his ideas in a letter to Elder Spencer W. Kimball, who personally invites him to take Helen John into his home. This marks the beginning of the Indian Placement Program.

November

* At the Lamanite conference in Mesa, Arizona, Elder Spencer W. Kimball speaks of his vision of the bright future for Native American peoples.

December

* The first four missionaries arrive in Guatemala, and the country is dedicated for the preaching of the gospel.

1948

* An *Improvement Era* article called “Were There Pre-Adamites?”, written by Elder John A. Widtsoe, says that no one can safely deny their existence but also that the mystery of Adam and Eve's creation has not been revealed.
* Priesthood leaders in the Philippines are authorized to ordain Negrito men to the priesthood. These are native men with black skin but no known African ancestry.
* The Japanese Mission is reopened after twenty-four years. Due to cultural shifts and the aftermath of World War II, it experiences greater success this time.
* The number of visitors to Temple Square tops the one million mark for the first time.
* The Hill Cumorah pageant, “America's Witness for Christ”, resumes.

April

* Sessions of General Conference are carried from the Tabernacle to other buildings on Temple Square by closed circuit television.

1949

* Construction begins for a 1.25-million-dollar Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City to replace the original, smaller edifice.

July 14

* Elder Matthew Cowley and Chinese native Henry Aki stand on the Peak, the highest point overlooking the city of Hong Kong, and say a prayer to officially open missionary work in the province.

July 17

* The Tokyo mission home is dedicated. In the dedicatory prayer, Elder Matthew Cowley prophesies that someday there will be many church buildings and even temples in Japan.

October

* General Conference is first broadcast beyond Temple Square on television.

1950

* The Near East and Czechoslovakian Missions are closed due to international tensions.
* The First Presidency affirms that they want BYU to become the greatest educational institution in the world.

March 4

* Disney releases its animated film “Cinderella”. The faces of the ugly stepsisters are based on the faces of chief animator Wetzel O. “Judge” Whitaker and his brother Scott, who are LDS.

August 8

* George F. Richards dies.

October 5

* Delbert Stapley is ordained an Apostle.

September

* Six early-morning Seminary pilot classes are inaugurated in southern California, and their success leads to the addition of seven more the same school year.

December

* After numerous requests, Elder LeGrand Richards publishes *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, an expansion of his outline “A Message on Mormonism” from thirteen years previous. It is an overview of church history and doctrine intended to help missionaries present the gospel in a logical and straightforward manner.

1951

* The first church building is dedicated in Edmonton, Alberta, on Whyte Avenue.

April 4

* President George Albert Smith dies on his eighty-first birthday.
* At George Albert Smith's death, the Church has 184 stakes, forty-three missions, 1,111,314 nominal members, and eight temples.

April 7

* The Saturday sessions of General Conference are canceled for George Albert Smith's funeral.

April 9

* At a special solemn assembly session of General Conference, David O. McKay is sustained as the ninth President of the Church.

July 29

* Kim Ho Jik, a high-ranking Korean government and educational figure, becomes the first native Korean to join the Church while attending Cornell University in New York. He is baptized in the Susquehanna River near where Joseph Smith was baptized, and hears a voice saying “Feed my sheep, feed my sheep”. A son and daughter are among the first four Koreans baptized in their native land.

October 11

* Marion G. Romney is ordained an Apostle.

September 22

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Los Angeles California Temple by President David O. McKay.

1952

* The new Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City is completed and dedicated by President David O. McKay.
* The Church publishes its first official proselyting plan. Missionary presentations are condensed into six discussions with a logical presentation of gospel principles bolstered by scripture reading, testimony bearing, and sincere prayer.
* Due to the draft of young men for the Korean War, only 872 missionaries receive mission calls, compared to 3,015 two years earlier.
* U.S. President Ezra Taft Benson asks the Church if Elder Ezra Taft Benson could serve as the Secretary of Agriculture in his cabinet. President David O. McKay encourages Elder Benson to accept the appointment and blesses him that he will have clear vision to see the needs of the nation and be fearless in defending the Constitution against subversive elements threatening the nation's freedoms.

February 3

* Joseph F. Merrill dies.

April 10

* LeGrand Richards is ordained an Apostle.

May 24

* Latter-day Saint Lowry Nelson publishes an article called “Mormons and the Negro”, critical of the Church's priesthood ban, in *The Nation*.

July 1

* The Bern Switzerland Temple, originally known only as the Swiss Temple, is announced. Switzerland is an appropriate country for Europe's first temple because it is centrally located, has a multilingual population, and has remained neutral through both World Wars. Additionally, Bern is the city where President Joseph F. Smith first spoke of Europe being dotted with temples (although this one is actually built in the suburb of Zollikofen).

November 29

* John A. Widtsoe dies.

1953

* President David O. McKay directs the formation of a unified Church Educational System including schools, Seminaries, and Institutes of Religion worldwide.
* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, now facing little opposition from other Apostles to his creationist views, gives an anti-evolution discourse at BYU titled “The Origin of Man”, not to be confused with the First Presidency statement “On the Origin of Man”.

February 13

* Vinal G. Mauss organizes the Luzon Servicemen's District, the first district in the Philippines.

April 9

* Adam S. Bennion is ordained an Apostle.

July 15

* Albert E. Brown dies.

August 5

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Bern Switzerland Temple by President David O. McKay.

Fall

* Gordon B. Hinckley is assigned by President David O. McKay to find a way to present the endowment ceremony in Europe's various languages with a minimum of temple workers. After intense study and prayer he recommends that he sacred ceremony be filmed in its various languages.

October 8

* Richard L. Evans is ordained an Apostle.

December 13

* Matthew Cowley dies.

1954

* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith publishes *Man: His Origin and Destiny*, the first LDS book to be openly antagonistic to much of science.
* Henry Eyring, LDS scientist and dean of the University of Utah, criticizes *Man: His Origin and Destiny* for its poor grasp of scientific principles.
* President David O. McKay appoints a special committee of the Twelve to study the issue of blacks and the priesthood. They conclude that the ban has no clear basis in scripture but that church members as a whole are not ready for a change.

January

* President David O. McKay discontinues the practice of making all South African male converts trace their lineage out of Africa to ensure they have no Negro ancestry before receiving the priesthood. He believes that the burden this places on them will eventually leave the Church in South Africa without sufficient leadership, and that it will be easier to simply find and correct errors later. It is intended to be a church-wide decision but is not applied to other countries until the next decade.

January 17

* President David O. McKay tells a meeting of missionaries in South Africa that blacks cannot be ordained to the priesthood until the Lord gives another revelation changing the practice.

January 19

* President David O. McKay informs counselors, Stephen L. Richards and J. Reuben Clark Jr., of his decision regarding South African male converts and the priesthood. They support his decision.

April 8

* George Q. Morris is ordained an Apostle.

July 7

* President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., Second Counselor in the First Presidency, gives a talk at BYU titled “When are the Writings or Sermons of Church Leaders Entitled to the Claim of Scripture?” This is clearly done to ameliorate the potential damage of Elder Joseph Fielding Smith's creationist book and theories.

August 10

* The site is dedicated for the London England Temple, which will not be formally announced for a year and a half, by President David O. McKay.

August 27

* Concerned by the recent Brown vs. Board of Education ruling against segregation, apostle Mark E. Peterson gives a speech to BYU professors titled “Race Relations – as They Affect the Church”. In it he speaks out against integration and interracial marriage and says the faithful black members will enter the Celestial Kingdom as servants. A copy is leaked to the Church's critics and will be a source of embarrassment for decades to come.

October

* Elder Sterling Sills endorses *Man: His Origin and Destiny* in General Conference and says he would like every person in the world to read it.
* The angel Moroni statue sculpted by Millard F. Malin is placed atop the unfinished Los Angeles Temple. During one of his frequent visits, President David O. McKay notices that it faces southeast along with the temple, and tells architect Edward O. Anderson that it is not correct in that position and needs to face due east.

December 17

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball proposes to the Quorum of the Twelve a special group to fellowship and assist black members in light of the priesthood and temple restrictions. This idea does not come to fruition for nearly seventeen years.

1955

* The Church College of Hawaii, a two-year institution of higher education, opens at Laie, Hawaii.

February 17

* The Hamilton New Zealand and London England Temples, originally known simply as the New Zealand and London Temples, are announced. The site for the London Temple has already been dedicated a year and a half ago.

March 30

* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith transmits Elder Spencer W. Kimball's recommendation for a black fellowshipping group in a letter to the First Presidency. In the letter he mentions that a survey in the Salt Lake area shows about fifteen active black members and perhaps 130 others who are inactive or family of members.

August 2

* On a hill overlooking war-torn Seoul, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith dedicates Korea for the preaching of the gospel. Kim Ho Jik, the first native Korean to join the Church, is among the few participants.

August 21

* At a beautiful grove in Clark Air Force Base, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith organizes the Southern Far East Mission and dedicates the Philippines for the preaching of the gospel.

August 27

* Ground is broken for the London England Temple by President David O. McKay.

September 11-15

* The Bern Switzerland Temple, the Church's ninth operating temple, the first in Europe, the first where English is not the predominant language, and the first to use film presentation of the endowment ceremony, is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

December 21

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Hamilton New Zealand Temple by Ariel Ballif, Wendell B. Mendenhall, and George R. Biesinger.

1956

* The first student stake in the Church is organized at BYU.
* The Ogden Tabernacle is completed.

March 11-14

* The Los Angeles California Temple, the Church's tenth operating temple and the first in California, is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

October

* J. Reuben Clark gives a talk about priesthood, concluding that it has never been universal and that our rights to it depend upon our course before we came here, and our course since we arrived. Although he makes no mention of race, Elder Spencer W. Kimball marks up his copy of the talk and writes “Negro” in the margin.
* A missionary named William Tucker arrives in the French Mission and is assigned to Geneva, Switzerland. The other missionaries initiate him by having one of the sisters, Marilyn Lamborn, pretend to be a streetwalker and try to solicit his business. He refuses, but his faithfulness and devotion mask internal doubts about church teachings.

1957

* The Radio, Publicity, and Mission Literature Committee is divided to create the Church Information Service, which promotes missionary work by projecting a positive image of the Church. It coordinates publicity for conferences and temple dedications, prepares feature articles about aspects of church activity, and provides supplies and support for open houses in local chapels.
* The Church College of Hawaii becomes a four-year institution.
* Throat cancer threatens to rob Elder Spencer W. Kimball of his voice. After much prayer and fasting, the needed operation proves to be less radical than expected, but nonetheless removes most of his vocal cords. His new voice is rough and gravely but before long the members come to respect and love it.
* On Mactumatza, a mountain overlooking the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, Elder Howard W. Hunter dedicates the area for the preaching of the gospel, accompanied by President Claudius Bowman of the Mexican Mission.

February

* Elder William Tucker is transferred to Marseilles, France, with David Shore as his companion. Their unusual devotion and energy attracts attention and boosts morale throughout the whole mission, as most missionaries had been discouraged by their lack of success in France and been largely neglecting their work. Baptisms increase and church attendance rises dramatically. Unknown to the others, Elders Tucker and Shore have many shared doubts and disagreements with the Church on polygamy, the Adam-God theory, priesthood authority, spiritual guidance, temple garments, and the Word of Wisdom.

February 15

* President David O. McKay responds to William Lee Stokes, head of the Geology Department at the University of Utah, who had written asking about *Man: His Origin and Destiny*. President McKay clarifies that it was not published by the Church and is not approved by the Church. He later says that its selection as a text for seminary and institute teachers was unfortunate.

May 5

* The Atlanta Stake, the first stake in Georgia, is organized. It also includes congregations in Athens, Gibson, Milledgeville, and Palmetto.

October

* Elder William Tucker is transferred to Herstal, Belgium, but keeps in touch with David Shore. They continue to share their doubts and disagreements. Baptisms and church attendance increase in Herstal as they did in Marseilles.

1958

* In reference to the controversy created by *Man: His Origin and Destiny*, Elder Hugh B. Brown speaks at BYU and says that exchange of ideas both in science and religion is good as long as arrogant dogmatism is avoided.
* Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Seventy publishes *Mormon Doctrine: A Compendium of the Gospel*, which is accepted by many members as authoritative. However, despite its title, much of its contents represent his personal opinions, and a disclaimer at the beginning reflects this. Errors include claiming that the Catholic Church is the “great and abominable church”, that organic evolution cannot be reconciled with the gospel, and that African souls were less valiant in the pre-existence.
* President David O. McKay authorizes church leaders to ordain Fijian men to the priesthood based on his understanding that despite their black skin they are not related to Africans.
* President David O. McKay dedicates a complex of new buildings on the Church College of Hawaii campus. A 33-foot mosaic on the facade of the administration building depicts the flag-raising ceremony that prompted Elder McKay thirty-seven years earlier to prophesy that Laie would become the educational center for Saints in the Pacific.

February

* Elder William Tucker becomes second counselor in the French Mission presidency and, in the absence of a first counselor, the only assistant to Mission President Milton Christensen.

February 11

* Apostle Adam S. Bennion dies.

March

* Elder William Tucker recruits three other missionaries, J. Bruce Wakeham, Stephen Silver, and Daniel Jordan, to help him privately propagate their own doctrinal ideas among whichever missionaries they find receptive.

Spring

* French language editions of the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price are published.

April

* Elder William Tucker is sent to investigate reports of missionaries embracing false doctrines. He reports that everything is under control. President Christensen is unaware that Elder Tucker is the source of the problem to begin with.

April 6

* Gordon B. Hinckley is sustained as an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve. In this capacity he continues to supervise the Missionary Department.

April 10

* Hugh B. Brown is ordained an Apostle.

April 20-22

* The Hamilton New Zealand Temple, the Church's eleventh operating temple and the first in the Southern Hemisphere, is dedicated by President David O. McKay. It was built entirely by volunteer missionary labor.

May 18

* The Auckland New Zealand Mt. Roskill Stake, the first stake in New Zealand, is organized.

July

* Elder William Tucker receives from his old companion David Shore, now in Salt Lake City, a doctrinal polemic called *Priesthood Expounded* from the Church of the Firstborn. Highly impressed, he and Marilyn Lamborn type up passages of it and distribute them to the other dissident missionaries.

Late July

* Elder Ron Jarvis requests and receives more information about the Church of the Firstborn from its founder, Ervil LeBaron. He considers it with his skeptical companion, Harvey Harper, and both decide to leave the French Mission.

August 19

* Mission President Christensen, growing aware that something big is going on with the dissident missionaries, contacts the First Presidency.

August 23

* President Hugh B. Brown arrives in Paris to assess the missionary apostasy situation.

August 24

* President Brown interviews Elder Tucker, who comes out in open defiance against him and the Church, and releases him as a mission counselor.
* While President Brown's children are eating dinner, Elder Tucker walks in and, though they have never met him, they feel a terrible spirit. Zina Brown whispers to Mary, “It's Satan!”

August 30

* President Henry D. Moyle addresses a group of French missionaries in Brussels, Belgium, and counsels them to focus their studies on the scriptures and spend most of their time proselytizing.

September 7-9

* The London England Temple, the Church's twelfth operating temple and the first in the United Kingdom, is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

September 9

* All French missionaries are interviewed before the London Temple dedication, beginning with those most suspected of dissidence. Ten do not pass the interviews: William Tucker, J. Bruce Wakeham, Stephen Silver, Daniel Jordan, Neil Poulsen, Leftin Harvey, Marilyn Lamborn, Juna Abbott, Nancy Fulk, and Marlene Wessel. Elder Harvey and Sister Wessel are mistakenly grouped with the dissidents even though they merely struggle with a few personal doubts.

September 10

* The ten missionaries who failed their interviews are called to meet with the church authorities, who try to persuade them to repair their testimonies. The brethren mistakenly believe that there is a secret pact amongst these missionaries.
* The ten missionaries are each interviewed personally once more. Due to stress and continuing misunderstandings, most of the interviews go poorly and only alienate the missionaries further from the Church, but Sister Wessel is acquitted when the brethren find she is not involved in the apostasy.
* The nine remaining missionaries are excommunicated in a church court. Elder Harvey is offered the chance to have his case reviewed individually, but declines and decides to cast his lot in with the others. President Hugh B. Brown promises that when they return home they are welcome to come to him if they ever need help. Leftin Harvey later takes him up on this promise and talks with him for hours.
* President Brown announces the excommunications to the French missionaries who have remained faithful, calling it the worst missionary apostasy in the history of the Church. He says they have discussed the possibility of closing the mission, but that the temple dedication has cleansed it and it will now flourish.

1959

* Elder LaMar Williams, secretary of the Church Missionary Committee and responsible for answering letters from Africa, is sent on a scouting trip to investigate the self-started “LDS” congregations in Nigeria. He is impressed by their zeal and orthodoxy.
* The first meetinghouse in Mérida, Mexico is dedicated.

January 5

* President David O. McKay assigns Elder Marion G. Romney to read and report on Elder McConkie's book *Mormon Doctrine*.

January 28

* Elder Marion G. Romney delivers his report on *Mormon Doctrine*, dealing primarily with the use of forceful, blunt language and authoritative tone even on ambiguous doctrine and matters of opinion. Although he has a high regard for the book in general and feels there is a need for it, he is concerned about the above factors as well as the lack of assignment or supervision from the First Presidency.

February 18

* The BYU Motion Picture Studio is dedicated. Most of its equipment is discounted or discontinued hand-me-downs from other studios.

March 10

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball meets a member in Brazil who has a remote African ancestor, giving him about five percent African heritage and making him ineligible for the priesthood. Elder Kimball records in his journal that his heart wants to burst for the man.

May 19

* Stephen L. Richards dies.

October 15

* Howard W. Hunter is ordained an Apostle.

December

* President Henry D. Moyle meets with the leaders of the French Mission, recently cleansed of apostasy, and asks them their baptismal goal for the new year. They decide on 400, four times the average of the ten years previous, and he tells them they can have that many by July 4th of next year.

1960

* Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin discovers a land deed near the Dead Sea dating to the early second century A.D. which mentions a Jew named “Alma ben Yehuda”. Until this point, critics have mocked the inclusion of “Alma” in the Book of Mormon as a Hebrew male name when it is known instead to be a Latin female name. (Note: this happens at some point during the 1960s; the precise year is unknown to me)
* Glen G. Fisher, newly released president of the South African Mission, stops in Nigeria to visit groups that are using the Church’s name. He reports to the First Presidency that their faith is genuine and urges sending missionaries to baptize believers and organize branches.
* Leftin Harvey is taught by missionaries who do not know his background as an excommunicated missionary. When they realize he knows more than he is letting on, and one of them embraces him and weeps, he realizes he is on his way back into the Church.
* BYU offers a doctorate program and an honors program for the first time.
* President David O. McKay encourages the establishment of a system of forty elementary and secondary schools to meet the educational needs of Saints in various parts of Mexico.
* The First Presidency directs the General Priesthood Committee under Elder Harold B. Lee to conduct an exhaustive, prayerful study and consideration of all programs and curriculum in light of the Church's ultimate objectives so that they might reap the maximum benefits from the faith, intelligence, skill and knowledge of the various Auxiliary Organizations and Priesthood Committees.

January 8

* The First Presidency decides that *Mormon Doctrine* should not be republished, and feels it unfortunate that the book received such wide circulation.

January 28

* The Quorum of the Twelve is informed of the decision to keep *Mormon Doctrine* from being republished. Because they do not wish to embarrass Elder McConkie or lessen his influence with church members, they avoid giving him a public rebuke.

March 27

* Elder Harold B. Lee organizes the first stake in England, at Manchester.

July 4

* 404 new converts have been baptized in the French Mission, reaching the goal set last year and breaking the mission's statistical mire.

August 14

* The Toronto Ontario Stake is organized, the first stake in Ontario.

1961

* Elder LaMar Williams is sent to Nigeria once more and is met at the airport by ten “LDS” pastors he has been corresponding with, and discovers that they were unaware of each other. He returns home with the names of fifteen thousand unbaptized converts waiting for the Church to come to them.
* While missionaries are experiencing lengthy delays in obtaining visas to enter Argentina and Mexico, a special language training program is set up for them at BYU. It emphasizes living the language by speaking only in it. They also have the opportunity to practice the discussions and become accustomed to the standards and habits of missionary life.
* BYU begins requiring students to study the Book of Mormon.
* Elder Ezra Taft Benson returns to full-time apostolic duties after his work as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

January 23

* President David O. McKay announces the Oakland California Temple, for which land was purchased nineteen years earlier, at a special meeting held at the Hilton Hotel near the San Francisco airport. Area stake presidents from Fresno, Klamath, and Reno pledge to raise $500,000 for the construction. They succeed in raising $635,000.

June 5

* The first four missionaries – Raymond L. Goodson, Nester O. Ledesma, Kent C. Lowe, and Harry J. Murray – arrive in Manila, Philippines.

October

* Leftin Harvey, who was unjustly excommunicated for perceived apostasy in the French Mission, is re-baptized into the Church.
* Elder Harold B. Lee outlines the basic principles that will guide what comes to be known as priesthood correlation. He quotes Paul's comparison of the Church to a perfectly functioning human body and then quotes Doctrine and Covenants 84:109-110 which stresses the necessity of each different body part. He announces the formation of a coordinating council made of certain General Authorities and church executives, which will direct separate committees for children, youth, and adults to write courses of study and coordinate activities for their respective age groups.

October 5

* Gordon B. Hinckley is ordained an Apostle.

October 6

* J. Reuben Clark Jr. dies.

December 3

* The Mexico Stake, the first stake in Mexico and the first Spanish-speaking stake in the entire Church, is organized.

1962

* Sessions of General Conference are broadcast on television coast to coast for the first time. The Church pays to get the conference broadcast to the local stations, many of which in turn donate air time as part of their public service commitment.
* Shortwave radio carries General Conference sessions in English to Europe and Africa and in Spanish to Latin America.
* The Church acquires the cultural hall in Nauvoo and begins restoring it, including the third story that was taken off after 1880.

January 9

* President Hugh B. Brown suggests to the First Presidency that perhaps black men could at least be given the Aaronic Priesthood. Because the ban was apparently not instituted by revelation, he argues that it can be repealed without a revelation.

April 23

* George Q. Morris dies.

May 26

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Oakland California Temple by President David O. McKay.

July

* After an interview with Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, Leftin Harvey, who was unjustly excommunicated for perceived apostasy, receives the priesthood.

July 2

* President Hugh B. Brown dedicates an addition to the Cardston Alberta Temple.

October 11

* N. Eldon Tanner is ordained an Apostle.
* President Hugh B. Brown again suggests to the First Presidency that perhaps black men could receive the Aaronic Priesthood.

Late December

* New apostle N. Eldon Tanner spends two weeks in the Lagos, Nigeria area and visits three groups meeting in the Church's name, including one with four thousand baptized adherents. He reminds them that they lack the authority to baptize, and their leader says he is aware of that but wants them to feel they belong to the Church while they wait for proper authority. Elder Tanner reports cautious optimism to the First Presidency.

1963

* Nominal church membership passes the two million mark.
* In a private interview with Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, scholar Eugene England asks whether it is necessary for a faithful Latter-day Saint to believe that black men are denied the priesthood because of their activities in the premortal existence. Elder Smith says yes, but after rereading the relevant scriptural passages, realizes that it is not definitely stated and is not a doctrine of the Church, but simply an assumption he has been taught.
* Lowell Bennion, charismatic Institute of Religion teacher at the University of Utah, suggests that church members should think and search and pray over the Negro problem, because God's revelations often depend on the frame of mind of his people.
* The language training program at BYU is so successful that it is officially reorganized as the Language Training Mission, and instruction in numerous other languages is added in subsequent years.
* The Church opens the Polynesian Cultural Center adjacent to the Church College of Hawaii campus. It not only preserves and shares the unique cultures of several Pacific peoples, but also creates good publicity for the Church and provides meaningful employment for many Polynesian students at the college.

January 11

* President David O. McKay announces plans to open a mission in Nigeria, motivated by the zeal and faithfulness of Nigerians already meeting under the Church's name. LaMar Williams is set apart as the presiding elder, with tentative plans to establish Sunday Schools headed by Nigerians but supervised by white missionaries to teach and administer ordinances.

March 5

* A Nigerian college student named Ambrose Chukwu discovers an LDS chapel in San Luis Obispo, California. When he learns of the Church's priesthood ban on black men and reads *Mormonism and the Negro*, he writes home an angry letter to the *Nigerian Outlook* insisting that the Mormons must not be allowed into the country to promulgate their gospel of race hate.
* An editorial in the *Nigerian Outlook*, the same newspaper, calls on U.S. President John F. Kennedy to ban the entire LDS organization. The government denies visas to the missionaries.

March 7

* The North Visitors' Center on Temple Square is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

June 21

* Spencer W. Kimball writes to his son Ed, expressing his belief that the Lord will remove the priesthood restriction on African men when the time is right no matter what happens, and that people who try to affect the timing are cheapening the issue.

September 14

* Elder Joseph Fielding Smith dedicates the School in Zion monument at Troost Park in Kansas City, Missouri. It commemorates the location of the school in Zion, established by the Church in Kaw township in 1831 and the first schoolhouse to be erected within the boundaries of Kansas City.

September 18

* Henry D. Moyle dies.

September 25

* Ralph Harding, a Mormon and Democratic representative in Idaho's state house, stands up and publicly criticizes Elder Ezra Taft Benson for supporting the radical right and the John Birch Society. Some are offended by his outburst but others, including former President Dwight Eisenhower who has been libeled by the Society, are glad to hear it.

September 26

* U.S. President John F. Kennedy speaks in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. He outlines some of his views on politics and government, and praises the Mormons for their development and progress since being a persecuted minority forced to flee to the mountains. He says that when the Mormons prosper, America prospers.

October 4

* The NAACP abandons plans to picket the Church's 133rd General Conference in exchange for the Church's promise to present a statement on civil rights during the conference.

October 6

* President Hugh B. Brown reads a statement on civil rights during General Conference. It does not explicitly endorse the Civil Rights movement itself but says that the Church believes in full constitutional rights for all people regardless of race, color, or creed.

October 10

* Thomas S. Monson is ordained an Apostle.

October 22

* *LOOK* magazine includes an article titled “Memo From a Mormon” by a young Latter-day Saint named Jeff Nye who is disgruntled with the black priesthood ban and hopes for a change. The editor's note includes some comments by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, who insists that the Church does not teach that blacks are inferior beings. He refers to them once as “darkies”, a favorite quote for critics despite the fact that the magazine itself features black people only in one photograph on page 118 (out of 154 pages) where a few are pictured as recipients of charity.

November 4

* Church leaders break ground for a school in Mexico City called Benemérito de las Américas.

December 31

* Richard R. Lyman dies.

1964

* Elder LaMar Williams visits Nigeria to unsuccessfully renegotiate for missionary visas.
* The Church releases a film called *And Should They Die*, dramatizing the execution of church members Rafael Monroy and Vicente Morales during the Mexican Revolution. It plays up the religious martyrdom aspect and ignores other factors.
* The home teaching program is inaugurated. Under this program, each priesthood holder of teacher rank or above is assigned along with a companion to visit families and individuals within his congregation once a month, to help them with their spiritual and temporal needs.
* A new Melchizedek Priesthood handbook is published.
* The scope of church regions, which were formed to coordinate the efforts of several stakes in operating welfare projects, is expanded to include all priesthood-sponsored activities.

January 23

* Apostle Delbert Stapley writes to Michigan governor and Latter-day Saint George Romney recommending that he give up his support for the Civil Rights movement, believing it to be contrary to God's will. Although Elder Stapley cites scriptures and LDS literature to support his view, he makes it explicitly clear that this is a personal letter and that he is writing in his capacity as a friend, not an apostle. After receiving the letter, Romney increases his support for the Civil Rights movement.

May

* Paul H. Dunn asks President David O. McKay about the black issue and is told that the priesthood ban has never been a doctrine, but always a policy.

May 21

* As Elder Spencer W. Kimball is touring the South American missions, he meets an enthusiastic eighteen-year-old church building missionary named Fernandez in Rivera, Uruguay. He feels impressed to promise Fernandez blessings beyond his fondest imagination if he remains totally true to the cause.

September 14

* Wetzel O. “Judge” Whitaker is assigned to make the films to be used in the endowment ceremony.

September 15

* The BYU Motion Picture Studio is destroyed by fire.

October 12

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball visits the Church exhibit at the New York World's Fair. He notes with regret the absence of black faces in the murals and wonders whether black members should have been included as guides at the exhibit.

November 17-19

* The Oakland California Temple, the Church's thirteenth operating temple and the second in California, is dedicated by President David O. McKay.

1965

* The policy of assuming that a man's ancestry is eligible for the priesthood unless there is evidence to the contrary is applied to Brazil. Local leaders resolve uncertainties by consulting patriarchal blessings, stake presidents, or the First Presidency.
* The Church begins publishing manuals with weekly lessons to be used by families around the world. They focus on the practical everyday application of gospel principles learned in church.

January 27

* Missionaries begin proselytizing in Italy once more after an entire century.

June 18

* *TIME* magazine includes an article about the unofficial “LDS” congregations in Nigeria and the Church's inability to obtain visas to visit them. The Nigerian Saints have begun practicing polygamy and established their own leadership hierarchy.

June 22

* The First Presidency writes a letter to eleven LDS senators and representatives, encouraging them to vote for the Taft-Hartley Act allowing states to outlaw compulsory union membership and thus upholding the principle of free agency. Five of the Democratic senators respond with a joint letter respectfully refusing to comply, citing separation of church and state, their own free agency, and responsibility to their constituents.

July

* At the direct request of President David O. McKay, an article by BYU botanist Bertrand Harrison about organic evolution is reprinted in the *Juvenile Instructor*. It is one of the most pro-evolution articles ever to appear in a church publication.

December

* The first part of Elder James E. Talmage's 1931 talk, “The Earth and Man”, is reprinted in the *Juvenile Instructor*.

?

* Elder LaMar Williams visits Nigeria to renegotiate for visas once more, but is recalled home by a telegram for the First Presidency. Spencer W. Kimball of the Missionary Executive Committee asks him to keep in touch with the Nigerian believers. President Tanner says they do not know why they recalled him, but that they will soon find out. They find out in January of the following year.

1966

* The Church builds a more spacious visitors' center on Temple Square, equipped with dioramas and other displays to explain various facets of the gospel.
* A home-study seminary program is started as a pilot project in the Midwestern United States, for areas without enough LDS students to make a regular daily class feasible.
* In Saigon, Elder Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates war-torn South Vietnam for the preaching of the gospel.
* Progressive muckraker Wallace Turner writes a book called *The Mormon Establishment* to explain the role of George Romney's religion in American life. It focuses mainly on the Church's controversies and peculiarities, especially polygamy, the priesthood ban, and influence on politics, but concludes that the author would not be disappointed to someday discover it is the true Church after all.

January

* The rest of Elder James E. Talmage's 1931 talk, “The Earth and Man”, is reprinted in the *Juvenile Instructor*.

January 1

* The Zitácuaro Mexico District, the first district in Mexico, is organized.

January 15

* Major Kaduna Nzeogwu and other junior Army officers attempt a coup d'etat in Nigeria. This starts a chain of events that leads into the Nigerian-Biafran War, otherwise known as the Nigerian Civil War, which lasts for five years and justifies the earlier decision to put the planned Nigerian Mission on hold.

March 21

* The annex to the Salt Lake Temple is completed.

Spring

* An independent journal in Mormon studies called *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* is launched by a group of young LDS scholars at Stanford University led by Eugene England and G. Wesley Johnson.

July 5

* President David O. McKay gives Elder Bruce R. McConkie permission to reprint *Mormon Doctrine* if he makes corrections to it under the direction of Elder Spencer W. Kimball, but that it still will not be a Church publication. Accounts vary as to whether Elder McConkie seeks this permission or is invited by President McKay.

October 6

* In a discussion of racially mixed marriages, President David O. McKay expresses the view that people should be urged to marry within their own race for social and psychological reasons, but that they should not be condemned if they fail to do so.

October 28

* Elder Bruce R. McConkie gives a talk at the University of Utah LDS Institute titled “Are the General Authorities Human?” In it, he pokes fun at himself and the *Mormon Doctrine* controversy and dispels some misconceptions about the fallibility level of General Authorities. He says that if all the General Authorities perished, the Church would have plenty of members qualified enough to take their place.

1967

* The policy of ordaining worthy non-African men to the priesthood without making them prove their ancestry is instituted church-wide.
* An article by LDS sociologist Armand Mauss titled “Mormonism and the Negro” (not to be confused with the earlier book of the same name) points out the speculative nature of priesthood ban explanations based on the “curse of Cain” or pre-mortal conduct. He concludes that the policy rests on tradition rather than scriptural mandate.
* Spain passes a religious liberty law, allowing for official recognition of the Church. Four missionaries are sent from other Spanish-speaking missions, including President Gordon B. Hinckley's son Clark.
* William Tucker, who instigated the widespread apostasy in the French Mission nearly a decade earlier and is now an avowed atheist, dies of acute appendicitis. His bishop, Howard W. Hunter, believes that he was beginning to reconsider his life's path and consider returning to the Church.
* Critic Wesley P. Walters writes a tract titled “New Light on Mormon Origins”*,* which challenges the traditional LDS account of Joseph Smith’s events leading to the First Vision by questioning if there really was a religious revival in Palmyra in 1820, as Joseph claimed. This stimulates a host of LDS scholarly activity including the creation of a BYU group that goes back to Palmyra to research the issue.
* A uniform church year is adopted. Previously some church organizations had commenced their lesson work at the beginning of the local school year while others had used the calendar year. Age groupings are also standardized from one organization to another, enabling teachers in various ward organizations to more closely meet the needs of any given age group.
* Bishop's youth councils are formed, which bring youth and adult leaders together monthly in each ward to consider the needs of the youth and coordinate activities.
* Collections of teaching aids formerly maintained by each church organization are consolidated into a single meetinghouse library, and separate teacher training programs sponsored by each auxiliary are combined under a single ward teacher development director.
* Mary Jane Pulley is called to organize a Seminary at the training school for handicapped people in American Fork, Utah. It is the first Seminary for the handicapped in the Church.
* Sixty-nine Regional Representatives are appointed to give greater guidance and directions to stake leaders within regions. Under the direction of General Authorities they conduct instruction meetings in their assigned regions to introduce or emphasize the Church's programs and activities.

April 21

* The Abeno Branch chapel in Osaka, Japan, is dedicated. President Hugh B. Brown speaks at the dedication, deeply moved by the size and quality of the congregation and amazed at the Church's quiet but rapid growth throughout the world. He prophesies that some of those present will live to see the day when there is a Japanese man in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

July 6

* Nigerian Federal troops advance in two columns into Biafra, a self-proclaimed republic attempting to secede, marking the official beginning of the Nigerian Civil War.

August 14

* The Provo Utah Temple, originally known only as the Provo Temple, is announced. It is prompted by a statistic computed that fifty-two percent of all ordinance work is performed in three temples: the Logan Utah Temple, the Manti Utah Temple, and the Salt Lake Temple.

August 24

* The Ogden Utah Temple, originally known only as the Ogden Temple, is announced. Like the Provo Temple, it is prompted by a statistic computed that fifty-two percent of all ordinance work is performed in three temples: the Logan Utah Temple, the Manti Utah Temple, and the Salt Lake Temple.

October 16

* Elder Gordon B. Hinckley and Japanese Mission President Adney Komatsu go to the offices of the Osaka International World's Fair to discuss with officials the possibility of a Mormon exhibit at the upcoming Expo '70. The officials tell Elder Hinckley that they will sell space only on the outer perimeters, but he shows little interest in that idea.

November 27

* Eleven rediscovered pieces of Joseph Smith's papyri, containing the Egyptian funerary document known as the Book of Breathings but incorrectly identified as the Book of the Dead, are given by the Metropolitan Museum to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These are often confused (or deliberately conflated by critics) with the Book of Abraham papyri because they contain the same facsimiles, but they do not match the descriptions of those documents given by Joseph Smith or his contemporaries.

1968

* BYU begins conducting travel study programs to Israel.
* The Church landscapes the Far West Temple site, erects monuments and markers, and preserves the cornerstones.

January

* The *Improvement Era* showcases the Book of Breathings fragments. Although they are still incorrectly believed to be the Book of the Dead they are clearly described as not being the Book of Abraham. They are also put on display with color reproductions given on request, and scholars are invited to translate them. Despite this, the Church is later frequently accused of trying to keep them a secret.

February 28

* Losing support because of his opposition to the Vietnam War, George Romney withdraws from the race for the Republican presidential nomination in the United States.

April

* Elders Hinckley, Komatsu, Watanabe, Iami, and building supervisor Marvin Harding agree upon a thousand square meter site for the Church's exhibit at Japan's Expo '70 that is among the Japanese exhibits.

May 2

* The First Presidency and Council of the Twelve approve the Church's participation in Japan's Expo '70 and allot $300,000 for the project.

Fall

* Dr. Klaus Baer of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago comments in *Dialogue* magazine on the speed with which the Church made the Book of Breathings papyri public, and says it is a gratifying contrast to the secrecy with which their previous custodians surrounded them.

November 15

* The Washington D.C. Temple is announced.

December 7

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Washington D.C. Temple by President Hugh B. Brown.

1969

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball publishes *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, a book intended to explain the necessity of the atonement and how to effectively utilize it. Though some perceive it as overly judgmental, many others over the years testify that it changes their lives for good.
* University of Utah student Steven Taggart writes *Mormonism's Negro Policy: Social and Historical Origins* based on an idea for a *Dialogue* article, and his family decides to publish it following his untimely death. He proposes that the policy began in Missouri in the 1830s as a way of answering the slavery question among slaveholders.
* BYU releases “Johnny Lingo”, a short film about a trader in the South Pacific who trades an unheard-of eight counts to marry Mahana, considered even by her father to be the ugliest girl on the island. A few years later his love and respect has made her beautiful. The film becomes a cult classic among American Mormons and is remade into a feature-length version thirty-four years later.
* The Church releases “Pioneers in Petticoats”, a short film about a rebellious young woman named Abigail in a small nineteenth century Utah town who is called by her father, the bishop, to serve as president of the newly reorganized Retrenchment Society. Though her heart is not in it, she leads the girls through many worthwhile activities and experiences until one night she joins the town's wild crowd for an evening that nearly ends in disaster.
* The Relief Society social welfare department, Indian student placement program, and youth guidance program are consolidated into the Social Services department.
* The University of Utah Institute holds an international convention of the LDSSA with over three hundred student leaders in attendance. Church leaders want to strengthen them so they can be beacons in an era of general unrest and confusion among college students. Elder Harold B. Lee is the featured speaker and relates personal experiences of modern miracles which have occurred to him. He concludes with considerable emotion, fervently witnessing to the truth of his convictions, and afterward everyone remains seated in silence for a while to avoid breaking the spirit of the occasion.

September 8

* On David O. McKay's ninety-sixth birthday, the site is dedicated for the Ogden Utah Temple by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith and Alvin R. Dyer, and ground is broken by President Hugh B. Brown.

September 10

* The First Presidency discusses the draft of Steven Taggart's original article on *Mormonism's Negro Policy*. President Hugh B. Brown embraces his “Missouri hypothesis”.

September 15

* The site is dedicated for the Provo Utah Temple, adjacent to BYU campus, by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, and ground is broken by President Hugh B. Brown.

November 12

* Stanford University President Kenneth Spitzer announces that the university will cut off all athletic competitions and other ties with BYU due to the Church's restriction on black men holding the priesthood.

December 15

* Elder Harold B. Lee persuades Presidents Hugh B. Brown and N. Eldon Tanner to send a letter to bishops and stake presidents re-affirming the Church's stance on the priesthood ban and the belief that it will someday change. It is similar to the 1949 statement but omits a reference to the “curse of Cain” and does not say that all the other children of God must receive their blessings in the holy priesthood before the ban is repealed. President Hugh B. Brown signs the letter with reluctance and only after insisting it include a statement on civil rights.

December 25

* President Hugh B. Brown tells the *Salt Lake Tribune* that the priesthood policy will change in the not-too-distant future. He later qualifies this statement as his personal opinion.

1970

* The Church's five thousandth ward is organized.
* Elder Spencer W. Kimball obtains a number of letters exchanged between LaMar Williams and the missionary committee and black correspondents in Nigeria and Ghana. This likely increases his concern about the priesthood ban.
* Over six million people visit the Church's pavilion at “Expo '70” in Osaka, Japan, making its programs and teachings more widely known in east Asia.
* The Indian Committee is renamed the Committee for Lamanites and Other Cultures to reflect a broader scope.
* The British church newspaper, the *Millennial Star*, is discontinued after 130 years, making it the oldest continuous publication in church history.

January 1

* The Seoul Korea Military District, the first district in Korea, is organized. As the name indicates, it is primarily for American servicemen.

January 6

* The president of the Tucson branch of the NAACP requests permission to hold a protest rally at the University of Arizona before the upcoming Arizona-BYU basketball game.

January 8

* Nine black students, some wearing black wristbands, walk out on the floor of the basketball court during the game between the University of Arizona and BYU. Play stops and they are ushered away by police and security officers. Other demonstrators break a window and scream “Stop the game” but that is the extent of the protest.

January 10

* The letter to church leaders about the priesthood ban, having become widely known, is publicly released with the signatures of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve.

January 13

* Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, of the self-proclaimed Republic of Biafra, leaves his deputy Philip Effiong to surrender to General Yakubu Gowon of the Nigerian federal army, formally ending the Nigerian Civil War.

January 18

* President David O. McKay dies.
* At David O. McKay's death, the Church has five hundred stakes, eighty-nine missions, 2,807,456 nominal members, and thirteen temples.

January 23

* Joseph Fielding Smith becomes the tenth President of the Church. He selects Harold B. Lee and N. Eldon Tanner as his counselors.

February

* President Harold B. Lee and four other apostles with several advisers meet in New York to discuss the protests against the Church. This meeting leads to the formation of the External Communications Department two years later.

April 5

* BYU runs a full-page ad in the Salt Lake Tribune called “Minorities, Civil Rights, and BYU” to publicize its stand in favor of civil rights for all citizens.

April 9

* Boyd K. Packer is ordained an Apostle.

September

* Church leaders announce that Monday evenings are set aside for weekly family gatherings, or Family Home Evening, and that no other church activities are to be held on that night.

September 21

* The National Football League televises its first official weekly Monday Night Football game. Coming so soon after the announcement of Monday evenings being set aside for Family Home Evening, some members find this very suspicious.

October

* Elder Ezra Taft Benson endorses *Man: His Origin and Destiny* in General Conference as a means of rebutting the “untruths” that children learn about evolution in school.

1971

* Nominal church membership passes the three million mark.
* Dallin H. Oaks succeeds Ernest Wilkinson as president of BYU and discovers the raging evolution controversy among students and faculty. Though his own position is neutral, he allows and defends the teaching of it.
* The Church discontinues magazines previously issued by separate auxiliary and other organizations, and begins only printing three magazines in English: the *Ensign* for adults, the *New Era* for youth, and the *Children's Friend* for children. A single staff under the direction of the General Authorities is set up to handle production and circulation.
* The Church calls its first health missionaries. In addition to doing regular proselyting, they provide specialized instruction in health principles, nutrition, and sanitation. By stressing prevention of illness through education they are able to serve thousands.

June

* Three black Mormons in Salt Lake City, Ruffin Bridgeforth, Darius Gray and Eugene Orr, petition the Church for help in keeping and reactivating the relatively small number of black members in the city. They meet multiple times with a Special Committee on Church Activities for African Races made up of three apostles, Elders Gordon B. Hinckley, Thomas S. Monson, and Boyd K. Packer. It is suggested they organize an auxiliary unit attached to the Salt Lake Liberty Stake.

July 13

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball gives a devotional address at BYU titled “Peter, My Brother” about the apostle Peter. In it, he reminds students that change can come by revelation, as when Peter received a revelation to take the gospel to the Gentiles. The connection with the black priesthood issue is obvious.

August

* The first are conference is held in the Belle Vue Exhibition Center in King's Hall in Manchester, England, under the direction of President Joseph Fielding Smith. As it draws near lengthy articles about the Church's progress in Britain appear in the Guardian, Times, and Sunday Telegraph, and a fifty-five minute documentary on BBC television.

October

* The Genesis Group to fellowship black members is organized with Ruffin Bridgeforth as president and Darius Gray and Eugene Orr as his counselors.

October 19

* The first meeting of the Genesis Group takes place with 175 in attendance. Genesis members attend sacrament meeting in their geographical wards but meet together monthly to hear speakers and bear testimony and weekly for Relief Society, Primary, and youth meetings. Genesis serves important social and religious functions, providing opportunities to serve and lead that are otherwise unavailable.

November 1

* Richard L. Evans passes away.

December 2

* Marvin J. Ashton is ordained an Apostle.

December

* Elder Spencer W. Kimball personally takes fruit baskets to the homes of the Genesis Group presidency.

1972

* The Church forms the External Communications Department, later known as the Department of Public Communications, to deal proactively with publicity and protest, especially with regards to blacks and the priesthood. Wendell Ashton serves as its first director.
* A home-study Institute course is inaugurated.
* The Church Sunday School Curriculum begins including the Book of Mormon as a course of study.
* The Church opens a Mormon Battalion Visitors' Center in San Diego, California.
* The Church opens a public relations office in New York City.
* A twenty-eight story office building opens just north of the Church Administration Building in Salt Lake City. The offices within were previously located in rented space in a dozen downtown buildings.
* The adult Gospel Doctrine class in Sunday School begins a systematic study of the standard works instead of using manuals. Two years each is spent on the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants, with the Pearl of Great Price being studied in conjunction with relevant sections of the other standard works. Church leaders anticipate a spiritual resurgence as a result of the Saints' added contact with the scriptures.
* A conference considers how the Church can better meet the needs of deaf members. A film is produced to show how priesthood ordinances can be performed without speech, and a dictionary is compiled to standardize signs representing unique gospel or church-related terms.
* The International Mission is organized to keep in touch with members throughout the world, particularly in areas without an organized stake or mission. Thousands of Saints live in such locations including Tanzania, Zambia, Morocco, Guiana, New Guinea, Hungary, and the Soviet Union. Typically they are diplomatic or foreign service envoys, representatives of corporations, or advisers for development projects. The International Mission facilitates the ordering of church supplies, maintains membership records, receives and issues receipts for tithes and other donations, and coordinates interviews for priesthood advancement and temple recommends.
* Heart problems necessitate a particularly complicated open-heart operation for Elder Spencer W. Kimball, performed by Dr. Russell M. Nelson. The First Presidency blesses Dr. Nelson that it will be performed without error because he has been raised up by the Lord for this task. Afterward, the Spirit tells him that he has just operated on a man who will become President of the Church.
* BYU basketball legend Krešimir Cosic introduces the Church to his native country, Croatia.
* Latter-day Saint Jack Anderson wins the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for exposing the Nixon administration's wartime aid to Pakistan.
* Mormon electrical engineer Nolan K. Bushnell creates “Pong”, one of the earliest video games.

January 18-20

* The Ogden Utah Temple, the Church's fourteenth operating temple and the fifth in Utah, is dedicated by President Joseph Fielding Smith.

February 9

* The Provo Utah Temple, the Church's fifteenth operating temple and the sixth in Utah, is dedicated by President Joseph Fielding Smith with President Harold B. Lee offering the prayer at his request. Over 70,000 attendees view the proceedings from the Marriott Center, George Albert Smith Fieldhouse, Joseph Smith Building, and Harris Fine Arts Center on BYU campus, making this the largest temple dedication thus far in history.

July 2

* President Joseph Fielding Smith passes away.
* At Joseph Fielding Smith's death, the Church has 581 stakes, ninety-nine missions, 3,218,908 nominal members, and fifteen temples.

July

* Harold B. Lee becomes the eleventh President of the Church.

August

* An area conference is held in Mexico City, Mexico. At great sacrifice, members travel as far as three thousand miles to be present.
* Elder Bruce R. McConkie enunciates the updated understanding of the principle of the gathering; that rather than everyone gathering to Utah, each country is the gathering place for members who are native to it.

October 12

* Bruce R. McConkie is ordained an Apostle.

1973

* A patriarch in Covina, California, promises a black member named Theadore Britton that if he is faithful he will enjoy all the blessings of the priesthood while still in mortality. Frightened by what he has said, he sends a copy of the blessing on to the stake president and then to President Kimball. It comes back with a question mark by the relevant passage but no annotation and a cover note saying “A fine blessing.”
* Helvécio and Rudá Martins, black members, are told in their patriarchal blessings that they will be privileged to live on the earth in an eternal covenant, and their son Marcus is told that he will preach the gospel, in language suggesting a full-time mission. Despite uncertainty as to what it means they open a mission savings account for him.
* A complex of restored buildings is dedicated in Nauvoo, Illinois.
* Japanese language tours are inaugurated at the Laie Hawaii Temple visitors' center.
* The General Welfare Program, Health Services, and Social Services are brought together under the new Welfare Services department under supervision of the Presiding Bishopric.

January 18-21

* Twenty-five unofficial “Latter-day Saint” congregations in Nigeria, dissuaded by the criticisms of the Tanners' book *Mormonism – Shadow or Reality?*, decide at their General Conference to withdraw from the Church and rename themselves the Grace and Truth Church.

March 8

* The Seoul Korea Stake, the first stake in Korea, is organized.

August

* The first branch for single adults is organized in Salt Lake City.

December 26

* President Harold B. Lee unexpectedly dies.
* At Harold B. Lee's death, the Church has 630 stakes, 109 missions, 3,306,658 nominal members, and fifteen temples.

December 30

* Spencer W. Kimball becomes the twelfth President of the Church. He retains N. Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney as his counselors, making President Tanner the second man to serve as a counselor to four Church Presidents, after George Q. Cannon.

1974

* The Church College of Hawaii is renamed the Hawaii Campus of Brigham Young University, emphasizing subjects that can be taught more advantageously in the Pacific setting than on BYU's main Provo campus.
* The Church gives up ownership of its hospitals to a new independent corporation called Intermountain Health Care Inc. The First Presidency declares that their growing worldwide responsibility makes it difficult to justify provision of curative services in a single, affluent, geographical locality. Instead it now puts its resources into improving the health of members worldwide through education.

February

* The Mesa Arizona Temple is closed for renovation and expansion.

March 12

* President Spencer W. Kimball appears on NBC's *Today Show*. When asked whether he anticipates a change in the Church's racial policy, he says he does not but that if it happens it will be revealed by revelation.

April 11

* L. Tom Perry is ordained an Apostle.

May 7

* The First Presidency writes to Elder Ezra Taft Benson reiterating that black men may attend elders quorum meetings in the same way that prospective elders can, and that black members may serve in leadership of auxiliary organizations but that preference should be given to teaching or clerical positions so as to avoid any misunderstanding.

July 18

* The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that a black Boy Scout in a Church troop has been denied a senior patrol leadership because that position is reserved for deacons' quorum presidents and he cannot hold the priesthood. The NAACP prepares to file a discrimination lawsuit against the Boy Scouts of America.

August

* At a Scandinavian Area General Conference, President Spencer W. Kimball tells those assembled that they can have a temple in each of their lands if they proselyte and bring converts into the Church.

August 2

* Shortly before Boy Scout officials are to appear in Federal Court on charges of discrimination, the Church issues a policy change that a young man other than the deacons' quorum president may be the senior patrol leader if he is better qualified.

November 19-22

* The Washington D.C. Temple, the Church's sixteenth operating temple and the first in the eastern United States, is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.

1975

* A recently baptized black college student named Mary Frances Sturlaugson receives a blessing from a seminary teacher in South Dakota asserting that she will serve a mission. He says afterward that he does not know how it will happen.
* On a rock outcropping overlooking the Elbe River, Elder Thomas S. Monson dedicates the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) for the preaching of the gospel. As he asks for the beginning of a new day for church members in the land, he hears a rooster crowing and a church bell ringing in the valley below and notices a ray of sun coming through the clouded sky.

March 1

* The São Paulo Brazil Temple is announced. There are concerns about determining which Brazilian members will be able to enter, because so many of them have African ancestry.

April 15-16

* The Mesa Arizona Temple, the Church's seventh operating temple, is rededicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.

May

* President Spencer W. Kimball refers to his counselors several statements by past church leaders on blacks and the priesthood and asks for their reactions. He asks the Apostles to join him as colleagues in extended prayer and supplication.

August 9

* The Tokyo Japan Temple, originally known only as the Tokyo Temple, is announced by President Spencer W. Kimball at a Tokyo area conference. The audience reacts with spontaneous applause followed by tears of appreciation as they hold their hands high to sustain the proposal.

August 14

* The first regional conference in Taiwan is held. President Spencer W. Kimball explains the purpose of the temple announced for Japan and tells the Taiwanese members that they can have one as well. He leaves the blessings of the Lord upon them, their posterity, and their land.

October

* In General Conference, Elder Ezra Taft Benson reviews the proclamation to the world's national leaders issued by the Quorum of the Twelve in 1845, and reconfirms its invitations, predictions, and warnings.

November 11-12

* The St. George Utah Temple is rededicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.

November 15

* The Seattle Washington Temple, originally known as the Seattle Temple, is announced.

December 2

* President Hugh B. Brown dies.

Late December

* Wayne Cowdrey, pretending to be a descendent of Oliver Cowdery, is baptized into the Church in California to increase perceived credibility for his scheme to discredit the Book of Mormon. Ward members fellowship him but are unnerved by a cold and uncomfortable feeling around him. He goes inactive immediately following his baptism.

1976

* BYU students elect Robert L. Stevenson, a black man, as student body vice-president.
* Fujio Abe, a high counselor in the Greensboro North Carolina Stake, gives a blessing to heal the fever of a black infant named Alexander Freeman, son of Joseph and Isapella Freeman. He feels inspired to promise that Alexander will one day hold the priesthood and serve a mission for the Church. He suggests to the parents that they keep this private and sacred between them.
* A black lawyer in Costa Rica attempts to disenfranchise the Church for violating laws prohibiting racial discrimination in proselytizing by using a genealogical survey to determine whether investigators have African ancestry. President Spencer W. Kimball sends F. Howard Burton to defuse the situation.
* The Church's Language Training Mission moves into a new multi-building complex near the campus of BYU.
* The First Presidency opposes passage of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. Although it supports equal rights, it fears that this legislation is poorly written and will blur the distinctions between men and women, which could even nullify many accumulated benefits to women in present statutes.

January

* An article runs in *Family Circle* magazine called “What Can We Learn about Health from the Mormons?” It says that Mormons have lower rates of cancer, heart attacks and diabetes, the best higher education quotient in the country, strong stable families, less stress, less fear of death, and a higher percentage than any other religious group represented in “Who's Who in America”. It discusses the Word of Wisdom and potentially beneficial factors of Mormon culture.

January 8

* David B. Haight is ordained an Apostle.

January 14

* President Spencer W. Kimball and other leaders are told that a London man named Ben Fuchs has informed some LDS missionaries that he has artifacts which belonged to the Church. Investigation show that Fuchs has some small and large ring-bound brass plates weighing about 150 lbs, some strange spectacles, and a sword with gems in the hilt. Paul Cheesman of BYU retrieves the artifacts, and studies them closely, proving them to be fake. Fuchs is excommunicated.

March 26

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the São Paulo Brazil Temple by Elder James E. Faust.

April

* Douglas A. Wallace, an elder in Vancouver, Washington, takes it upon himself to baptize and ordain a black man in defiance of Church policy. He is soon after excommunicated.
* The publicity surrounding the incident brings hidden divisions in the Genesis Group to the fore. Some members openly criticize church leaders for failing to revoke the priesthood restriction and draw up a petition asking President Kimball to modify previous statements on interracial marriage and make a firm commitment about when black men can be ordained. A significant minority of the group signs, and people on both sides – both those pressing for change and those who abhor the contention – withdraw from Genesis.
* Douglas A. Wallace storms down the aisle of the Tabernacle at General Conference yelling “Make way for the Lord!” He is escorted out by security and a restraining order is obtained, but he holds a press conference at Temple Square criticizing the Church for its priesthood policy.

April 3

* The Mexico City Mexico Temple is announced.
* Two visions, those of Joseph Smith seeing the Celestial Kingdom and Joseph F. Smith seeing the spirit world, are accepted as scripture and initially added to The Pearl of Great Price, and later moved to the Doctrine and Covenants as sections 137 and 138. This fittingly anticipates an era of unprecedented temple construction.

April 4

* John L. Pea and thirty members of his family attend General Conference and receive permission from the First Presidency to be sealed as a family. Forty-three years ago they had been judged to have some possible African lineage, but after further investigation the Genealogical Society and the First Presidency have determined this not to be the case.

June

* Wayne Cowdrey is excommunicated.

June 25

* Missouri Governor Kit Bond signs an executive order rescinding Missouri Executive Order 44, which was issued 138 years previous to exterminate the Mormons or drive them out of the state. He cites the original order's unconstitutionality.

October

* President Spencer W. Kimball denounces and cautions against the Adam-God theory.

1977

* An LDS friend named Cricket Butler gives Elvis Presley a Book of Mormon, which he reads eagerly and fills with handwritten notes. He may also receive one from Ed Parker, his LDS karate instructor and bodyguard. He plans on being baptized into the Church.
* Black member Mary Frances Sturlaugson receives her patriarchal blessing and is told that if she greatly desires something that is not mentioned in the blessing, she should write it on the back and it will become binding. She writes that she wants to serve a mission, which she has already been promised by a seminary teacher's blessing two years earlier.
* The Church releases “The Mailbox”, a short film about an elderly widow who anxiously awaits mail from her family but receives none. It is meant to motivate children and adults alike to maintain communication with their elderly parents and grandparents.
* Yoshihiko Kikuchi becomes the first Japanese General Authority.

June

* President Spencer W. Kimball asks Elders Boyd K. Packer, Thomas S. Monson, and Bruce R. McConkie for memos on the implications of reversing the black priesthood ban. Elder McConkie writes a long memorandum concluding that there is no scriptural barrier to changing the policy.

June 2

* The brethren discuss interracial adoptions. It is the sense of the discussion that while they will counsel against them for the same reasons they counsel against interracial marriages, there will be no prohibition against Church adoption agencies arranging interracial adoptions where there appears to be good reason for doing so.

June 25

* The *Los Angeles Times* reports that Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales have found evidence that Solomon Spalding wrote a portion of the original Book of Mormon manuscript, and that handwriting experts have substantiated their conclusion. However, thus far the experts have only seen photocopies of the manuscript and not issued their final opinions.

June 28

* Handwriting expert Henry Silver goes with Wayne Cowdrey to the Church Archives in Salt Lake City to examine the Book of Mormon manuscript.

July 9

* Handwriting expert Henry Silver tells the *Salt Lake Tribune* that he is quitting the Book of Mormon investigation because Wayne Cowdrey and the others are being deceitful and misrepresenting his conclusions.

August 16

* Elvis Presley dies of a drug overdose before he is able to be baptized.

August 18

* Elvis Presley’s father, Vernon, returns his Book of Mormon copy to Cricket Butler. She then gives it to Alan Osmond, who in turn gives it to the Church to keep it safe and preserve Elvis’s privacy.

August 24

* While in Warsaw, President Spencer W. Kimball dedicates Poland for the preaching of the gospel.

Fall

* President Spencer W. Kimball asks LDS economist Jack Carlson for a scenario of what might happen if the priesthood restriction on black members were changed. He expresses his own concerns about internal descent, particularly from members in the American South or even within the Quorum of the Twelve.

October 15

* The First Presidency announces the Samoa Temple to serve 50,000 church members scattered across Samoa, Tonga, French Polynesia (Tahiti), and Fiji. Its location is selected on the basis of convenience for air travelers from other islands. Two and a half years later it is replaced with plans for the Apia Samoa Temple, the Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, and the Papeete Tahiti Temple.

October 23

* Handwriting expert Howard C. Doulder appears on the television show *Today's Religion* with Wayne Cowdrey and Howard Davis, where, to their chagrin, he explains that the handwriting in the Book of Mormon manuscript portion does not match that of Solomon Spalding.

?

* Wayne Cowdrey and his associates publish *Who Really Wrote the Book of Mormon?* with a forward by Walter Martin, presenting their findings but neglecting to mention what the handwriting experts have actually said about them.

1978

* Nominal church membership passes the four million mark.
* The Salt Lake City Mission Home is closed and English-speaking missionaries, primarily from the United States and Canada, begin receiving instruction at the Language Training Mission near BYU campus, which is renamed the Missionary Training Center.
* In response to social pressures disdaining the traditional roles of women, the Church inaugurates annual meetings for women preceding the fall General Conferences. Like the priesthood sessions, they are held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle but carried by closed circuit to meetinghouses throughout the world.
* The Church releases a short film called “Uncle Ben”, telling the true story of an alcoholic who seeks custody of nephews and a niece orphaned by an accident. As he faces the challenge to overcome his drinking problem and become a good father, he realizes a greater reward than he had imagined.
* The Church releases a short film called “The Gift”, set in the Great Depression, about a twelve-year-old boy with little money who decides to get up early on Christmas morning to do the farm chores for his father.
* Jim Robertson, a former LDS branch president's counselor, and his wife Judy, form an anti-Mormon ministry called Concerned Christians of Mesa (later simply “Concerned Christians, Inc.”) in Mesa, Arizona.

February 3

* The Jordan River Utah Temple is announced by President Spencer W. Kimball at a news conference.

March 9

* As the First Presidency and Twelve meet in the Salt Lake Temple, the Apostles unanimously express their feeling that if the priesthood policy is to change, any change must be based on revelation received and announced by the prophet. President Kimball urges a concerted effort from all of them to learn the will of the Lord, and suggests they engage in individual fasting and prayer.

March 23

* President Spencer W. Kimball reports to his counselors that after a night of reflection he feels impressed to lift the priesthood and temple restriction on blacks. They discuss its possible impacts and decide to discuss it with the Twelve before a final decision.

Spring

* F. Briton McConkie is in Manila, Philippines, by assignment giving patriarchal blessings. He promises the blessings of the temple to a woman of African descent, and promises a black man named Alonzo Harris the priesthood and temple blessings within his lifetime. When he returns to Utah he tells his brother, Elder Bruce R. McConkie, who replies noncommittally that he is glad to know about it.

April 4

* LDS musicians Donny and Marie Osmond are interviewed on the Barbara Walters show. They discuss their beliefs, including controversial issues such as the black priesthood ban and the Church's perceived sexism. To his credit, Donny admits he does not know the reason for the ban instead of making something up.

April 10

* Construction commences for the Tokyo Japan Temple, but there is no traditional groundbreaking ceremony.

April 20

* The Quorum of the Twelve and the First Presidency pray together to determine the Lord's will regarding blacks and the priesthood. Afterward President Kimball spends hours speaking individually with the apostles.

May 4

* During the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve's meeting, while discussing the priesthood policy, Elder LeGrand Richards sees the spirit of Wilford Woodruff looking down on them. Brother Woodruff would take interest because this is similar to the Manifesto situation, and Elder Richards is the only one present who was privileged to see him in mortality.

May 6

* Bryan Espenschied, a friend of President Kimball, meets him as they are both walking home from the Salt Lake Temple and notes that he looks greatly worried or distressed. President Kimball later explains that he has been in the temple praying about the priesthood question.

May 19

* Chase Peterson, a Harvard University administrator and soon to be president of the University of Utah, writes to President Kimball suggesting that it is a good time to remove the priesthood restriction now that external pressures have slackened. He suggests that the Lord may have given them this opportunity and that if they do not take it there may not be another one for a while. President Kimball considers the letter very helpful in mulling over the situation.

May 25

* Elder Mark E. Peterson shows President Kimball an article suggesting that the priesthood policy began with Brigham Young, not Joseph Smith, and proposes considering this factor in their contemplation.

May 27

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Seattle Washington Temple by President Marion G. Romney.

May 30

* President Spencer W. Kimball reads aloud to his counselors a tentative longhand statement removing the priesthood restriction and says that he has a good warm feeling about it. They review past statements and decide to ask G. Homer Durham, a Seventy supervising the Historical Department, to research the matter further. They also conclude to alter the pattern of their next Thursday morning meeting with the Twelve by canceling the traditional luncheon in the temple and asking the council members to continue their fasting.

June 1

* The South Visitors' Center on Temple Square is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.
* In the Salt Lake Temple, Spencer W. Kimball and ten of the twelve apostles (Mark E. Peterson is in South America and Delbert Stapley is in the hospital) unanimously receive an outpouring of the Spirit confirming that all worthy men may once more be ordained to the priesthood and receive temple ordinances without regard for race or color. They are so overcome that many of them spontaneously embrace one another and weep. There are no divine manifestations, but the intensity of the experience is later compared to the Pentecost.
* Elders Boyd K. Packer, Bruce R. McConkie, and Gordon B. Hinckley, are each asked to propose in writing a course of action for announcing the revelation.

June 7

* President Kimball presents to his counselors a composite draft of the announcement proposals from Elders Packer, McConkie, and Hinckley. They meticulously revise it.

June 8

* The First Presidency presents the proposed announcement to the Twelve and some minor editorial changes are made. Elder Bruce R. McConkie urges them to publicize it immediately before Satan gets a chance to do something that would make them appear forced into it. Critics later claim regardless that the Church was being threatened by the government with loss of its tax-exempt status, but no evidence of this claim is ever presented.
* It is decided to release the announcement to the media and then in a letter to local church leaders around the world.
* Elders Mark E. Peterson and Delbert Stapley, still absent, are informed of the decision. Both of them agree to it.

June 9

* The rest of the General Authorities are called together and informed of the revelation. Moved upon by the Spirit, they unanimously accept it.
* The revelation is announced to the media. The General Authorities are instructed not to interpret or editorialize it, and the First Presidency is not available for media interview.
* The revelation becomes the lead story of NBC News, the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *TIME*, and *Newsweek*. Most sources report neutrally. Some scorn the “convenience” of such a revelation, while others correctly point out that external pressure on the issue has been at its lowest point in years. Because church leaders decline to comment, they interview NAACP officials, leaders of other churches, black Latter-day Saints, and random people on the street.
* Bill Brown, a Dallas TV reporter with antagonistic feelings towards the Church, is sent to Church headquarters to cover the story. When he sees the happiness and excitement of all present, and feels the sense of a burden being lifted, he realizes that the priesthood ban was continued out of principle, not bigotry. He personally reads on the air that God has spoken to the prophet of the “Mormon Church”.

June 11

* Joseph Freeman becomes the first black man in Utah to be ordained to the priesthood. Brother Freeman is deluged with interview requests from TIME, Ebony, People, writers, television news commentators, national television shows, and disk jockeys with call-in shows. Church meetings and firesides book him six months in advance and sometimes he has three or four appointments in a single Sunday.
* Two other black men, Jose Ramon Diaz of the San Juan Puerto Rico Branch and Robert Lang of Los Angeles, are also ordained to the priesthood.
* In Hawaii, Elder John H. Groberg asks President Kimball if he would like to meet some of the faithful black members on the islands, and he says he would like to meet all of them. He gives each of them a bear hug, and they weep with joy and gratitude as they retell the experience of hearing about the revelation.

June 13-15

* At a press conference with Hawaiian reporters, President Kimball sidesteps questions about the priesthood revelation, considering it a personal experience and saying he is there to rededicate the temple.
* The Laie Hawaii Temple, the Church's fifth operating temple, is rededicated by President Spencer W. Kimball. The first session is held in the temple, and the remaining ones are held in the BYU-Hawaii auditorium because of the temple's small size.

June 28-30

* The Relief Society Monument to Women is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball with more than twenty thousand church members present. It consists of thirteen bronze life sized statues in a two-acre park in Nauvoo, Illinois, each representing various spheres of a woman's circle of influence.

August 18

* In a speech to CES religious educators at BYU called “All Are Alike Unto God”, Elder Bruce R. McConkie says that all previous rationalizations for the priesthood ban were spoken with a limited understanding, and that they are superseded by the current revelation.

August 19

* Apostle Delbert Stapley dies.

September 30

* The revelation on blacks and the priesthood is presented in General Conference and unanimously accepted as scripture. It becomes Official Declaration – 2 at the end of the Doctrine and Covenants.

October

* Elder Boyd K. Packer gives a talk titled “To Young Men Only” about the danger of sexual sins including masturbation and homosexuality. It is later printed in a pamphlet. It becomes a source of mirth for critics who disdain the Church's standard of morality.
* A forged document purporting to be the text of the revelation on priesthood begins circulating. It states that God has heard the cries of his dark-skinned children, who have borne the burdens of others; that the Church should without delay extend missionary efforts to them; that priesthood should be given to those who are worthy; that racial intermarriage is for the present inadvisable due to social prejudice, that the end-time is near, and that the faithul will receive exaltation. Because the forgery differs little from official church positions, it proves innocuous.

October 1

* James E. Faust is ordained an Apostle.

October 23

* In an extemporaneous talk to missionaries in South Africa, President Spencer W. Kimball describes the long process of pouring his heart out to God and trying to determine the Lord's will regarding blacks and the priesthood.

October 30 – November 2

* The São Paulo Brazil Temple, the Church's seventeenth operating temple and the first temple in Latin America, is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball. The recent revelation has made it possible for all Brazilian members to enter regardless of ancestry. Previously, South American Saints traveled all the way to the temple in Mesa, Arizona.

1979

* John W. Welch organizes the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, at least in part due to the lack of a good defense against church critics or any positive scholarly writings about the Book of Mormon's antiquity.
* Archaeologists discover several specimens of pre-Columbian domesticated barley while excavating a Hohokam site near Phoenix, Arizona, and additional discoveries are later made in Oklahoma and Illinois. Previously, critics had mocked the Book of Mormon's inclusion of barley as a Nephite crop, insisting that it did not exist in the Americas at that time.
* The Church acquires the Newel K. Whitney store in Kirtland, Ohio, and begins restoring it.
* The Church's one thousandth stake is organized in Nauvoo, Illinois.
* The Church issues a new edition of the King James Bible with an improved footnote system, excerpts from the Joseph Smith Translation, cross-references to related passages in other standard works, more meaningful chapter headings, a 598-page Topical Guide and concordance, a 194-page Bible Dictionary reflecting understanding from both contemporary scholarship and modern revelation, and a gazetteer and maps.

February 21

* President Spencer W. Kimball tells Elder G. Homer Durham that the purported text of the revelation on the priesthood, currently circulating, is a forgery.

March 13-15

* The Logan Utah Temple, the Church's second operating temple, is rededicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.

June 9

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Jordan River Utah Temple by President Spencer W. Kimball.

October 24

* The five-acre Orson Hyde Memorial Garden is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem, in honor of Orson Hyde, who ascended the mount and gave a dedicatory prayer for Israel on this date 138 years ago.

November 25

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Mexico City Mexico Temple by Elder Boyd K. Packer. He offers the prayer in Spanish.

1980

* The Church's 10,000th ward is created.

February 19-22

* Anti-Mormon lecturer and phony Egyptologist Dee Jay Nelson gives a lecture in Mesa, Arizona sponsored by Concerned Christians, wherein he invites the audience to check out his credentials. Robert and Rosemary Brown take him up on his offer and begin their research for Volume 1 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*.

April

* The *Ensign* predicts that membership will grow from 4.6 million members to 11.1 million members in 2000, and from 1,190 stakes to 3,600. While the actual number of members comes very close to the projected value, the number of stakes falls short by over a thousand, partially due to increased standards for stake organization and partially due to severe member retention and activity problems.
* Disaffected member Mark Hofmann forges Martin Harris's transcript of reformed Egyptian characters that was shown to Professor Charles Anthon. It is said to be worth $20,000.

April 2

* Temples are announced for Atlanta, Georgia; Santiago, Chile; Sydney, Australia; and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Additionally, the Apia Samoa, Nuku'alofa Tonga, and Papeete Tahiti Temples are announced to replace plans for the Samoa Temple in Pago Pago. It is the largest temple announcement up to this point in time.

May 21

* Producer George Lucas and director Irvin Kershner release “The Empire Strikes Back”, the explosively popular sequel to 1977's explosively popular space opera film “Star Wars”. It features a 900-year-old alien Jedi master named Yoda, performed by puppeteer Frank Oz. Yoda resembles President Spencer W. Kimball in appearance, voice, and wisdom, and a rumor circulates among Mormons for decades that his design was based on the prophet. However, it was in reality inspired by Albert Einstein and makeup artist Stuart Freeborn.

June 1

* Elder Bruce R. McConkie gives a talk at BYU titled “The Seven Deadly Heresies” about erroneous beliefs held by many members that he thinks could jeopardize their salvation. Despite its title and theme, however, much of its contents represent his personal opinions, particularly with regard to organic evolution.

October 3

* Thomas Stuart Ferguson, claimed by anti-Mormons to have lost his testimony due to lack of archeological evidence, writes a brief letter to Robert and Rosemary Brown telling them that he is an active member of the Church and always has been. It is included in the appendix of their upcoming book, Volume 1 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*. Claims of his lost testimony nonetheless persist.

October 13

* The Church purchases Mark Hofmann's forged Anthon transcript in exchange for artifacts such as a $5 gold Mormon coin, Deseret banknotes, and a first edition of the Book of Mormon, all of which the Church owns in duplicate.

October 27-29

* The Tokyo Japan Temple, the Church's eighteenth operating temple and the first in Asia, is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball.

November 17-21

* The Seattle Washington Temple, the Church's nineteenth operating temple and the first in the Pacific Northwest, is dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball. Due to his ailing health, it is the final temple he dedicates even though seventeen more are dedicated during his presidency. During the dedication, a group of women chain themselves to the front gates to protest the Church's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

December 12

* The Bangalore India District, the first district in India, is organized.

1981

* The Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, which the Church has opposed, is not ratified by the deadline.
* The Church releases a new edition of the triple combination – the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price – as a companion to its recent new edition of the King James Bible. It contains many of the same improvements.
* Robert and Rosemary Brown release Volume 1 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*, exposing the so-called Egyptologist Dee Jay Nelson as a fraud and refuting his attacks on the Book of Abraham. Letters of appreciation come in from members everywhere and Nelson's career is virtually over.

January 20

* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sings “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” at the inauguration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He dubs them “America's Choir”, and the nickname sticks.

February

* Mark Hofmann forges documents claiming that Joseph Smith had intended his son, Joseph Smith III, to be the next prophet but that Brigham Young usurped the position. They are purchased by the Church and, after Hofmann reveals them to the media, given to the Reorganized Church.

February 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Papeete Tahiti Temple by President Spencer W. Kimball.

February 18

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, near the Liahona High School, by President Spencer W. Kimball.

February 19

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Apia Samoa Temple, adjacent to the Church College of Western Samoa, by President Spencer W. Kimball.

March 7

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Atlanta Georgia Temple by President Spencer W. Kimball, with nearly ten thousand members in attendance.

April 1

* Temple are announced for Manila, Philippines; Dallas, Texas; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Stockholm, Sweden; Chicago, Illinois; Johannesburg, South Africa; Seoul, Korea; Lima, Peru; and Frankfurt, Germany. This is the largest temple announcement up to this time.

May 30

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Santiago Chile Temple by President Spencer W. Kimball.

July

* Due to President Kimball's ailing health, Elder Gordon B. Hinckley is called as a third counselor in the First Presidency to help him.

July 23

* Neal A. Maxwell is ordained an Apostle.

August 22

* Elder Boyd K. Packer gives a talk at a CES Symposium titled “The Mantel is Far, Far Greater than the Intellect”. He urges CES instructors to not prioritize academic learning over spiritual learning, to present things to students in a faith-promoting context, and to not focus on controversial facts or rumors that are irrelevant to the teaching of the gospel. This talk is later frequently quoted by critics to demonstrate the Church's perceived anti-intellectual attitude.

November 16-20

* The Jordan River Utah Temple, the Church's twentieth operating temple and the seventh in Utah, is dedicated by President Marion G. Romney. News correspondents had announced that President Spencer W. Kimball, who is recovering from surgery and a lengthy hospital stay, will likely be confined to his room at the Hotel Utah during the services, but with tears of joy he is welcomed to the Celestial Room just before they commence.

1982

* Nominal church membership passes the five million mark.

January 10

* In response to a Faith and Values review in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* which notes with disapproval the absence of a spire and angel Moroni on the proposed Atlanta Georgia Temple, church architect Emil B. Fetzer announces revised plans which include them and commence the tradition of including them on every successive temple.

March 30

* Handwriting expert Henry Silver signs an affidavit stating that he was misrepresented in the press and in the book *Who Really Wrote the Book of Mormon?* He says that the handwriting in the Book of Mormon manuscript is definitely not that of Solomon Spalding. The affidavit is later featured in Volume 2 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*.

March 31

* Temples are announced for Boise, Idaho; Taipei, Taiwan; and Denver, Colorado.

April 29

* Facing an overwhelming positive response to their first book, Volume 1 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*, Robert and Rosemary Brown found the Religious Research Association at Mesa, Arizona to accommodate and quicken the work for their next three books.

August 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Sydney Australia Temple by Elder Bruce R. McConkie, who was once a mission president in Australia.
* At a fireside, Elder McConkie says there is no reason the members cannot have temples in Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, or wherever the number of Saints justifies it. Temples are later built in all four of these cities.

August 24

* A typhoon approaches Manila, Philippines, the day before the temple groundbreaking. At a mission conference, a missionary prays for the weather to cooperate so that the groundbreaking can continue as scheduled, and the typhoon changes direction that night.

August 25

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Manila Philippines Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

August 27

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Taipei Taiwan Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 11

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Lima Peru Temple by Elder Boyd K. Packer.

September 12

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Guatemala City Guatemala Temple by Elder Richard G. Scott.

September 19

* The Church dedicates a cemetery in Saitama Prefecture, Japan, called the Hill Cumorah Cemetery, which sells plots for cheaper than other cemeteries in the country. The First Presidency gives special permission for this cemetery in light of the country's circumstances.

October 9

* The Freiberg Germany Temple, originally known as the Freiberg DDR Temple, is announced.

October 15

* President Gordon B. Hinckley accepts an award to the Church from Max Chopnick, vice president of the Laymen's National Bible Committee, for outstanding service to the Bible cause in light of its recent new edition of the King James Bible.

November 27

* President N. Eldon Tanner dies.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Johannesburg South Africa Temple by Elder Marvin J. Ashton.

December 18

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Boise Idaho Temple by Elder Mark E. Peterson.

December 31

* Ed Decker and Dave Hunt's anti-Mormon film “The God Makers” is first shown to a group of 4,000 evangelical Christians at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California. It contains ludicrous and sensationalist misrepresentations of LDS doctrine and practice that are condemned even by other anti-Mormons. A cartoon segment of the film ends up on YouTube decades later under the misnomer “Banned Mormon Cartoon”.

1983

* Mark Hofmann sells President Gordon B. Hinckley a forged 1825 holograph about Joseph Smith treasure hunting and practicing black magic. After Hofmann reveals it to the media, it is released to scholars for study.
* The Uintah Stake Tabernacle, which has fallen into serious disrepair, hosts its final stake conference.

January 11

* Elder LeGrand Richards dies.

January 22

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Dallas Texas Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The ceremony is invitation-only and is attended by about ninety guests including Regional Representatives, stake presidents, and their wives.

April 20

* Ground is broken for the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple by Elder Bruce R. McConkie.

April 23

* Ground is broken for the Freiberg Germany Temple by President Thomas S. Monson.

May 9

* Ground is broken for the Seoul Korea Temple by Elder Marvin J. Ashton.

June 1-4

* The Atlanta Georgia Temple, the Church's twenty-first operating temple and the first in the southeastern United States, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. He promises that the baptistry will one day be enlarged.

August 5-6

* The Apia Samoa Temple, the Church's twenty-second operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley under the direction of President Spencer W. Kimball.

August 9-11

* The Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, the Church's twenty-third operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The first dedicatory session is held in the temple, but the rest are held in the nearby gymnasium of Liahona High School. Many members sell their farm produce, animals, or other belongings to afford passage to the dedication, and in the final session over three thousand attend and overflow into other rooms of the school.

August 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Chicago Illinois Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September

* A helicopter is used to place an angel Moroni statue on the spire of the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple.

September 15-17

* The Santiago Chile Temple, the Church's twenty-fourth operating temple and the first in a Spanish-speaking country, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October 27-29

* The Papeete Tahiti Temple, the Church's twenty-fifth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley under the direction of President Spencer W. Kimball. Previously, Tahitian members have traveled 2,500 miles across the Pacific Ocean to attend the Hamilton New Zealand Temple.

December 2-4

* The Mexico City Mexico Temple, the Church's twenty-sixth operating temple, the first in Mexico, and the largest outside the United States, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. At the dedication, Elder Ezra Taft Benson receives the distinct impression that God is not pleased with church members' neglect of the Book of Mormon. The temple receives an international award for artistic use of precast concrete.

December 5

* After a showing of “The God Makers” sponsored by Concerned Christians in Mesa, Arizona, the National Conference of Christians and Jews sends them a letter of complaint stating that the film does not fairly portray the Church, its history, or its doctrine.

1984

* Robert and Rosemary Brown release Volume 2 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*, exposing Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales, and the deception in their book *Who Really Wrote the Book of Mormon?*
* Ed Decker and Dave Hunt release a book called *The God Makers: A Shocking Exposé of What the Mormon Church* Really *Believes*, loosely based on their previous film of the same name and equally inaccurate.
* The Church releases Personal Ancestral File, a software program for use with personal computers. It enables individuals to organize and print their family history records, share information electronically, and submit data on diskettes for temple work or to the Church's Ancestral File.
* Leaders of the Vernal Utah Glines Stake suggest to area authorities the idea of converting the Uintah Stake Tabernacle into a temple, but the proposal is eventually rejected by the First Presidency.
* In “The Rise of a New World Faith”, sociologist Rodney Stark reviews historical LDS Church growth trends and then predicts that its future growth will average 30-50% per decade, reaching anywhere from 70 to 280 million members by the year 2080 and becoming the first major world religion since Islam. Mormons are thrilled by this prediction and quote from it frequently, especially when growth over the next two decades actually averages 52%.

January 3

* Mark Hofmann fails to persuade President Gordon B. Hinckley and the Church Historical Department to purchase his “Salamander Letter”, a forged document that purports to be from Martin Harris to William W. Phelps telling the angel Moroni story but with the angel replaced by a white salamander engulfed in flames. It lifts ideas and phrases from the early anti-Mormon book *Mormonism Unvailed* [sic].

January 6

* Steven Christensen purchases the Salamander Letter for forty thousand dollars.

January 11

* Elder Mark E. Peterson dies.

March 7

* Steven Christensen issues a press release saying that because the Salamander Letter has not been authenticated he is seeking advice from historians before making the contents public.

March 17

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Stockholm Sweden Temple by President Thomas S. Monson.

April 7

* Temples are announced for Portland, Oregon; Las Vegas, Nevada; Toronto, Ontario; San Diego, California; and Bogotá, Colombia.

April 12

* Russell M. Nelson is ordained an Apostle.

April 28

* The *Church News* publishes the full text of the Salamander Letter along with a First Presidency statement saying that it may or may not be authentic. Despite this, the Church is later frequently accused of trying to keep it a secret.

May 3

* Dallin H. Oaks is ordained an Apostle.

May 19

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Denver Colorado Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

May 25-30

* The Boise Idaho Temple, the Church's twenty-seventh operating temple and the second in Idaho, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It is dedicated in twenty-four sessions, more than have been held for any temple since the Salt Lake Temple. During its first year of operation it operates at 102 percent of capacity.

June 23

* President Gordon B. Hinckley gives a Young Adult fireside where he reaffirms his testimony of the Book of Mormon witnesses and says the Salamander Letter has no bearing on their truthfulness.

August 16

* Elder Dallin H. Oaks discusses issues raised by the Salamander Letter and chastises the media, the *New York Times* in particular, for jumping to conclusions about it when so little is known.

August 25

* The Newel K. Whitney store in Kirtland, Ohio, is dedicated as a historic site by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

Fall

* The BYU Cougars are the only undefeated major college football team in the United States, and at the end of football season they are ranked number one in the nation by both coaches and sports writers. Numerous articles in national publications present favorable views of the players, their school, and their religion.

September

* Elder Russell M. Nelson is named an honorary professor by Shandong Medical College in the People's Republic of China for his volunteer work teaching heart surgery.

September 20-23

* The Sydney Australia Temple, the Church's twenty-eighth operating temple and the first in Australia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Due to a ruling by the local government, it is dedicated without an angel Moroni statue.

September 25-27

* The Manila Philippines Temple, the Church's twenty-ninth operating temple and the first in the Philippines, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October 15

* Mark Hofmann, fearing exposure of his forgeries, murders Steven Christensen and a woman named Kathy Sheets with homemade bombs. Mrs. Sheets is murdered simply so that someone else will be implicated, and the ruse works. Hofmann later tells interviewers that as an atheist, he believes life is worthless, and that the murders were like a game to him.

October 16

* Evidently planning another murder, Mark Hofmann injures himself with one of his own bombs and is soon thereafter arrested.

October 19-24

* The Dallas Texas Temple, the Church's thirtieth operating temple and the first in Texas, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. He notes that there are many larger and more expensive buildings in the state but that this one is the most significant.

November 17-18

* The Taipei Taiwan Temple, the Church's thirty-first operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It has been constructed with respect for local tradition including a blue tile roof that complements nearby National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall. It is nominated as one of the most beautiful buildings in the city and studied numerous times by students of architecture.

December 14-16

* The Guatemala City Guatemala Temple, the Church's thirty-second operating temple and the first in Central America, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley with Saints from Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica also in attendance. President Hinckley prays for peace in the land, which is currently embroiled in civil war.

1985

* Elder B.H. Roberts' book *Studies of the Book of Mormon* is published for general use. It reviews criticisms of the Book of Mormon and attempts to find answers. In the time since it was originally written, much new information and better answers have become available.
* A survey by Richley Crapo at the University of Utah finds that fifty-seven percent of respondents mistakenly believe the Church to have an anti-evolution position, and only thirty-eight percent correctly identify it as neutral. Of those who accept evolution, twenty-five percent believe their view is contrary to the Church's stance; and of those who reject it, seventy percent believe they are in harmony with the Church's stance.

March

* Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Seventy and Glenn L. Pace, managing director of Welfare Services, visit northeastern Africa to inspect the drought conditions and see what the Church can do to assist the hungry people.

April 19

* Elder Bruce R. McConkie passes away.

June 29-30

* The Freiberg Germany Temple, the Church's thirty-third operating temple, the first in Germany, and the first in a communist nation, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. At 7,840 square feet, it is the smallest temple ever constructed by the Church.

July 1

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Frankfurt Germany Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

July 2-4

* The Stockholm Sweden Temple, the Church's thirty-fourth operating temple and the first in Scandinavia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Four of the dedicatory sessions are translated into Swedish, three into Finnish, two into Norwegian, and two into Danish.

August 9-13

* The Chicago Illinois Temple, the Church's thirty-fifth operating temple and the first in the Midwest since the Nauvoo Temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. In the dedicatory prayer, he honors the early Saints of Nauvoo, who finished construction and dedication of their temple even knowing they would be driven out.

August 24-25

* The Johannesburg South Africa Temple, the Church's thirty-sixth operating temple and the first in Africa, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. There is now a temple on every habitable continent of the world.

September 2

* After much prayer and fasting, the local government ruling that the Sydney Australia Temple cannot have an angel Moroni statue is overruled.

September 3

* An angel Moroni statue is hoisted into place atop the spire of the Sydney Australia Temple.

October 10

* M. Russell Ballard, grandson of Melvin J. Ballard, is ordained an Apostle.

November 5

* President Spencer W. Kimball dies.
* At Spencer W. Kimball's death, the Church has 1,570 stakes, 187 missions, 5,920,000 nominal members, and thirty-six temples.

November 10

* Ezra Taft Benson is set apart as the thirteenth President of the Church and calls Gordon B. Hinckley and Thomas S. Monson as his counselors in the First Presidency. At age fifty-eight, President Monson is the youngest man to be called to the Presidency in over a hundred years.

November 24

* Church members in the United States participate in a national day of fasting and contribute $3.8 million to assist with the drought in northeastern Africa.

November 30

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Las Vegas Nevada Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

December

* The First Presidency's Christmas message urges inactive, disgruntled, excommunicated, and disfellowshipped members to come back and feast at the table of the Lord.

December 14-15

* The Seoul Korea Temple, the Church's thirty-seventh operating temple and the first in mainland Asia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Originally planned to be a very simple structure with just two endowment rooms and a sealing room, it has been enlarged and redesigned three times because the Korean Saints have given up so much of their savings toward building it.

1986

* Nominal church membership passes the six million mark.
* Possibly at the request of church leadership, Gilbert W. Scharffs publishes *The Truth about “The God Makers”*, an extensive review and rebuttal of the book by Ed Decker and Dave Hunt.
* Five LDS chapels in Chile are damaged by bombs, apparently due to anti-American sentiment.
* In the Dallas Texas Temple, work is completed for the victims of the tragedy at the Alamo.

Early January

* President Ezra Taft Benson meets with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C. and reports on the contributions of the Saints to the stricken people in northeastern Africa.

January 10-12

* The Lima Peru Temple, the Church's thirty-eighth operating temple and the first in Peru, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley under the direction of President Ezra Taft Benson.

January 17-19

* The Buenos Aires Argentina Temple, the Church's thirty-ninth operating temple and the first in Argentina, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

June 22

* At the organization of the Kitchener Ontario Stake, the Church's 1,600th stake, President Thomas S. Monson announces the site location of the future Toronto Ontario Temple.

September 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Portland Oregon Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October

* President Ezra Taft Benson announces that seventies quorums in the stakes will be discontinued. Stake seventies will join with their ward elders quorum and stake presidents will determine who among them should be ordained to the office of high priest. Many members have felt that only seventies need to be involved in missionary work, so now all of them will theoretically be more involved.

October 9

* Joseph B. Wirthlin is ordained an Apostle.

October 16

* In response to a rumor started by Mark Hofmann, the Church searches its holdings and archives and announces that it does not possess an “Oliver Cowdery history”.

October 24-28

* The Denver Colorado Temple, the Church's fortieth operating temple and the first in Colorado, is dedicated by President Ezra Taft Benson.

November 26

* “Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home” is released in the United States. The Enterprise crew visits Earth in the year 1986 and is unfamiliar with the culture. In one scene, Captain Kirk tries to explain Spock's odd behavior to a local by saying “I think he did a little too much LDS back in the sixties”.

1987

* Helvécio Martins is called to serve as mission president of the Brazil Fortaleza Mission, becoming the first black mission president.
* Elders Russel M. Nelson and Hans B. Ringger begin meeting with the Council of Religious Affairs in Moscow, Russia, seeking the establishment and recognition of the Church in Russia.
* The Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City closes after seventy-six years of service. Over the next six years it is structurally upgraded and completely renovated and refurbished.
* The Church changes the name of its genealogy program to “family history”, which means exactly the same thing but sounds less intimidating to lay members.
* Due to heavy usage, the Dallas Texas Temple is closed for remodeling and expansion.
* Four new geographical administrative areas are created, bringing the total number to seventeen. Eight are in the United States and Canada and nine are in other countries. This change allows Area Presidencies to assume much of the responsibility formerly carried by the International Mission.
* The International Mission is discontinued.
* Premier Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR calls for reforms and increased glasnost (openness).

January

* To avoid the death penalty, Mark Hofmann pleads guilty to two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of theft by deception.

May 6-9

* The University of Alberta sponsors a three-day conference called “The Mormon Presence in Canada”. Both members and nonmembers participate.

May 29

* An addition to the Boise Idaho Temple, consisting of additional dressing rooms and office space and a new baptistry and cafeteria, is dedicated by Elder James E. Faust.

July

* In the celebration of the U.S. Constitution's bicentennial, the 350-voice Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony represents the state of Utah in a series of five well-attended concerts in the eastern United States.

July 31

* The Church's Public Communications Department releases a statement to the media after Mark Hofmann's confession and interview with prosecutors, expressing its sympathies for all the family and associates of the bombing victims.

August 1

* President Ezra Taft Benson is honored as the grand marshal of the centennial parade in Cardston, Alberta.

August 2

* President Ezra Taft Benson speaks to seven thousand people on the grounds of the Cardston Alberta Temple.

August 6

* Elder Dallin H. Oaks gives a BYU address and again criticizes the media and scholarly community for their handling of the Hofmann episode.

August 28-30

* The Frankfurt Germany Temple, the Church's forty-first operating temple and the second in Germany, is dedicated by President Ezra Taft Benson. 12,570 members attend, mostly from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France.

September 17

* The Mormon Youth Chorus and Symphony presents their concert again to a capacity audience in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.
* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sings the national anthem in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia as the Constitution Parade begins.
* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sings at the nationally televised “We the People, 200 Constitution Gala” broadcast from Convention Hall in Philadelphia.

October

* The Church publishes a list of forged documents that had been mistakenly referenced in the *Ensign*.

October 8

* The Church releases “How Rare a Possession”, a film depicting the role of the Book of Mormon in the conversions of Parley P. Pratt and Vincenzo di Francesca. It is intended to increase members' appreciation and testimony of the book.

October 10

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Toronto Ontario Temple by President Thomas S. Monson, former president of the Canada Mission, assisted by Elder M. Russel Ballard of the Twelve and Elder John K. Carmack of the Seventy.

1988

January

* Mark Hofmann is sentenced to life in Utah State Prison. While in prison his wife files for divorce and he attempts suicide by overdosing on antidepressants. He survives, but spends twelve hours unconscious lying on his forging arm so that it atrophies and withers almost to the bone, becoming permanently disabled.

January 30-31

* The eleven stakes in Lima, Peru are reorganized into eighteen by Elder M. Russell Ballard in six conferences attended by more than ten thousand members.

February 27

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the San Diego California Temple by President Ezra Taft Benson. It is his first time presiding over a temple groundbreaking and his first trip outside the Salt Lake Valley since suffering a mild heart attack four months earlier.

May

* The Cardston Alberta temple is closed for renovation and modernization.

May 11

* An angel Moroni statue is set atop the 170-foot eastern spire of the unfinished Portland Oregon Temple to an audience of television cameras, newspaper photographers, and beaming church members.

May 15

* A stake is organized in Aba, Nigeria, the first stake in West Africa and the first with all black priesthood leaders.

May 20

* President Marion G. Romney dies.

September 3

* The Chicago Illinois Temple is closed for remodeling that more than doubles its size, with the additional square footage built underground. The remodel encloses the rear central spire and original breezeways between the annex and adds a fifth ordinance room, large sealing room, cafeteria, and maintenance facility. The laundry, administrative area, and baptistry are enlarged.

October 6

* Richard G. Scott is ordained an Apostle.

October 28

* President Thomas S. Monson meets with Chairman Erich Honecker of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin, Germany. Chairman Honecker is impressed with the work ethic, family values, and good citizenship of church members, and grants permission for missionaries to serve both in and from East Germany.

October/November

* The zone leaders in the La Laguna Zone of the Guatemala City North Mission initiate an unethical practice of obtaining baptisms. They go to a soccer field and play with the local youths, then take them to a meetinghouse to “cool down” in the baptismal font. After they become assistants to the mission president, this tactic becomes more widespread.

1989

* Nominal church membership passes the seven million mark.
* Two missionaries from Utah serving in Bolivia are murdered by revolutionary terrorists.

January

* The La Laguna Zone of the Guatemala City North Mission baptizes 128 people, mostly youths between the ages of seven and twelve (because some seven-year-olds have been mistakenly baptized by overzealous missionaries). Very few of them become active in the Church.

March

* Elder M. Russell Ballard visits the Guatemala City North Mission to stop the unethical baptism practices. He calls the missionaries to repentance and establishes a firm rule that investigators must receive all six missionary discussions and attend church for two weeks before baptism. This rule is followed for a while, but the mission president creates so many exceptions that it is eventually abandoned.

March 5

* An addition to the Dallas Texas Temple, consisting of 22,749 extra square feet with an additional ordinance room, a cafeteria, expanded laundry facilities, and a larger relocated baptistry, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

April

* The Second Quorum of the Seventy is created to accommodate continuing growth.

April 13

* The television show *Cheers* airs an episode called “Call Me, Irresponsible”. In one scene, Rebecca Howe wonders aloud why more men can't send flowers. Sam Malone hears her wrong and is confused because he was unaware that Mormons couldn't send flowers, though he did know they couldn't dance.

May 16

* Elder Howard W. Hunter dedicates BYU's Jerusalem Center in Jerusalem, Israel, to house students involved in the travel study programs. It includes residence facilities for two hundred people plus classrooms and an auditorium with picture windows overlooking the Old City. In exchange for building it here, government and religious leaders have been promised that it will not be used in any way for proselytism.

June

* “The God Makers” is shown on national television in Ghana, turning many citizens and government officials against the Church.

June 14

* The government of Ghana expels foreign missionaries from the Church and three other religious groups for allegedly conducting themselves in a manner that undermines the country's sovereignty. The Church is forced to release its seventy-two native Ghanaian missionaries as well. This is probably prompted in large part by the recent airing of “The God Makers” on Ghanaian national television.

August 19-21

* The Portland Oregon Temple, the Church's forty-second operating temple and the first in Oregon, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley under the direction of President Ezra Taft Benson.

October 8

* The addition to the Chicago Illinois Temple is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

November

* Individuals are permitted to travel freely between East and West Berlin for the first time in decades.

December 3

* The grounds of the Manila Philippines Temple are overtaken as the last rebel stronghold in an attempted military coup. A planned attack by royal troops in the evening is called off. Prior conflict has left the patron housing facility extensively damaged, the temple annex with minor damage, and the temple proper unentered and unharmed except for a single bullet hole at the top of the highest spire. Six mortar or rocket shells have exploded on the grounds, some even passing between the spires.

December 16-18

* The Las Vegas Nevada Temple, the Church's forty-third operating temple and the first in Nevada, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

1990

* Helvécio Martins becomes the first General Authority of black African ancestry. Although Elijah Abel had been a Seventy, he was in the Third Quorum and thus not considered a General Authority.
* The Church releases a new edition of the “For the Strength of Youth” pamphlet.
* An LDS chapel in Chile is destroyed by a bomb, apparently due to anti-American sentiment.
* Two Peruvian missionaries serving in their own country are murdered by revolutionary terrorists.
* The Church begins supplying its over fifteen hundred family history centers with a set of compact discs, each containing up to five million names, the equivalent of 320,000 pages of information.
* Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, visits Utah. He meets with church leaders, visits BYU and the MTC, and even speaks at a stake conference. He expresses appreciation for the Church's aid following the recent earthquake, and expresses hope that people can come together to solve the world's new problems by recognizing the priority of universal human values.
* John Tvedtnes publishes *The Sermon at the Temple and the Sermon on the Mount* to respond to accusations by Stan Larson that Joseph Smith plagiarized Christ's sermon to the Nephites from the similar sermon in the Bible.

January

* Ed Decker claims in a newsletter that his film “The God Makers” has prevented three million people joining the Church, but has no source to demonstrate it.

February 17

* The Orlando Florida Temple is announced. The First Presidency says they have chosen Orlando because it is a central location with good highways from all parts of the state.

March

* Elder John Dehlin, a missionary and zone leader in the Guatemala City North Mission, witnesses two Assistants to the President forcibly baptize an eighty-year-old partially blind woman in Fraijanes. They are in a state of panic because this area has not yet had any baptisms for the month. When he reports this to the mission president, he is yelled at for having a bad attitude and trying to destroy the mission.
* A few days later, despite his asthma, John Dehlin is transferred to Uspantan, Quiche, one of the most dusty and polluted areas in the mission.

April

* Elder John Dehlin, suffering from severe asthma, is sent home from the Guatemala City North Mission feeling as if a monumental burden has been lifted from his shoulders. He is transferred to the Tempe Arizona Mission and reports his horrible experiences in Guatemala, but the mission office says they wish they could have known sooner and now there is nothing they can do.

Summer

* Missions open in the formerly Communist countries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.
* The Finland Helsinki East Mission is formed to supervise the work in Russia, headed by Gary L. Browning, a BYU professor of Russian.

July 19

* Bishop Glenn L. Pace of the Presiding Bishopric writes a memo to the Strengthening Church Members Committee suggesting that as many as eight hundred people may be involved in Satanic worship and sexual abuse of children along the Wasatch Front. This memo is later leaked to the media by an anti-Mormon ministry, making public the existence of the Committee and causing a scandal.

August 25-27

* The Toronto Ontario Temple, the Church's forty-fourth operating temple and the second in Canada, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The eleven dedicatory sessions are translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean due to the cultural diversity of the new temple district, which covers eastern Canada and the northeastern United States.

September

* The Leningrad Branch becomes the first church unit to be officially registered in the Soviet Union.

October 30

* The Oakland California Temple, the Church's thirteenth operating temple, reopens after nearly two years of refurbishing and renovation.

December 29

* The St. Louis Missouri Temple is announced.

1991

* Nominal church membership passes the eight million mark.
* The Church receives legal recognition in Cote d'Ivoir.
* Wolfgang Hohlbein’s novel *Indiana Jones und das Verschwundene Volk* (Indiana Jones and the Lost People) includes a young Mormon named Zach who tries to sell Indiana Jones an old clay disk belonging to the vanished culture of the Anasazi.

January

* The Gulf War begins in the Middle East.

April 6

* The Bountiful Utah Temple is announced.

May

* The 500,000th full-time missionary of this dispensation receives his call.

June

* During a three-week tour of Europe, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir gives concerts in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Soviet Union, which are broadcast on television and radio within these countries.
* Following the Choir's performance at Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, an announcement is made that the Church is now officially recognized in the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic.

June 22-24

* The Cardston Alberta Temple, the Church's sixth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 18

* A First Presidency letter to priesthood leaders cautions members to avoid the occult and its powers in all forms. It assures them that those who have been subjected to these practices can find help through the mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

December 23

* On the 186th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith, an angel Moroni statue is placed atop the eastern spire of the unfinished San Diego California Temple. Shortly afterward, a flock of seagulls, birds with symbolic significance to the Church, circles the statue three times before continuing on its course.

1992

* The *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* is published under the supervision of two apostles, Elders Neal A. Maxwell and Dallin H. Oaks, having been edited by Daniel H. Ludlow, executive secretary of the Church Correlation Committee. It is a comprehensive and reliable reference work on Latter-day Saint doctrine and practice.
* The Church establishes the General Temple Patron Assistance Fund, which helps provide a one-time visit to the temple for members outside the United States and Canada who would not otherwise be able to go, though they are still expected to make some sort of sacrifice or contribution to make it more meaningful. Stake presidents and mission presidents make recommendations to their Area Presidency, which administers the fund on a country-by-country basis. It relies on member donations but its existence is little-known for nineteen years.
* With the approval of its Board of Trustees, BYU creates a packet to inform students of the Church's neutral position on organic evolution. It includes all the relevant First Presidency statements and the “Evolution” article from the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*.
* Church members, mostly in Europe but some in the United States, send eighteen hundred boxes of food and vitamins to three recently created branches in Russia and Estonia. About half of the supplies go to church members, and the rest go to other needy people in the area, including schools, hospitals, senior citizens' homes, and children's relief agencies.
* The Relief Society gives impetus to the gospel literacy program as part of its 150th anniversary commemoration.

February

* Elder Neal A. Maxwell visits Fukuoka Japan mission president Cyril Figuerres and asks him to create a program that will address the root causes of poor membership growth and convert retention in Japan.
* President Figuerres comes up with the Ammon Project, named for a Book of Mormon figure, that involves the missionaries immersing themselves in the local culture and beliefs and providing more fellowshipping for investigators and converts. During its pilot stage, the mission's retention rates go from 45% to 74%, convert baptisms go from 236 to 324 while the average for Japan is 171, and the number of reactivated members more than triples.

February 11

* John Dehlin writes a letter to Apostle Dallin H. Oaks regarding his horrible mission experiences with unethical baptism practices in Guatemala. His letter is read by six other returned missionaries who are willing to attest to its accuracy. Upon receiving the letter, Elder Oaks personally calls John, discusses it at length, and apologizes for what happened. Dehlin's faith is nonetheless shaken and in the future he turns a more critical eye on church history and doctrine.

May 2

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Bountiful Utah Temple by President Ezra Taft Benson, with 7,500 people gathered on site and another 2,500 viewing the proceedings by remote video. President Gordon B. Hinckley alludes to future temples in Hong Kong, China; Preston, England; and Hartford, Connecticut; indicating that official announcements will not be made until sites have been acquired and approved.

June

* Elder Neal A. Maxwell visits Latter-day Saints in New Delhi, India, where he prophesies that if members share the gospel with their friends, they will have a temple and a great expansion of the work. This bolsters their enthusiasm for attending the temple despite the costs of time and money.

June 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Orlando Florida Temple by Elder James E. Faust.

August 22

* The First Presidency issues a statement defending the existence of the previously secret Strengthening Church Members Committee, citing Joseph Smith's 1839 letter in Doctrine and Covenants Section 123. It indicates that the committee's apostolic members are Elders James E. Faust and Russell M. Nelson.

September

* Mormons and the Word of Wisdom are briefly referenced in Rob McGregor's *Indiana Jones and the Unicorn's Legacy*, which largely takes place in Utah.

October 3

* Temples are announced for Hong Kong, China; and Utah County, Utah.

October 18-20

* The London England Temple, the Church's twelfth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October 19

* The Preston England Temple is announced during the London England Temple rededication services.

October 23-25

* The Bern Switzerland Temple, the Church's ninth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

December

* The twenty thousandth ward is created. The Church has local units in 144 nations or territories, sixty-seven percent of which are wards and the rest branches.

December 26

* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir leaves for a twelve-day concert tour to Israel. Performances in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv sell out, and the weekly “Music and the Spoken Word” is broadcast from BYU's Jerusalem Center. Choir officials learn that the managing director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the head of music at the Israel Broadcast Authority have been fans of the choir since their youth. The choir's message of peace makes a lasting impression on the turbulent region.

1993

* Elder M. Russell Ballard publishes *Our Search for Happiness: An Invitation to Understand the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. It is a brief explanation of church history and doctrine intended for nonmembers.
* The Church publishes a Spanish edition of the triple combination – the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price – with a 260-page Guide to the Scriptures, incorporating material from the Topical Guide and Bible Dictionary introduced in the 1981 English edition of the scriptures. This is the first time they are available in another language.
* The idea of converting the Uintah Stake Tabernacle into a temple is proposed again, and this time meets with First Presidency approval.
* Ed Decker publishes *The God Makers II*, a sequel to his earlier book. In addition to its ludicrous claims it includes personal libel against living church leaders. It fails to achieve the popularity or notoriety of the first book.
* Jerald and Sandra Tanner, themselves critics of the Church, publish *Problems in The God Makers II*.

January 1

* The India Bangalore Mission is created for the whole country of India, which previously has been administered by the Singapore Mission.

February

* Lamjav Purusuren and Tsendkhuu Batoolzi become the first Mongolian men to be baptized.

April 4

* The Madrid Spain Temple is announced.

April 15

* Standing on Zaysan, Monument Hill overlooking Ulaanbaatar, Elder Neal A. Maxwell dedicates Mongolia for the preaching of the gospel.

April 25-30

* The San Diego California Temple, the Church's forty-fifth operating temple and the third in California, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It is honored by the San Diego Press Club as Headliner of the Year in the landmark category, and the Church is presented with the Public Relations Society of America's prestigious Silver Anvil Award in the category of special events and observances by non-profit organizations for its efforts to increase public awareness of the Church and the role of the temple.

May 8

* Gendenjamts Darrjargal becomes the first Mongolian woman and the third Mongolian person to be baptized.

June 26

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Bogotá Colombia Temple by William R. Bradford. Due to difficulties that included finding a suitable location and acquiring property for the temple, over nine years have passed from the announcement to the groundbreaking ceremony.

June 27

* On the 149th anniversary of the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, the former Hotel Utah is dedicated as Joseph Smith Memorial Building. It has been remodeled to include a chapel for two wards and a branch, offices for the Church's Public Affairs and Family History departments, banquet facilities, two restaurants, over a hundred family history computers that are open to the public, and a theater seating five hundred people. The theater plays *Legacy* and later *The Testaments of One Fold and One Shepherd*.

June 29

* The Church is officially registered as a religious organization with the government of Mexico after more than a century of activity there. This allows it to enjoy rights, such as ownership of property, that it was not granted under earlier constitutions. Government officials gratefully acknowledge the many contributions of the Mormon community in Mexico.

July 31

* President Ezra Taft Benson's grandson, Steve Benson, tells the *Los Angeles Times* that his grandfather is senile and accuses the Church of misrepresenting his mental health to the membership.

September

* The Church disciplines six liberal Mormon academics, who become known as the “September Six”, apparently for their criticisms of church doctrine and leadership. Lynne Kanavel Whitesides is disfellowshipped, while Avraham Gileadi, Paul Toscano, Maxine Hanks, Lavina Fielding Anderson, and D. Michael Quinn are excommunicated. Avraham Gileadi and Maxine Hanks are later re-baptized. This incident bolsters the perception of an anti-intellectual attitude within the Church.

October 9

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple, on a former church welfare farm in American Fork, by President Gordon B. Hinckley. During the services, the location of the Madrid Spain Temple is announced.

October 11

* Steve Benson, grandson of President Ezra Taft Benson, resigns from the Church.

October 30

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the St. Louis Missouri Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The site has been approved by each member of the First Presidency after they were individually escorted to six possible sites. It is an exceptionally cold and breezy day, which President Hinckley says will help them appreciate the suffering of the Saints who left Missouri in 1838 under the extermination order.

November 16

* The Santo Domingo Dominican Republic Temple is announced.

1994

* Nominal church membership passes the nine million mark.
* The grounds of the Portland Oregon Temple are awarded first place by the Royal Rosarians of Portland, in the category of commercial rose plantings. Portland is known as the “City of Roses”.
* Sixty-one years after his death, B.H. Roberts' book *The Way, The Truth, The Life*, which was denied publication as a doctrinal resource due to its controversial pre-Adamite theory, is published independently.

January 22

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Hong Kong China Temple by Elder John K. Carmack. Hong Kong stake and ward leaders, their wives, and invited guests are in attendance. The Kowloon Tong chapel, Hong Kong mission home, and Hong Kong mission office have been razed to make way for the temple.

February 13

* It is announced that the Uintah Stake Tabernacle will be converted into the Vernal Utah Temple.

February 25

* Elder Marvin J. Ashton dies.

April 7

* Robert D. Hales is ordained an Apostle.

May 30

* President Ezra Taft Benson dies.
* At Ezra Taft Benson's death, the Church has 1,980 stakes, 295 missions, 8,688,511 nominal members, and forty-five temples.

June

* L. Dwight Pincock replaces Cyril Figuerres as president of the Fukuoka Japan Mission. He is unable to control the missionaries involved in the Ammon Project as well as his predecessor, and so they begin going to clubs and parties and harming the Church's image. The Ammon Project is therefore scrapped in the pilot stage despite its overwhelming success, and baptism and retention rates slump once more.

June 5

* Howard W. Hunter is set apart as the fourteenth President of the Church.

June 12

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Preston England Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 23

* Jeffrey R. Holland is ordained an Apostle.

Late Summer

* The Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission and Bill McKeever of the Mormonism Research Ministry meet with other Christians and government officials in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, to teach seminars and devise a plan to thwart the work of the Church.

October 9-11

* The Orlando Florida Temple, the Church's forty-sixth operating temple and the first in Florida, is dedicated by President Howard W. Hunter.

November 9

* The Nashville Tennessee Temple is announced.

December

* The Chicago Illinois Temple is closed for two months for the addition of an elevator and other minor changes.

December 11

* The Church's two thousandth stake, the Mexico City Contreras Stake, is organized.

1995

* The Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, or CARM, is founded by Matthew J. Slick and hosted at carm.org. It attempts to disprove several religious and spiritual movements outside of evangelical Christianity, including the Church.

January 8-14

* The Bountiful Utah Temple, the Church's forty-seventh operating temple and the eighth in Utah, is dedicated by President Howard W. Hunter. 201,655 members are in attendance, the largest number at a temple dedication in the history of the Church.

January 13

* Temples are announced for Cochabamba, Bolivia and Recife, Brazil.

March 3

* President Howard W. Hunter dies after only nine months as prophet, the shortest tenure of any Church President in history.
* At Howard W. Hunter's death, the Church has 2,029 stakes, 303 missions, 9,025,914 nominal members, and forty-seven temples.

March 12

* Gordon B. Hinckley is set apart as the fifteenth President of the Church.

April 6

* Henry B. Eyring, son of famed LDS chemist Henry Eyring, is ordained an Apostle.

April 15

* All of the furniture and fixtures salvaged from the Uintah Stake Tabernacle are sold at public auction within three and a half hours.

May 13

* A “groundbreaking” ceremony is held and the site dedicated for the conversion of the Uintah Stake Tabernacle into the Vernal Utah Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June

* Welfare Services ships 209 boxes of math and science books to be distributed to schools throughout Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Missionaries help distribute them.

July 17

* An angel Moroni statue is set atop the unfinished Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple to an estimated audience of twenty thousand, who clog the surounding streets. Once it is in place, they break into applause and spontaneously begin to sing “The Spirit of God”.

August 23

* President Thomas S. Monson assists in welcoming King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden to the grounds of the Stockholm Sweden Temple for their annual “Eriksgata” excursion. A plaque on the temple grounds memorializes the occasion.

September 16

* The Canadian government names the Cardston Alberta Temple a Canadian Historic Site. A commemorative plaque recognizes it as the first consciously modern building in the province of Alberta.

September 23

* Concerned with the modern disintegration of the family, President Gordon B. Hinckley issues “The Family: A Proclamation to the World”, signed by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve, at the General Relief Society Meeting. It outlines and re-affirms the Church's doctrine on the sanctity and eternal nature of marriage and the family unit. As the fifth such official proclamation in church history, it becomes an important document, often quoted from and even framed in meetinghouses and homes.

September 30

* The Caracas Venezuela Temple is announced. President Gordon B. Hinckley also announces in the priesthood session of General Conference that plans for a temple in Hartford, Connecticut will be replaced with plans for two temples, in Boston, Massachusetts and White Plains, New York. The Hartford Temple will be announced a second time fifteen years later.

November

* The “Recovery from Mormonism” forum is launched at exmormon.org for questioning and disaffected members. Although it does provide the support and commiseration of like-minded individuals, it becomes a haven of bitterness, arrogance, vulgarity and bigotry, and provides very little recovery from anything.

November 13

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, D.C., and they discuss the need for stronger families to fix the nation. President Hinckley gives President Clinton a copy of “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” and bound copies of his and his wife's family histories. He suggests that the nation's leader sit down with those books and have a family home evening.

December

* President Gordon B. Hinckley directs the Church to adopt a new logo to help the world understand that it is a Christian church. The new logo is designed so that the name of Jesus Christ is the largest and most prominent feature of the Church's name.

December 12

* An angel Moroni statue is added to the spire of the unfinished Hong Kong China Temple. Hundreds of spectators gather to see it.

December 21

* The Monterrey Mexico Temple is announced.

1996

* President Gordon B. Hinckley assigns Elders Dallin H. Oaks and Jeffrey R. Holland to oversee the development of a new curriculum for the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society. On the first Sunday of each month, the priesthood quorums and Relief Society focus on learning about their duties and work; on the second and third, they study the teachings of latter-day prophets; and on the fourth they consider current topics outlined by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve.
* The Church, having previously relied on unaffiliated organizations to deliver most of its humanitarian aid, creates a nonprofit organization called Latter-day Saint Charities for this purpose. It outlines its aid as being intended for acute life-threatening emergencies requiring immediate and direct relief or chronic debilitating conditions that may be improved by self-help development. It adds that funding of such projects is limited to the resources donated by members.

February 4

* A group of Saints braves below-zero temperatures in Illinois to commemorate the pioneers' exodus from Nauvoo.

February 26

* For the first time, more nominal church members live outside the United States than in it. However, there are also more inactive members in the United States than active members outside it.

April 6

* President Gordon B. Hinckley announces that the Salt Lake Tabernacle is no longer able to accommodate the ever-larger throngs wanting to attend General Conference, and so an assembly building with capacity for twenty-one thousand people will be built on the block north of Temple Square.

April 7

* The television show *60 Minutes*, hosted by Mike Wallace, airs a profile of President Gordon B. Hinckley. President Hinckley responds with humor and candor to questions that are at times difficult and probing. Mike Wallace later remarks that he was very surprised and impressed, and that President Hinckley deserves the almost universal admiration he gets.

May 26-27

* The Hong Kong China Temple, the Church's forty-eighth operating temple and the first multipurpose temple also including a chapel, mission home and mission office, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It is just over a year before Hong Kong is scheduled to revert from British to Chinese jurisdiction.

May 28

* President Gordon B. Hinckley becomes the first Church President to visit mainland China when he travels to Shenzhen to visit a cultural center with re-creations of villages from various regions of China. The center was inspired by the Church's Polynesian Cultural Center and developed with the help of its personnel.
* President Hinckley flies to Cambodia and addresses a fireside in Phnom Penh of 439 people, more than half of whom are investigators.

May 29

* Standing on a hillside overlooking the Mekong River, President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates Cambodia for the preaching of the gospel.
* President Gordon B. Hinckley travels to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) and Hanoi, Vietnam. Here he offers an addendum to his dedicatory prayer of thirty years previous, now dedicating the entire country for the preaching of the gospel, since it had been divided into North and South Vietnam at the time.

June 11

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Madrid Spain Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 20

* Vandals spray-paint five chapels in Sandy, Utah.

July

* The Church sends a housing consultant to Mongolia to help officials of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development evaluate low-cost methods of providing housing.

July 13

* President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates the reconstructed Kanesville Tabernacle, where Brigham Young was sustained as the second President of the Church.

August 10

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Guayaquil Ecuador Temple by Elder Richard G. Scott. Over fourteen years have passed since its announcement, the longest delay experienced by any temple for construction to begin.

August 18

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Santo Domingo Dominican Republic Temple by Elder Richard G. Scott.

August 30

* The Billings Montana Temple is announced.

September 16

* An angel Moroni statue is added to the eastern dome of the Vernal Utah Temple. In an experiment, it is originally painted gold, but after four months it is given the traditional finish of gold leaf.

October 13-19

* The Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple, the Church's forty-ninth operating temple and the ninth in Utah, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

November 10

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Cochabamba Bolivia Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley, within viewing distance of the Cristo de la Concordia (Christ of Peace) statue atop San Pedro hill, the largest statute of Christ in the world by a few centimeters.

November 11

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Recife Brazil Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

1997

* The Church receives more national and international media coverage than all other years of its history combined.

February

* One hundred Latter-day Saints living in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, construct two traditional pioneer handcarts and transport them by train from one major city to another across Russia and Ukraine. Finally one of the carts is flown to the United States and enters the Salt Lake Valley.
* A non-profit apologetics organization called Scholarly & Historical Information Exchange for Latter-day Saints, or SHIELDS, is founded and based at shields-research.org.

March

* President Gordon B. Hinckley addresses 2,300 listeners at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

April 4

* The Albuquerque New Mexico Temple is announced.

April 18

* President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates the new Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters. He expresses his deeply ingrained respect and love and appreciation for those who moved over the trail a hundred and fifty years ago.

April 19

* A sesquicentennial wagon train leaves the Omaha, Nebraska area to reenact the thousand-mile trek to the Salt Lake Valley. During the next three months, hundreds of people join the train, and they are honored by state and local officials who pay tribute to the achievements of the pioneers.

April 25

* Evangelical scholars Paul Owen and Carl Mosser present a paper at the Evangelical Theological Society Far West Annual Meeting titled “Mormon Scholarship, Apologetics, and Evangelical Neglect: Losing the Battle and Not Knowing it?” In it they describe several examples of superb LDS scholarship and chastise evangelicals for failing to acknowledge it and instead repeating the same oft-addressed criticisms. Evangelical anti-Mormons are outraged and for the most part refuse to accept these facts.

Summer

* Pioneer parades are held in such diverse places as Rome, Italy, and Cherleroi, Belgium.

June 1-5

* The St. Louis Missouri Temple, the Church's fiftieth operating temple and the first in Missouri, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Boston Massachusetts Temple by Elder Richard G. Scott.

July 22

* About fifty thousand people gather around the “This is the Place” monument to greet the commemorative wagon train as it emerges from Emigration Canyon into the Salt Lake Valley. President Hinckley quips that the “pioneers” look as if they have come a thousand miles.

July 24

* Ground is broken for the new Conference Center as part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

September

* President Gordon B. Hinckley appears before the annual convention of the Religion Newswriters Association.

September 13

* A centennial celebration is held for the Church's presence in Colorado. President Gordon B. Hinckley is presented with a pair of Colorado blue spruce trees but, unable to take them on the airplane home, he presents them to Denver Colorado Temple President Russell C. Taylor to plant on the temple grounds. He gives permission to call them the “Hinckley trees”.

September 30

* Temples are announced for Houston, Texas and Porto Alegre, Brazil.

October 4

* President Gordon B. Hinckley announces plans to build several smaller temples following a uniform design, for Saints in areas where membership is small and not likely to grow much in the near future. The first ones are planned for Monticello, Utah; the Mormon colonies in northern Mexico; and Anchorage, Alaska.

Early November

* Nominal church membership passes the ten million mark.

November

* A handful of church members form the non-profit Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research (FAIR) to defend the Church from criticisms they have encountered on Internet message boards. Although the organization is volunteer and unaffiliated with the Church itself, its existence may be foreshadowed by Section 123 of the Doctrine and Covenants, in which Joseph Smith suggests forming a committee to respond to the libelous publications against the Saints.

November 2-4

* The Vernal Utah Temple, the Church's fifty-first operating temple, the tenth in Utah, and the first made from a pre-existing building, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

November 14

* The newly enlarged baptistry of the Atlanta Georgia Temple is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, who had promised over fourteen years earlier that it would someday be enlarged.

November 17

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Monticello Utah Temple by Ben B. Banks.

1998

* President Gordon B. Hinckley speaks to over 1,500 members in the Winnipeg Manitoba Stake Center. He praises them for their faithfulness and good citizenship, and tells them some day they will have a temple of their own but that in the meantime they should keep making the sacrifice to drive to the closest one.
* John Tvedtnes updates his book *The Sermon on the Temple and the Sermon on the Mount* with even more information.

February 16

* The Accra Ghana Temple is announced.

February 17

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with 900 members in Nairobi, Kenya, some of whom have traveled from as far as Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda and some of whom are acting as representatives for larger groups that could not afford to all come. He promises that if they walk in faith and patience, at some point there will be a temple in Kenya.

March

* The Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research launches its first website at fairlds.org.

March 7

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Colonia Juárez Chihuahua Mexico Temple by Eran A. Call.

March 30

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Billings Montana Temple by Elder Hugh W. Pinnock.

April 17

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Anchorage Alaska Temple by F. Melvin Hammond. It was intended to be the Church's prototype “smaller temple”, but at the suggestion of architect Doug Green, the Monticello Utah Temple was chosen instead because of its location near church headquarters.

April 25

* The Columbus Ohio Temple is announced.

May 1

* Ground is broken for the Campinas Brazil Temple.

May 2

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Porto Alegre Brazil Temple by President James E. Faust. He turns the first shovelful of dirt and then invites a young boy and girl to help him.

May 7

* Temples are announced for Halifax, Nova Scotia; Kona, Hawaii; Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; Fukuoka, Japan; and Suva, Fiji.

June 4

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with about 2,400 members in Paris, France. He admires their growth since the end of World War II and says they have reached the point where they can receive a temple, but that there has been difficulty in locating a suitable site.

June 7-10

* The Preston England Temple, the Church's fifty-second operating temple and the second in England, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The city of Preston holds great significance in the Church's early history in England, having been a great source of success for the first missionaries.

June 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Houston Texas Temple by Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen. The land has been purchased from Don Hand, who prayed to be spared from financial ruin in the 1980s and promised to pay the Lord back in the future.

June 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Albuquerque New Mexico Temple by Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen.

July 8

* Temples are announced for Brisbane, Australia; Kiev, Ukraine; and Tampico, Mexico.

July 20

* The Hermosillo Sonora Mexico Temple is announced.

July 26-27

* The Monticello Utah Temple, the Church's fifty-third operating temple, the eleventh in Utah, and the first of the smaller temples, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

July 29

* Temples are announced for Bismarck, North Dakota and St. Paul, Minnesota.

August 3

* The Regina Saskatchewan Temple is announced.

August 6

* The Montréal Quebec Temple is announced.

August 10

* The Detroit Michigan Temple is announced.

August 11

* The Edmonton Alberta Temple is announced.

August 13

* The Spokane Washington Temple is announced.

August 16

* The Hague Netherlands Temple is announced.

Fall

* Paul Owen and Carl Mosser's controversial paper “Mormon Scholarship, Apologetics, and Evangelical Neglect: Losing the Battle and Not Knowing it?” is reprinted in the *Trinity Journal.*

September

* An evangelical high school student named Bridgett Jack Jeffries investigates the Church and then becomes involved in the counter-cult movement on the Internet. However, her faith in the movement is shaken when she discovers that LDS apologists have responded to all of the evangelical arguments but not been responded to in turn, and that the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry's message board censors all such responses. She also realizes that she has become condescending and hateful and the Holy Ghost has left her. She abandons the movement.

September 3

* The Raleigh North Carolina Temple is announced.

September 8

* President Gordon B. Hinckley reaches an international cable television audience by appearing on *Larry King Live*. When asked about the doctrine of God having once been a man, President Hinckley says it is logical but he doesn't know that the Church teaches or emphasizes it very much. Critics seize on this and accuse him of lying or disregarding Joseph Smith's King Follett Discourse.

September 11

* Temples are announced for Columbia, South Carolina and Birmingham, Alabama.

September 12

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Columbus Ohio Temple by Elder John K. Carmack.

September 17

* The Memphis Tennessee Temple is announced.

September 25

* The Mérida Mexico Temple is announced.

September 26

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the St. Paul Minnesota Temple by Elder Hugh W. Pinnock.

October 10

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Spokane Washington Temple by Elder F. Melvin Hammond.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Detroit Michigan Temple by Elder Jay E. Jensen.

October 12

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Halifax Nova Scotia Temple by Elder Jay E. Jensen.

October 14

* The Baton Rouge Louisiana Temple is announced.

October 17

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Bismarck North Dakota Temple by Elder Kenneth Johnson.

October 23

* Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of the irreverent television show “South Park”, release an NC-17 movie called *Orgazmo* about a Mormon missionary named Joe Young who, in order to finance the wedding he plans for himself and his fiancé, takes a job as the star of a porn movie about a sex superhero who fights crime with his Orgazmorator. Joe then discovers that the director has a real one and intends to use it for evil purposes.

October 30

* Temples are announced for Villahermosa, Mexico and Melbourne, Australia.

November 2

* The Montevideo Uruguay Temple is announced.

November 14

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Regina Saskatchewan Temple by Elder Hugh W. Pinnock.

November 28

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Tampico Mexico Temple by Elder Eran A. Call.

December 5

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Columbia South Carolina Temple by Elder Gordon T. Watts, less than two months after the announcement.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Hermosillo Sonora Mexico Temple by Elder Eran A. Call.

1999

* After her first trip to India, Latter-day Saint Becky Douglas is so affected by the images of leprous beggars on the streets, who have been rejected and shunned by their society, that she is unable to sleep for days. Within one morning she, three of her friends, and her husband's secretary found Rising Star Outreach to provide Indian lepers with basic medical care, schooling, housing, help with infrastructure and basic tutoring in English and business. The Marriotts, an influential LDS family, become one of its best financial contributors.
* The first annual FAIR Conference is held somewhere in California. Speakers present on a variety of apologetic topics.

January 8

* The Fresno California Temple is announced.

January 9

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Ciudad Juárez Mexico Temple by Elder Eran A. Call.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Villahermosa Mexico Temple by Elder Richard E. Turley Sr.

January 9-10

* The Anchorage Alaska Temple, the Church's fifty-fourth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. From what was learned during construction of the Monticello Utah Temple, architect Doug Green has incorporated nearly three hundred improvements and modifications to the blueprints, including innovations such as heated stairs and an entrance canopy.

January 10

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Caracas Venezuela Temple by Elder Francisco J. Viñas.

January 16

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Memphis Tennessee Temple by Elder Gordon T. Watts.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Mérida Mexico Temple by Elder Carl B. Pratt.

February 6

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Raleigh North Carolina Temple by Elder Loren C. Dunn.

February 21

* The Palmyra New York Temple is announced, becoming the Church's one hundredth temple announcement.

February 23

* The Oaxaca Mexico Temple is announced.

February 25

* The Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mexico Temple is announced.

February 27

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Edmonton Alberta Temple by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi.

March 6-7

* The Colonia Juárez Chihuahua Mexico Temple, the Church's fifty-fifth operating temple, the second in Mexico, the first smaller temple outside the United States, and the smallest temple in the world at 6,800 square feet, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. In his dedicatory prayer, he petitions the Lord for rain in the area, which is experiencing a drought. After the final session, the first rain drops begin to fall.

March 13

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Kona Hawaii Temple by Elder John B. Dickson.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Oaxaca Mexico Temple by Elder Carl B. Pratt. He declares that the temple will be a great missionary tool and that someday there will be dozens more stakes and additional temples in the area.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Nashville Tennessee Temple by Elder John K. Carmack.

March 14

* The Oklahoma City Oklahoma Temple is announced.

March 15

* The Medford Oregon Temple is announced.

March 17

* Temples are announced for Louisville, Kentucky; San José, Costa Rica; and Adelaide, Australia.

March 19-20

* The Madrid Spain Temple, the Church's fifty-sixth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

March 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Tuxtla Gutiérrez Temple by Elder Richard E. Turley Sr.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Fresno California Temple by Elder John B. Dickson.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Fukuoka Japan Temple by Elder L. Lionel Kendrick.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Melbourne Australia Temple by Elder P. Bruce Mitchell.

April 2

* Temples are announced for Aba, Nigeria; Asunción, Paraguay; Columbia River, Washington; Helsinki, Finland; Lubbock, Texas; and Snowflake, Arizona.

April 9

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Montréal Quebec Temple by Elder Gary J. Coleman.

April 12

* The Reno Nevada Temple is announced.

April 14

* The Veracruz Mexico Temple is announced.

April 24

* The Bogotá Colombia Temple, the Church's fifty-seventh operating temple and the first in Colombia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the San José Costa Rica Temple by Elder Lynn G. Robins.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Copenhagen Denmark Temple.

April 27

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Montevideo Uruguay Temple by Elder Richard G. Scott, on property acquired by the Church in the 1960s and known locally as “Mormon grounds”. He says the Spirit that will come will affect the entire nation, and remembers his missionary experiences here forty-eight years ago.

May 8

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Suva Fiji Temple by Elder Earl M. Monson.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Baton Rouge Louisiana Temple by Elder Monte J. Brough.

May 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Medford Oregon Temple by Elder D. Lee Tobler.

May 22

* The Mormon Youth Symphony and Orchestra perform their final concert. They are then dissolved to make way for the new Temple Square Chorale, a training choir for the Tabernacle Choir.

May 25

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Palmyra New York Temple by President Gordon B. Hinckley, on the east end of the original Smith family farm on an elevated ridge just beyond the Sacred Grove.

May 29

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Louisville Kentucky Temple by Elder John K. Carmack.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Adelaide Australia Temple by Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Veracruz Mexico Temple by Elder Carl B. Pratt.

June 11

* The Perth Australia Temple is announced.

June 12

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Guadalajara Mexico Temple by Elder Eran A. Call.

June 14

* The Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple is announced.

July 3

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Oklahoma City Oklahoma Temple by Elder Rex D. Pinegar. He speaks of recent tragedies in the area such as the Oklahoma City bombing, and says that this temple is part of the stone prophesied by Daniel to fill the whole earth.

July 24

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Reno Nevada Temple by Elder Rex D. Pinegar.

August

* Cyril Figuerres, former president of the Fukuoka Japan Mission, discusses his successful but ill-fated Ammon Project at The International Society 10th Annual Conference.

August 1-2

* The Guayaquil Ecuador Temple, the Church's fifty-eighth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

August 3

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with 5,000 members in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He prophesies that where there are hundreds of thousands of Mormons in South America, there will be millions and they will be recognized for the goodness of their lives and be respected and honored and upheld. He mentions the temple under construction in Caracas and shares his feeling that someday one will be built in this city as well.

August 21-23

* The Spokane Washington Temple, the Church's fifty-ninth operating temple and the second in Washington state, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 4-5

* The Columbus Ohio Temple, the Church's sixtieth operating temple and the first in Ohio since the Kirtland Temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The marble facing on its exterior was quarried from near Sharon, Vermont, birthplace of Joseph Smith.

September 19

* The Bismarck North Dakota Temple, the Church's sixty-first operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It is his first time in North Dakota, the only state in the United States he had not visited.

October

* General Conference is held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle for the final time.

October 9

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Birmingham Alabama Temple by Elder Stephen A. West.

October 16-17

* The Columbia South Carolina Temple, the Church's sixty-second operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October 23-24

* The Detroit Michigan Temple, the Church's sixty-third operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

October 24

* Ground is broken for the rebuilt Nauvoo Illinois Temple.

November 8

* An angel Moroni statue is placed atop the spire of the unfinished Fukuoka Japan Temple.

November 14

* The Halifax Nova Scotia Temple, the Church's sixty-fourth operating temple and the third in Canada, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Its dedication has been postponed a day due to a mechanical problem with President Hinckley's plane.
* The Regina Saskatchewan Temple, the Church's sixty-fifth operating temple and the fourth in Canada, is dedicated by President Boyd K. Packer. Due to the mechanical problem delaying President Hinckley, who was scheduled to dedicate this temple as well, it is decided to dedicate two temples on the same day for the first time in history, out of consideration for the travel demands placed on members attending.

November 20

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Perth Australia Temple by Elder Kenneth Johnson.

November 20-21

* The Billings Montana Temple, the Church's sixty-sixth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

November 28

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple by Elder Hugh W. Pinnock.

December 2

* *Apex Herald* reporter David Leone prepares an eight-page Raleigh Temple commemorative insert. 75 percent of this week's edition sell out two days after it hits the racks, so the circulation manager calls to express regret that the paper has not fully appreciated the event Leone pushed so hard to cover. He asks for the locations of other LDS temples being built in the South so he can alert other newspaper editors to what an asset they can be.

December 11-12

* The Edmonton Alberta Temple, the Church's sixty-seventh operating temple, the fifth in Canada, and the second in Alberta, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

December 18-19

* The Raleigh North Carolina Temple, the Church's sixty-eighth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, having been completed in a record six months.

2000

* The Church begins the lengthy process of seeking an “intesa” to become a concordate with the Italian government, giving it the same status and benefits as the Catholic Church. This process will take twelve years.

January 1

* The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles release a document titled “The Living Christ”, which describes and commemorates the birth life, ministry and atonement of the Savior Jesus Christ nearly two millennia ago. The document is often framed in meetinghouses and members' homes.

January 9

* The St. Paul Minnesota Temple, the Church's sixty-ninth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

January 23-24

* The Kona Hawaii Temple, the Church's seventieth operating temple and the second in Hawaii, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

January 30

* President Gordon B. Hinckley holds a meeting in Singapore where he praises members for their sacrifices in traveling to the temple in Hong Kong. He challenges them to promote the Church's growth to the point where they can have a similar temple of their own.

February 26-27

* The Ciudad Juárez Mexico Temple, the Church's seventy-first operating temple and the third in Mexico, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

February 27

* The Hermosillo Sonora Mexico Temple, the Church's seventy-second operating temple and the fourth in Mexico, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

March

* The site is chosen for the Monterrey Mexico Temple.

March 5

* The Albuquerque New Mexico Temple, the Church's seventy-third operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

March 11

* The Oaxaca Mexico Temple, the Church's seventy-fourth operating temple and the fifth in Mexico, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.

March 12

* The Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mexico Temple, the Church's seventy-fifth operating temple and the sixth in Mexico, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.

March 19

* The Louisville Kentucky Temple, the Church's seventy-sixth operating temple, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

April

* General Conference is held in the new Conference Center for the first time. All twenty-one thousand seats are filled.

April 2

* Temples are announced for Columbia River, Washington; Snowflake, Arizona; and Lubbock, Texas.

April 6

* The Palmyra New York Temple, the Church's seventy-seventh operating temple and the first in New York, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, coinciding with the 170th anniversary of the Church's founding. The event is broadcast to stake centers throughout the United States and Canada.

April 9

* The Fresno California Temple, the Church's seventy-eighth operating temple and the fourth in California, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

April 16

* The Medford Oregon Temple, the Church's seventy-ninth operating temple and the second in Oregon, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.

April 23

* The Memphis Tennessee Temple, the Church's eightieth operating temple and the first in Tennessee, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.
* The Reno Nevada Temple, the Church's eighty-first operating temple and the second in Nevada, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

April 30

* The Cochabamba Bolivia Temple, the Church's eighty-second operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

May 20

* The Tampico Mexico Temple, the Church's eighty-third operating temple and the seventh in Mexico, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson. It is a great blessing to members who have had to cross the Sierra Madres mountain range on the first leg of a 500-mile trip to the temple in Mexico City.

May 21

* The Nashville Tennessee Temple, the Church's eighty-fourth operating temple and the second in Tennessee, is dedicated by President James E. Faust. Originally intended as a large regional temple to serve much of the Upper South, it has instead been built as one of the new generation of smaller temples.
* The Villahermosa Mexico Temple, the Church's eighty-fifth operating temple and the eighth in Mexico, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

June 4

* The Montréal Quebec Temple, the Church's eighty-sixth operating temple and the sixth in Canada, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.
* The San José Costa Rica Temple, the Church's eighty-seventh operating temple, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.

June 11

* The Fukuoka Japan Temple, the Church's eighty-eighth operating temple and the second in Japan, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. He is visibly emotional due to his role in overseeing Church affairs in Asia in the 1960s, and notes that this will probably be his last time in Fukuoka.

June 12

* President Gordon B. Hinckley visits Thailand where he enjoys a "pre-birthday" celebration hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Bhichai Rattakul.

June 13

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with Bangkok Governor Bhichit Rattakul and Thailand Prime Minister Chuan Leepkai, who thank him for the work that Latter-day Saint volunteers have done in Thailand, noting in particular the 100 volunteers who have taught more than 300,000 English teachers and students over the previous three years. President Hinckley speaks to over 2,600 members at the Thailand Air Force Convention Center, recalling his first visit in 1961 and promising that someday they will have a temple.
* President Gordon B. Hinckley announces that Ricks College, a two-year college, will become a four-year university and be renamed Brigham Young University – Idaho.

June 15

* The Adelaide Australia Temple, the Church's eighty-ninth operating temple and the second in Australia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 16

* The Melbourne Australia Temple, the Church's ninetieth operating temple and the third in Australia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 18

* The Suva Fiji Temple, the Church's ninety-first operating temple and the first in Melanesia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

June 23

* 21,000 guests attend “An Evening of Celebration” for President Hinckley's ninetieth birthday at the Conference Center. It features the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Orchestra at Temple Square and is broadcast to meetinghouses all over the world. President Hinckley explains that the party is not for him but is a gift to the community and those who have touched his life.

June 27

* A building permit is issued for the Monterrey Mexico Temple.

July 8

* The Mérida Mexico Temple, the Church's ninety-second operating temple and the ninth in Mexico, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

July 9

* The Veracruz Mexico Temple, the Church's ninety-third operating temple and the tenth in Mexico, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

July 16

* The Baton Rouge Louisiana Temple, the Church's ninety-fourth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

July 30

* The Oklahoma City Oklahoma Temple, the Church's ninety-fifth operating temple, is dedicated by President James E. Faust.

August 19

* To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Toronto Ontario Temple and the fortieth anniversary of the Toronto Canada Stake, President Thomas S. Monson dedicates a historical monument honoring the contributions of early missionaries and members who served and lived in Upper Canada, including former Church President John Taylor.

August 20

* The Caracas Venezuela Temple, the Church's ninety-sixth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. Before, the closest temple for the local Saints was in Lima, Peru, about two thousand miles away.

August 26-27

* The Houston Texas Temple, the Church's ninety-seventh operating temple and the second in Texas, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 2

* In Birmingham, Alabama, Elder David B. Haight is presented with a cake for his ninety-fourth birthday.

September 3

* The Birmingham Alabama Temple, the Church's ninety-eighth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 4

* Elder David B. Haight and his wife Ruby celebrate their seventieth wedding anniversary.

September 17

* The Santo Domingo Dominican Republic Temple, the Church's ninety-ninth operating temple and the first in the Caribbean, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 23

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Snowflake Arizona Temple by Elder Rex D. Pinegar.

October 1

* The Boston Massachusetts Temple, the Church's one hundredth operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, fulfilling his desire to have a hundred temples in operation before the end of this year. Due to a lawsuit contesting the proposed height of the steeple, it is dedicated without one.

October 28

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Columbia River Washington Temple by Elder Stephen A. West.

November 4

* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Lubbock Texas Temple by Elder Rex D. Pinegar.
* Ground is broken and the site dedicated for the Monterrey Mexico Temple by Elder Lynn A. Mickelsen.

November 24

* The opinion page of the Santa Clarita Valley *Signal* in California publishes a letter titled “Enough is Enough” from a man named Paul Allen (not the same Paul Allen who co-founded Microsoft) complaining about the negative reputation of Mormons and praising for such aspects as their patriotism, clean living, work ethic, Christian values, and pretty girls. A year and a half later it is reproduced in an e-mail and goes viral.

December 15

* The Recife Brazil Temple, the Church's 101st operating temple and the second in Brazil, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The previous closest temple, in São Paulo, was a fifty-hour drive away.

December 17

* The Porto Alegre Brazil Temple, the Church's 102nd operating temple and the third in Brazil, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

2001

* Mormon anthropologist Thomas Murphy announces his conclusion that Native Americans do not contain any Middle Eastern DNA, and his opinion that the Book of Mormon is therefore fictional. He makes several faulty assumptions regarding DNA science and the text itself, the most obvious being that no one even knows what to look for and that the book never precludes the possibility of other peoples in the Americas.
* The Church releases a new edition of the “For the Strength of Youth” pamphlet.

March 18

* The Montevideo Uruguay Temple, the Church's 103rd operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

March 31

* President Gordon B. Hinckley announces the Perpetual Education Fund, a program that helps impoverished members in many countries to afford education and improve their circumstances by making low-interest loans.

April 22

* The Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple, the Church's 104th operating temple, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The dedicatory services are broadcast over the Church's encrypted satellite system to meetinghouses throughout North America.

April 29

* The Guadalajara Mexico Temple, the Church's 105th operating temple and the eleventh in Mexico, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

May 16

* A steeple is added to the Boston Massachusetts Temple after the Church wins the lawsuit over its height on appeal.

May 20

* The Perth Australia Temple, the Church's 106th operating temple and the fourth in Australia, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley. It is 1,400 miles away from the previous closest temple in Adelaide.

May 27

* Vandals break into a meetinghouse in Sandy, Utah, and cause over $100,000 in damage. They smash light fixtures and glass, spray fire extinguishers, and damage every faucet and toilet, causing flooding throughout the building. Police call it the worst case of vandalism they have ever seen.

July

* Posting on Zion's Lighthouse Message Board, LDS critic Bill Barton demonstrates that a Martin Luther quote often referenced by Mormons to support their belief in the Great Apostasy is in fact an amalgamation of three unrelated statements and does not accurately reflect Luther's meaning. Kevin Barney writes an article for the FAIR website and requests the cessation of further reference to the fabricated quote.

September 11

* Radical Islamic terrorists hijack passenger planes and fly them into the World Trade Center in New York City, killing thousands and devastating the United States. An urban legend later spreads saying that transferring missionaries were supposed to be on board the planes, or that a zone conference was supposed to be held in the World Trade Center, and that they were miraculously saved by missing their appointments, but there is no truth to it.

September 21

* Angel Moroni statues are added to the Boston Massachusetts, Nauvoo Illinois, and The Hague Netherlands Temples, in commemoration of the 178th anniversary of the angel Moroni's appearance to Joseph Smith.

November 18

* The Columbia River Washington Temple, the Church's 107th operating temple and the third in Washington state, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

December 20

* An angel Moroni statue is added to the spire of the Freiberg Germany Temple as part of a renovation and expansion project.

2002

* Due to poor convert retention, low member activity, low temple attendance, and challenges training local leadership, Elder Dallin H. Oakes is assigned to serve as president of the Philippines area, the first time an Apostle has been assigned abroad in half a century.

February

* The *Ensign* reprints the 1909 First Presidency statement “On the Origin of Man”, including the ambiguously anti-evolution sentences that were removed from the 1925 version. Whether this is an oversight or a deliberate choice is unknown, but many of the conservative *Ensign* staff are probably hostile toward the theory of evolution.

February 2

* The second meetinghouse in India is dedicated, hosting the Rajahmundry Branch. Although it is commonly regarded as the first, the first was in fact built by James Patric Meik a century and a half earlier.

March 3

* The Snowflake Arizona Temple, the Church's 108th operating temple and the second in Arizona, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

April 21

* The Lubbock Texas Temple, the Church's 109th operating temple and the third in Texas, is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

April 25

* The Paul Allen opinion letter “Enough is Enough” from a year and a half ago is reproduced in an e-mail that goes viral and erroneously claims him to be the same Paul Allen who co-founded Microsoft. The newspaper receives hundreds of inquiries from members all over the world as to whether it is authentic, and General Manager Tim Whyte finally reproduces the letter with an editorial expressing his amazement at their incredulity.

April 26

* Vandals attack a meetinghouse in Magna, Utah, breaking a window and spilling cleaning materials around the building.

April 28

* The Monterrey Mexico Temple is dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.

September 7

* The Freiberg Germany Temple, the Church's thirty-third operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, who also dedicated it the first time. It has been nearly doubled in size and the quality of construction and decor have been raised to higher standards.

September 28

* Elder M. Russell Ballard dedicates a monument in the Salt Lake City Cemetery to black pioneer and missionary Elijah Abel, sponsored by the Genesis Group and the Missouri Frontier Foundation. The monument describes him as the first African American priesthood holder of this dispensation, something the Church rarely mentions.

November 17

* The Monticello Utah Temple, the Church's fifty-third operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley following an expansion project that adds a second ordinance room, second sealing room, entrance canopy, waiting room, additional offices, and a laundry.

December 8

* The *Los Angeles Times* reports that Thomas Murphy may face excommunication for his genetics claims against the Book of Mormon, but the Church declines to confirm or deny it.

2003

* Michael F. Whiting, an LDS assistant professor of integrative biology and member of the scientific review panel for the Systematic Biology program of the National Science Foundation, publishes an article titled “DNA and the Book of Mormon: A Phylogenetic Perspective” in the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*. He briefly describes several reasons why DNA research can tell us virtually nothing about the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, and says he would be just as skeptical of anyone claiming that DNA proves the book true.
* A film called “The Legend of Johnny Lingo”, a remake of the 1969 BYU short film “Johnny Lingo”, is released. It provides much more backstory about the trader Johnny Lingo and his relationship with Mahana but retains the same message of self-worth and true beauty.

February

* Thomas Murphy and Simon G. Southerton publish an article in the *Anthropology News* referring to their DNA research as a “Galileo Event” for the Church. The media seizes on this concept.

February 24

* A meetinghouse in Orem, Utah is defaced by vandals.

April

* The Anchorage Alaska Temple is closed for a ten-month renovation project that nearly doubles its square footage. The renovation includes the addition of a second ordinance room, offices for temple staff, new men's and women's dressing rooms, a patron waiting room, a laundry facility, and an elevator.

July 9

* The Apia Samoa Temple, closed for an expansion and renovation project, burns to the ground in an accidental 45-minute blaze.

July 10

* Overwhelmed citizens find the angel Moroni statue standing dignified atop the remaining steel-and-concrete skeleton of the Apia Samoa Temple, and take courage in the sight.

July 16

* President Gordon B. Hinckley sends a letter to the Area Presidency announcing that the burned Apia Samoa Temple will be rebuilt.

July 24

* The angel Moroni statue is retrieved from the wreckage of the Apia Samoa Temple and put into storage.

October 19

* Ground is broken for the rebuilding of the Apia Samoa Temple by Elder Dennis E. Simmons of the Seventy. To create a larger temple site and a better view for passersby, a dated meetinghouse sharing the site is razed and a replacement chapel is built across the street.

November 19

* The irreverent television show *South Park* airs an episode titled “All About Mormons”, where a strange but friendly Mormon boy named Gary Harrison moves with his family to South Park. As the other characters ask questions, the show portrays an unflattering but mostly accurate musical version of Joseph Smith's story and concludes with the message that even if one's beliefs are ludicrous they can still help one be a better person.

2004

* Mexico becomes the first country outside the United States to have over one million nominal church members.
* Elder Dallin H. Oaks ends his tenure as president of the Philippines area. He reports that convert retention, member reactivation, tithing payments, and church magazine subscriptions have increased during this time, but that challenges remain.

January

* James Staudt, a White Plains lawyer representing the Church, tells the Journal News that the Harrison New York Temple will be build as soon as the Church is finished connecting the property to a sewer line on the other side of Hutchinson River Parkway.

February 8

* The Anchorage Alaska Temple, the Church's fifty-fourth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley following its ten-month renovation project.

February 22

* The São Paulo Brazil Temple, the Church's seventeenth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley.
* “The Best Two Years”, a film version of the stage play “The Best Two Years of My Life”, is released and receives acclaim as one of the finest Mormon films ever. It depicts a missionary named Elder Rogers who is suffering a lapse of faith and motivation after troubles in his personal life, but is revitalized by the arrival of his overenthusiastic new companion Elder Calhoun.

April 6

* President Gordon B. Hinckley's wife, Marjorie Pay, dies from causes incident to age.

May 28

* President Gordon B. Hinckley meets with members in a hotel convention hall on the property of Euro Disney in Paris, France. Remarking on the upcoming dedication of the Manhattan New York Temple, he promises to look for a temple site in or near Paris and asks them to join their prayers with his to help them find a suitable property.

June 23

* In the evening, Elder Matthew Weirich is hiking with three other LDS missionaries in Morton National Park, Australia, when he slips and falls off a 230-foot cliff, the equivalent of a 23-story building.

June 24

* Around dawn, a rescue squad makes it down to Elder Weirich. They find him alive but only semiconscious. He is taken to the hospital where they discover that he only has some swelling in his brain and a broken nose, and he makes a full recovery. A police spokesman tells the *Deseret News* that the Boss must have been looking out for him.

July 21

* Elder Neal A. Maxwell dies of leukemia. After his death, the BYU Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts is renamed the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship.

July 31

* Elder David B. Haight dies of causes incident to age, four days after attending the funeral of Neal A. Maxwell.

August 8

* Independent filmmakers release “Saints and Soldiers”, a World War II drama based on actual events about four American soldiers and one British struggling to return to Allied territory after the Malmedy Massacre. One of the Americans, Nathan “Deacon” Greer, is a Mormon from Arizona, and his convictions and inner demons profoundly affect his fellow soldiers. It wins fourteen Best Picture Awards at film festivals throughout the United States, and is an Independent Spirit Award nominee for Best First Feature and Cinematography.

September 10

* An angel Moroni statue is added to the spire of the Tokyo Japan Temple in front of hundreds of applauding onlookers. Although rain is forecast for today, the sky is beautiful and clear.

October 7

* Dieter F. Uchtdorf and David A. Bednar are ordained Apostles.

December 31

* A meetinghouse in Sandy, Utah is vandalized with numerous obscenities and derogatory remarks aimed at homosexuals, blacks, and Latter-day Saints spray-painted over a majority of its outside walls.

2005

* LDS scholar Richard Bushman releases *Joseph Smith – Rough Stone Rolling*, the most thorough biography of Joseph Smith ever attempted. Though written from a believer's perspective, it presents a “warts and all” approach to his life that makes some members uncomfortable and even prompts some to leave the Church.
* *Who Really Wrote the Book of Mormon?* is republished despite having been thoroughly debunked years ago in Volume 2 of *They Lie in Wait to Deceive*.

January 25

* The same angel Moroni statue that survived the burning of the Apia Samoa Temple is placed atop the spire of the replacement temple, still under construction.

July 26

* The *Salt Lake Tribune* runs an article debunking the myth that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the world's fastest growing religion, and discusses its serious difficulties in retaining converts. This comes as a rude awakening to many members who are used to only faith-promoting statistics.

August

* The Papeete Tahiti Temple closes for an extensive expansion and remodeling project.

September 4

* The Apia Samoa Temple, the Church's twenty-second operating temple which has been burned to the ground and rebuilt, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, who also dedicated the original building. It reflects the design of the original but provides over four thousand additional square feet, higher quality building materials, and a more efficient floor plan.
* John Dehlin launches his “Mormon Stories” podcast, a liberal-leaning podcast about Mormon doctrine, history, and culture. In it he interviews orthodox members, unorthodox members, apostates, and occasionally non-Mormons about pressing issues. His first episode, “Kiddie Baptisms? My Mission Experience in Guatemala” features only himself.

September 7

* An angel Moroni statue is added to the spire of the Bern Switzerland Temple in commemoration of its fiftieth anniversary.

September 11

* A comedy film called “Mobsters and Mormons” is released, telling the story of a Mafia member named Carmine “The Beans” Pasquale who enters the Witness Protection Program and is relocated with his family to a Provo-like town in Utah, where they must adjust to the culture shock and their Pharasaical neighbors with hilarious results. The film carries a message about loving one's neighbors and not being judgmental.

October 5

* Mormon author Stephanie Meyer publishes *Twilight*, a novel about an insecure teenage girl named Bella who falls in love with a vampire named Edward. It becomes one of the most popular novels since the Harry Potter series, especially among females.

2006

* The Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research launches the FAIR Wiki at fairmormon.org to more easily keep up with criticisms in real time. It soon surpasses the main site in popularity.
* The Doubleday edition of the Book of Mormon changes the introduction to say that Lamanites are “among” rather than the “principle” ancestors of the American Indians, changes some chapter headings and footnotes to emphasize the spiritual nature of the Lamanite curse rather than the skin change, and replaces the word “coinage” in one chapter heading with “monetary system”. These changes are based on current archeological knowledge and a better understanding of what the book actually claims.
* The Harrison New York Temple is quietly removed from the Church's official list of announced temples, probably owing to the construction of a temple in Manhattan.

January 4

* A missionary named Elder Morgan Young is shot by an unknown assailant in Chesapeake, Virginia, and dies in the hospital.

March

* The Church attempts to purchase a huge tract of land outside of Versailles, France, owned by the Clerico family, about one-third of the small city of Villepreux, reportedly for a temple. The mayor of Villepreux says he prefers the Mormons to the other interested parties – an Arab emirate and a Russian – because of their morality and quality of investment. However, the Church does not succeed in acquiring the property.

March 7

* Ex-Mormon turned evangelical Christian Shawn McCraney launches a weekly anti-Mormon television show based in Salt Lake City called “Heart of the Matter”, with an episode called “Re-birth” in which he shares his story of leaving the Church and being “born again”.

March 12

* The Santiago Chile Temple, the Church's twenty-fourth operating temple, is rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, who also dedicated it the first time. It is his first major appearance since receiving surgery for colon cancer.

April

* President Gordon B. Hinckley gives a General Conference talk called “The Need for Greater Kindness” about the prejudice and hatred throughout the world and even within the Church. Among other things, he says he has been told that racial slurs and denigrating remarks are sometimes heard among the Mormons, and that no man who makes disparaging remarks about those of another race can consider himself a true disciple of Christ.

June

* The Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple is closed for an extensive expansion and remodeling project.

November 7

* Two Mormon teenagers, Michael Ferguson and Christina Bell, break into a chapel in Sugar House, Utah, paint graffiti throughout the interior, smash property, then pour gasoline and ignite it. Two men living next door see them leaving, tackle them, and hold them until the police arrive.

November 8

* A meetinghouse in Canyon Rim, Utah is attacked with graffiti and a Molotov cocktail.

November 12

* The Papeete Tahiti Temple, the Church's twenty-fifth operating temple, is rededicated by Elder L. Tom Perry.

2007

* Militant atheist Christopher Hitchens publishes a book titled *god is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*. It becomes a bestseller despite its virtually nonexistent standard of research. Part of it is devoted to attacking the Church, and it gets many basic details of doctrine and history incorrect, such as the date of the priesthood revelation and the process of baptisms for the dead.
* The independent film “Tears of a King: The Latter-Days of Elvis Presley” is released, telling the little-known story of his spiritual journey and his intention to convert to Mormonism. The film is not primarily about Mormonism per se but rather the Christian convictions of a man who struggled with personal failings and a Hollywood lifestyle thrust upon him from a young age.
* David G. Stewart, M.D., releases in e-book and print form *Law of the Harvest: Practical Principles of Effective Missionary Work*. It destroys faith-promoting myths about LDS church growth and missionary success, points out that Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses are performing much better within similar parameters, and offers proven ideas to increase outreach, baptisms and convert retention.

February 3

* Prominent evangelical John W. Morehead writes a blog post criticizing an anti-Mormon DVD full of misrepresentations and half-truths, ironically titled “Search for the Truth”, that Tri-Grace Ministries plans to distribute to thousands of LDS homes. Among other things he criticizes the false dichotomy of Jesus Christ versus Joseph Smith and the recycling of arguments and tactics that have been used for decades with little success. The producers request that he remove his post to preserve their secrecy until the plan comes to fruition, and he complies.

February 10

* After consulting with a Christian philosopher and ethicist, John W. Morehead decides that his concern for justice trumps Tri-Grace Ministries' concern for secrecy, and re-posts his unflattering review of “Search for the Truth”.

February 16

* On “Real Time with Bill Maher”, liberal atheist comedian Bill Maher and his co-hosts mock the Church and claim that it is demonstrably false. Among other things he presents skewed sound-bite versions of the Lamanite DNA non-issue and Elder Mark E. Peterson's racist remarks from his speech fifty-three years earlier. The clip is released on YouTube under the disingenuous title “Bill Maher Exposes Mormon Religion”.

March

* The Mexico City Mexico Temple is closed for a renovation and remodeling project which includes seismic enhancements, replacement of the precast concrete exterior panels, refurbishment of the angel Moroni statue, revamping of the landscaping, and remodeling of the baptistry, main lobby, corridors, sealing rooms, and ordinance rooms.

March 25

* “Search for the Truth” is distributed to thousands of LDS homes across the United States by Tri-Grace Ministries and/or Concerned Christians Inc. An earlier letter to distributors contradicts itself, both saying that Mormonism is extremely vulnerable but also that the leaders must not learn of the planned distribution or they will thwart it. The DVD has no noticeable effect on the Church's size or growth.

March 27

* In a press release, the Anti-Defamation League condemns the “Search for the Truth” DVD as the same old-fashioned Mormon-bashing that Concerned Christians has been spewing for over a quarter century.

March 29

* In an online press release, the Church responds to the DVD “Search for the Truth” by noting that Mormons do not spend their time criticizing or trying to disprove other faiths. It includes a link to FAIR's extensive review of the film, a rare acknowledgment of grassroots apologetics.

April 2

* The Rt. Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish, Episcopal Bishop of Utah, writes to the *Salt Lake Tribune* expressing her dismay at the approach taken by the “Search for the Truth” DVD campaign, and her hope that people will promote their own faith traditions without attacking those of others.

April 4

* Italian Prime Minister Prodi signs the Church's intesa and it proceeds to Parliament.

April 30

* The first two-hour segment of a PBS documentary called “The Mormons”, jointly produced by *Frontline* and *American Experience*, is aired. It presents a commendably balanced portrait of the Church with input from members, leaders, ex-members, and scholars both within and without the Church.
* A website is released accompanying “The Mormons” documentary with additional interviews and information.

May 1

* The second two-hour segment of the PBS documentary “The Mormons” is aired.

July 21

* In anticipation of the thousands of visitors expected at the open house of the Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, Helping Hands initiates a nine-week nationwide clean-up campaign involving thousands of citizens across all faiths, numerous community groups, organizations, and businesses.

August 10

* President James E. Faust dies.

August 24

* A film called “September Dawn” is released, presenting an unflattering and largely fabricated depiction of the Mountain Meadows Massacre with the involvement of church leadership at the highest level. The Church refuses to generate the hoped-for controversy and the film recoups barely over a tenth of its budget, being blasted almost universally by movie reviewers for its bigotry and poor filmmaking.

August 19

* Carole Schutter, creator of “September Dawn”'s story and co-writer of its screenplay, emails several ex-Mormons and asks for their help investigating a suspected Church conspiracy to make all the reviewers criticize her film.

August 31

* Carole Schutter issues a press release about “September Dawn”, discussing a nonexistent controversy and Church backlash against it. This fails to improve ticket sales or reviews.

October 11

* Quentin L. Cook is ordained an Apostle.

November 4

* The Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, the Church's twenty-third operating temple, is rededicated by Elder Russel M. Nelson after an extensive addition and remodeling project that added over five thousand square feet. It is Constitution Day, the day the Tonga Constitution was enacted 132 years earlier.

2008

* The Birmingham Alabama Temple is selected for a beautification award from the city of Gardendale for its attractive grounds.

January 2

* John Dehlin gives a PowerPoint presentation titled “Why People Leave the LDS Church”. He describes how members feel disillusioned and betrayed when they learn controversial historical facts that are rarely mentioned by the Church, and gives several examples, but maintains that he does not consider any of these issues to disprove the Church. He also discusses some cultural issues and how members can help their friends and family members who are having doubts.

January 27

* President Gordon B. Hinckley passes away at the age of ninety-seven and a half, having served to an older age than any previous President of the Church.
* At Gordon B. Hinckley's death, the Church has 2,790 stakes, 348 missions, 13,193,999 nominal members, and 124 temples.
* Besides members of the Church, condolences are expressed by U.S. President George W. Bush, Episcopal Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish, Utah-Nevada-Idaho NAACP President Jeanetta Williams, Larry King of *Larry King Live*, Iceland President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, League of Arab States ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Kyrgyz Republic ambassador Zamira Sydykova, and Israel ambassador Yuval Rotem.

January 28

* Thousands of LDS teenagers wear their Sunday best to school in honor of President Gordon B. Hinckley.

February 2

* Gordon B. Hinckley's funeral is held. Tributes are given by his daughter Virginia H. Pearce, Bishop David H. Burton, Elder Earl C. Tingey, President Boyd K. Packer, President Henry B. Eyring, and President Thomas S. Monson. Four members of the Westboro Baptist Church protest the funeral due to President Hinckley's love and compassion towards gay people.

March

* Greg West founds the Society for the Prevention of Anti-Mormonism, or SPAM, in response to rising anti-Mormon attacks that accompany Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. Rather than being an apologetics site, it studies the tactics, motives, and activities of anti-Mormons in the media, in various ministries, atheist groups, etcetera, and tracks incidents of vandalism and violence against members of the Church.

April 1

* As an April Fool’s joke, an e-mail begins circulating with a link to a fake CNN web page about rap artist Snoop Dogg converting to the Church. The fake article says that he was introduced to the Church by Gladys Knight when she invited him to a Family Home Evening, and includes a Photoshopped picture of Snoop Dogg reading the Book of Mormon.

April 5

* A missionary is assaulted in Mesa, Arizona.

April 22

* The home of an LDS family in Texas is sprayed with graffiti saying “Mormons Die – Watch Your Backs”.

May 2

* A missionary named Elder Tyler Bowen is assaulted in Richmond, Virginia, leaving him with a broken jaw.

June

* The Church is approached by San Francisco Catholic Archbishop George Niederauer and asked to join a coalition of various faith groups to work for the passage of California Proposition 8, which will amend the state constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman. This will prevent schoolchildren from being taught about same-sex marriage or religious groups from being pressured to accept it, but same-sex couples will still enjoy many of the same rights and privileges under California's civil unions. The Church agrees to join the coalition.

June 29

* Congregational leaders in California read aloud a letter from the church hierarchy requesting members to donate of their means and time to ensure the passage of Proposition 8. This is not presented as a commandment, but still alienates many socially progressive members.

August 14

* A meetinghouse in Cottonwood, Arizona is broken into. The walls and furniture are spray-painted, artwork on the walls is destroyed, computers in the clerk offices are damaged, and fire extinguishers are discharged.

August 16

* An ex-Mormon named Anthony calls into Michael Medved's political radio show and shares his view that there is a Mormon conspiracy to take over the U.S. government with Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Medved retorts that most Mormons are embarrassed by Harry Reid and that the only Mormon conspiracy is a conspiracy to do good.

August 24

* The Twin Falls Idaho Temple is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

October 3

* Liberal atheist comedian Bill Maher releases his mockumentary “Religulous”, which consists of him interviewing various believers and making them look stupid to demonstrate his superiority. The film features interviews with two ex-Mormons, arranged by the Ex-Mormon Foundation, as well as a picture of temple garments (derided as “magic underwear”) and clips from the cartoon portion of “The God Makers”. Even reviewers who like the film comment on Maher's arrogance, cowardice, and hypocrisy.

October 4

* Temples are announced for Calgary, Alberta; Córdoba, Argentina; the greater Kansas City, Missouri area; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Rome, Italy. Given the Church's history of persecution in western Missouri, the Kansas City announcement elicits an audible gasp from those in attendance.
* President Thomas S. Monson urges members to pray for the opening of countries where the Church's influence is currently limited or forbidden.
* In a blog post called “Memoirs of a Former Evangelical Anti-Mormon”, Bridgett Jack Jeffries tells of the incompetence and bigotry she encountered while involved in the counter-cult movement, particularly in the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, as well as its refusal to acknowledge the superior responses of LDS apologists. She refers to evangelical anti-Mormonism as the “intellectual short bus”. The post brings much attention to her formerly obscure blog.

October 8

* A satellite broadcast again urges members in California to support Proposition 8 and recommends the establishment of call centers.

October 17

* Two missionaries, Elders Chris Collinsworth and David Ferguson, suffer multiple non-life threatening stab wounds in an unprovoked attack by three unknown men in a suburb of Sydney, Australia. Both are hospitalized. Elder Ferguson has tendons cut in his hand and needs surgery.

October 26

* A “No on 8” protest is held at the Oakland California Temple.

October 31

* The Campaign Courage Issues Committee releases a YouTube ad of two Mormon missionaries entering the home of a lesbian couple, ransacking it until they find a marriage license, and tearing it up. They leave wondering what rights they can take away next. The ad is misleading, both because missionaries are not participating in the political effort and because current same-sex marriages will remain valid after Proposition 8 is passed and civil unions will continue to provide most of the same rights and privileges. It receives an overwhelmingly negative response even from opponents of Proposition 8.

November 4

* The “No on 8” YouTube ad of Mormon missionaries invading a lesbian couple's home is aired on several television stations.
* Proposition 8 passes and same-sex marriage in California becomes unconstitutional. Individual Mormons, though not the Church as an institution, have given an estimated $22 million to the effort, although the opposing side actually raised more money. In the following weeks, Latter-day Saint meetinghouses and temples in California and elsewhere are picketed and vandalized while members themselves are subjected to harassment, intimidation, blacklisting, and death threats. A few members leave the Church, but most of them were already inactive.

November 5

* The Church issues a statement calling for mutual respect and civility from both sides of the Proposition 8 debate and accepting the fact that some church members, influenced by their own unique experiences and circumstances, had chosen to oppose the measure.
* The *Meridian Magazine* website, ldsmag.com, is hacked by Proposition 8 opponents and its content is replaced with explicit lesbian films. The site is down for half a day while they are removed.

November 6

* In a blog post criticizing Mormons, Catholics, and Jews for their support of Proposition 8, liberal comedian Roseanne Barr urges her readers to protest outside the Los Angeles California Temple.
* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Los Angeles California Temple.

November 7

* Proposition 8 protests are held at Los Angeles California and Salt Lake Temples.
* A meetinghouse in Orangevale, California is spray-painted with “No on 8” and “hypocrites”.

November 8

* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Los Angeles California Temple.
* A meetinghouse in Saint Louis Obispo, California, is defaced along with several other Christian churches.
* Bishop William Weigand, Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, California, and Bishop John C. Wester, Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City, both release statements praising the Church's stance on Proposition 8 and decrying the bigotry that has been leveled against it in the aftermath.

November 9

* Proposition 8 protests are held at the Oakland California Temple, the Los Angeles California Temple, the San Diego California Temple, and the Seattle Washington Temple. It is a Sunday, and the protestors are apparently unaware that the temples are closed.
* At the Oakland Temple protest, San Francisco supervisor Bevan Dufty [sic] says that the “Mormon Church” has had to rely on the city's tolerance in the past to express their beliefs, and that they have made a huge mistake and forgotten some lessons. FAIR asks him if he is referring to the lessons of a state-sponsored extermination order and the associated rapes and murders, but receives no response.

November 10

* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Oakland California Temple.
* Five meetinghouses in Layton, Utah have their windows shot out with a BB gun.

November 11

* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Los Angeles California Temple. Some Hispanic women who attempt to remove their desecrating signs from the temple grounds are beaten by a mob.
* A Book of Mormon is set on fire and left burning on the steps of a chapel in Arapahoe County, Colorado.
* A meetinghouse in Sacramento, California is spray-painted with “No on 8”.

November 12

* Proposition 8 protests are held at the Manhattan New York Temple and the Spokane Washington Temple.

November 13

* Envelopes containing suspicious white powder are sent to the Los Angeles California and Salt Lake Temples, forcing their closure while Hazardous Material teams are called in to investigate. The powder turns out to be harmless.

November 15

* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Washington D.C. Temple.
* An organization called Above the Hate writes a “Letter Against Hate to President Monson”, expressing its gratitude for the Church's stand on protecting traditional marriage and its outrage at the vile and indecent attacks directed specifically against the Church. The public is invited to add their signatures, and the leaders of many Christian organizations do so.

November 16

* The Mexico City Mexico Temple, the Church's twenty-sixth operating temple, is rededicated by President Thomas S. Monson. He promises that there will be continued growth and more temples in Mexico. Since its construction, it has dropped at least eight feet in elevation due to the rapid subsidence of Mexico City.
* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Newport Beach California Temple. It is a Sunday again, and the protestors are apparently still unaware that the temple is closed.
* Proposition 8 protestors attempt to disrupt worship services at a chapel in Vallejo, California.

November 19

* A Seminary building in Syracuse, New York is evacuated and HAZMAT teams are called in response to a report of a suspicious package received at the building. Police react strongly due to the white powder in suspicious packages delivered to temples the previous week.
* Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of the irreverent show “South Park”, announce their intentions to produce a musical called “The Book of Mormon”.

November 22

* Thousands protest Proposition 8 on the State Capitol building steps in Sacramento, California. Vulgar comedian Margaret Cho performs a song slamming Mormons for their support of the measure and suggesting that voters not let them get away with it. Lesbian activist Robin Tyler says that same-sex marriage opponents have no right to complain about any physical or verbal attacks they have suffered, and that it is easier to wash a paint stain off a church than to remove the stain they left on the California Constitution.

November 28

* A Proposition 8 protest is held at the Mesa Arizona Temple.

December

* Members in a small city in the rainforest called Puerto Francisco de Orellana, Ecuador, contact Timothy Sloan, president of the Ecuador Quito Mission, and ask permission to have the sacrament. Puerto Francisco de Orellana has no official Church presence.

December 15

* An 8-foot statue of the angel Moroni is added by helicopter to the London England Temple's 160-foot spire.

December 24

* A frozen ceiling sprinkler pipe bursts inside the Chicago Illinois Temple, causing extensive water damage. An army of craftsmen from as far away as New Mexico replaces all of the carpet, over two thousand feet of wood trim, and most of the furniture in just two months.

December 29

* The Laie Hawaii Temple is closed for renovations a second time.

2009

* The grounds of the Papeete Tahiti Temple are expanded after the Church acquires a large parcel of adjacent land, which permits the addition of more parking and gardens, the straightening of the only access road, and a reconfiguration of the front entrance. These projects improve visibility of the temple as frontage along the main road greatly increases.

Early January

* Latter-day Saint Marco Villavicencio and his wife are considering a job opportunity that will require relocating from Machala, Ecuador, to Puerto Francisco de Orellana. They wonder whether the Church is there and pray about whether they should move, then learn that the Church is just being established there.

January 16

* Tom Hanks, an actor and the executive producer of “Big Love”, says that Mormons are un-American for voting and spending money to codify discrimination in California's Proposition 8. Church spokeswoman Kim Farah responds the expressing opinions in a free and democratic society is as American as it gets, while Bill McKeever retorts that all laws discriminate in some form and Hanks is discriminating against those who disagree with him.

January 23

* Through a statement by his publicist, Tom Hanks apologizes for calling Mormons un-American and causing more division when the time calls for respectful disagreement.

February

* Marco Villavicencio and his wife move to Puerto Francisco de Orellana, Ecuador.

February 17

* LDS and Presbyterian churches are vandalized in Oregon.

March

* The Spokane Washington Temple receives a new angel Moroni atop its spire. Unlike the first, which faced east, this one faces west along with the temple.

March 14

* Ground is broken for the Quetzaltenango Guatemala Temple by Elder Don R. Clarke.

April 4

* Joseph W. Sitati is called to the First Quorum of the Seventy, becoming the first black African General Authority and the second of black African descent. Helvécio Martins had been the first of black African descent but was of Brazilian nationality, and Christoffel Golden Jr. was the first native African but was white.

July 1

* The Atlanta Georgia Temple is closed for a complete remodel of the interior, renovation of the exterior, and relandscaping of the grounds.

August 22

* In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Spokane Washington Temple, members of the Spokane Washington East Stake ensure that every seat in every session is filled the entire day.

September

* The first branch is organized in Puerto Francisco de Orellana, Ecuador. Marco Villavicencio, who had moved there seven months previous, is called as the branch president.
* A Spanish LDS edition of the Bible is released with footnotes and other resources similar to the English version. The base text is a slightly modernized version of the 1909 edition of the Reina-Valera Bible.

October 13

* Elder Dallin H. Oaks speaks at BYU-Idaho. He compares defense of traditional marriage to the Civil Rights movement, and the post-Proposition 8 backlash against the Church to voter intimidation of blacks in the South.

October 14

* Liberal television pundit Keith Olbermann gives Elder Dallin H. Oaks his daily “Worst Person in the World” award for his speech the previous day, saying that his Civil Rights comparison was ironic because the Church was on the wrong side of integration. Olbermann is incorrect, because despite the priesthood and temple ban on blacks the Church had issued statements in support of civil rights and the opinions of individual leaders varied.

November 1

* The Buenos Aires Argentina Temple is closed for an extensive expansion and remodeling project that adds two new wings connected by a central foyer. Argentine details are used throughout the building including art glass featuring the colors of the Argentine flag, decorative painting and gold leafing reflecting patterns from historic architecture in Buenos Aires, and decorative wood trim and paneling featuring Anigre and Makore hardwoods from Africa. The landscaping and gardens are redesigned to include a beautiful entry plaza and fountain.

November 10

* During the Salt Lake City Council public comment period, Public Affairs representative Michael Otterson speaks in favor of proposed nondiscrimination ordinances for same-sex couples in employment and housing. He says that the Church favors such basic rights that do not jeopardize the sanctity of marriage.

December 5

* Bridgett Jack Jeffries posts some further thoughts and reflections on her blog post of the previous year, “Memoirs of a Former Evangelical Anti-Mormon”. She mentions things that she would do differently now – for instance, she regrets her “short bus” analogy and not being more specific about which tactics she found objectionable. However, her appraisal of the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry remains the same.

December 14

* An anti-Mormon blog called “Brigham Young Quotes”, which mines controversial quotes from sources such as the Journal of Discourses, posts a fabricated quote claiming that any man who changes the endowment ceremony, abandons polygamy, gives blacks the priesthood, or interferes in the lives of others to live as they see fit, is a fallen prophet. Ex-Mormons eagerly scour the Internet to find a source for the quote.

2010

May 13

* The Italian Cabinet, or Council of Ministers, approves the Church's intesa. Only a few formalities remain before it becomes law, but they will take more than two years.

May 20

* Deseret Book ceases printing of Elder Bruce R. McConkie's controversial book *Mormon Doctrine*, citing low sales. However, Amazon.com and Salt Lake City booksellers report that the book's sales are consistently higher than many other LDS titles still in print, and it is widely felt that the decision was made to distance the modern Church from many of the views put forth in the book.

June 1

* In time for the United States mid-term elections Pete von Sholly and Steve Tatham publish a book called *Repuglicans*, which features edited pictures of leading conservative politicians and spokespeople portrayed as monsters and zombies. The page about Mitt Romney mocks his Mormon faith for for such factors as polygamy, temple garments, the Word of Wisdom, baptisms for the dead, and LDS musicians David Archuleta and Donny and Marie Osmond. The book also features fellow Mormon Glenn Beck but does not mention his faith.

June 20

* Writer/director Reed Cowan and ex-Mormon narrator Dustin Lance Black release a documentary titled “8: The Mormon Proposition”. It contains several blatant falsehoods and half-truths about the Church's involvement in this and similar initiatives, including fabricated quotes, misrepresentations of doctrine, lies about the obtaining and use of funds to support Proposition 8, and an inaccurate portrayal of what outlawing same-sex marriage actually entails.

September 8

* In Sarajevo, Elder Russel M. Nelson dedicates Bosnia and Herzegovina for the preaching of the gospel.

October 2

* Temples are announced for Lisbon, Portugal; Indianapolis, Indiana; Urdaneta, Philippines; Hartford, Connecticut; and Tijuana, Mexico. The Hartford temple was previously announced over a decade earlier but replaced with plans for temples in Massachusetts and New York.

October 3

* Elder Boyd K. Packer gives a General Conference talk called “Cleansing the Inner Vessel” about resisting temptations and inclinations. Although he never mentions homosexuality or same-sex attraction, the talk is widely misinterpreted by members and observers alike to be saying that gay people can change their sexual orientation.

October 10

* The Human Rights Campaign launches a petition to call for a retraction of Elder Packer's General Conference talk, which they claim is misleading and will exacerbate the problem of suicides and homelessness among gay youth.

October 12

* Public Affairs representative Michael Otterson issues a response to the Human Rights Campaign's petition. He says that although the Church differs with the HRC on many issues, it stands in agreement that bullying of homosexuals is unacceptable and that all people should be treated with love and respect. Elder Packer's talk is not retracted, and the HRC is very upset.

November 10

* The Laie Hawaii Temple, the Church's fifth operating temple, is rededicated a second time by President Thomas S. Monson.

November 22

* In response to the Church's recent “I'm a Mormon” campaign, a Canadian man named Robert makes an “I'm an Ex-Mormon” video, describing how he felt betrayed and lied to when he learned that controversial and lesser-known aspects of church history are not anti-Mormon fabrications. It becomes popular in the ex-Mormon community and starts an entire spinoff campaign that lasts almost a year.

December 17

* Human error causes a four-alarm fire that guts the historic Provo tabernacle and most of its furnishings. It is devastating for Mormons and non-Mormons alike, who have long used it as an iconic community gathering place.

December 18

* In the wreckage of the burned Provo tabernacle is found a giclee print of *The Second Coming* by Harry Anderson, which depicts Jesus Christ coming through the clouds with heralding angels on either side. The painting is completely blackened by residual fire except for the untouched figure of Christ himself with hands outstretched. It is considered a Christmas miracle and removed immediately for preservation.

2011

February 24

* A musical called “The Book of Mormon”, from the creators of the television show “South Park”, is previewed. It is a vulgar and irreverent comedy that follows the misadventures and culture shock of a pair of missionaries, Elders Kevin Price and Arnold Cunningham, who are called to Uganda and unprepared to help with third world problems. They end up fabricating a new religion that meets the people's needs. Though the play mocks Mormon beliefs and culture, it portrays Mormons as genuinely loving and happy people.

March 24

* “The Book of Mormon” musical debuts at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre on Broadway. Response is overwhelmingly positive, though some point out the hypocrisy of lauding religious mockery that would be unthinkable if it were directed toward Jews or Muslims. This musical marks the beginning of an increase in publicity that the media dubs the “Mormon Moment”.

April 2

* Temples are announced for Fort Collins, Colorado; Meridian, Idaho; and Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Meridian temple is needed due to growth in the area and because the Boise Temple cannot be expanded, but the Winnipeg announcement is a surprise because the entire province of Manitoba boasts only one stake.
* The Ogden Utah Temple is closed for a renovation project that will completely change its exterior design.

May 1

* The Atlanta Georgia Temple, the Church's twenty-first operating temple, is rededicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

June 2

* Mitt Romney announces the start of his second bid for the Republican Presidential nomination. He focuses on the economy and criticizes incumbent Barack Obama's mishandling of it.

June 4

* Following much neighborhood opposition, ground is broken for the Phoenix Arizona Temple by Elder Ronald A. Rasband.

June 5

* The Moscow Russia District is upgraded to the Moscow Russia Stake, the first stake in Russia. Russia had been anticipated to receive its first stake by the late nineties, but poor convert retention and member activity rates prevented that from happening.

June 18

* Ground is broken for the Fort Lauderdale Florida Temple by Walter F. González.

June 21

* *Le Parisien* reveals the Church's intentions to build a temple in Le Chesnay, a suburb of Paris, France.
* Jon Huntsman Jr., a Latter-day Saint, formally enters the race for the Republican Presidential nomination in the United States.

July

* The Hill Cumorah pageant, “America's Witness for Christ”, celebrates its 75th anniversary. However, it has not been performed for that many consecutive years, as it was canceled during World War II.

July 15

* A Church statement from President Thomas S. Monson confirms the report that it intends to build a temple in France.

August 1

* A new angel Moroni statue is hoisted atop the tallest spire of the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple in conjunction with its renovation.

August 4

* At its thirteenth annual Mormon Apologetics Conference, FAIR announces the launch of a group called the Mormon Defense League at MDL.org to respond to common misconceptions and false information about the Church put forth in the media. It is soon renamed MormonVoices and moved to mormonvoices.org.

August 11

* A segment of comedian Stephen Colbert's “Yahweh or No Way?” humorously and favorably comments on the relative normality of Mitt Romney and Mormons in general as well as the irresistible coolness of the “I'm a Mormon” ad campaign.

August 15

* The Denver Colorado Temple is closed for a six-week renovation project which includes modernization of the heating and air conditioning systems, roof work, new carpet, conversion of a sealing room into a sealing office, and conversion of the dining room and kitchen into a nonpatron waiting room and temple worker break room.

August 21

* The San Salvador El Salvador Temple, the Church's 135th operating temple, is dedicated by President Henry B. Eyring.

August 27

* The final episode of the “I am an Ex-Mormon” video series is uploaded. The reason(s) for the series' discontinuance are unknown but may have to do with lack of funds.

September 1

* Changes to the senior missionary policies take effect. Couples may now serve for 6, 12, 18 or 23 months, a cap of $1,400 is established for housing costs, and they may return home temporarily for important family events. These changes enable many more elderly couples to find missions that work for them.

September 14

* Ground is broken for the Trujillo Peru Temple by Elder Rafael E. Pino.

September 17

* Ground is broken for the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple by President Henry B. Eyring. It is the 224th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States at Philadelphia's Independence Hall. However, the official beginning of construction is delayed for well over a year.

October

* A complete renovation of the landscaping of the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple is completed, which includes replacement of the flowerbeds on the east side of the temple with a beautiful waterfall feature, installation of four gathering plazas – one in each quadrant of the grounds, reconfiguration of the walkway to the baptistry, and creation of a bridal courtyard on the south side of the temple.

October 1

* Temples are announced for Barranquilla, Colombia; Durban, South Africa; Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Star Valley, Wyoming. The Star Valley Temple will fulfill a prophecy by Elder Moses Thatcher. Additionally, President Thomas S. Monson announces that the burned Provo tabernacle will be rebuilt into a second temple for the city, as its first temple is one of the busiest in the Church.
* President Thomas S. Monson makes public the existence of the General Temple Assistance Fund established in 1992 and encourages members to contribute. Demand on the fund is heavy from Africa, the Pacific, and Asia.
* Elder L. Whitney Clayton lauds the Church's growth as a fulfillment of prophecies and a direct result of its truthfulness, but neglects to mention that roughly two-thirds of the membership total are inactive or that the Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists have grown significantly faster within shorter timeframes.

October 8

* Ground is broken for the Payson Utah Temple by Elder Dallin H. Oaks.
* Evangelical pastor Robert Jeffress, introducing Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry at the Values Voters Summit, refers to Mormonism as a non-Christian cult. Republican presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman refers to Jeffress as a moron.

October 9

* Evangelical leader Richard Mouw writes an opinion piece on CNN's Belief Blog, explaining why he does not consider Mormonism to be a cult and why evangelicals can vote for Mitt Romney with a clear conscience.

October 11

* In an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, Robert Jeffress clarifies that Mormonism is a “theological” cult, which is not intended as an insult, and that he would support a “non-Christian” with good values like Mitt Romney over a “Christian” like Barack Obama who does not embody Christian principles. Cooper is unimpressed and speaks in the Church's defense.

October 22

* Ground is broken for the Sapporo Japan Temple by Gary E. Stevenson.

December

* Church historian Marlin K. Jensen gives a Q&A devotional at Utah State University. In response to a question about members leaving in droves, he admits that the Church is experiencing its greatest period of apostasy since the Kirtland Safety Society failure, and that the Internet is playing a large role, especially among young people. He says the Church's curriculum is badly out of date and that leaders are working to improve on making strange and controversial information available in church sources.

December 4

* During the First Presidency Christmas Devotional, President Henry B. Eyring announces The Life of Jesus Christ Bible videos website at BibleVideos.lds.org, a gift to the world for the holiday season. It provides more than a hundred vignettes from the life of Christ taken directly from the text of the King James Bible, intended to be used freely by individuals, families, and other groups.

December 11

* The Quetzaltenango Guatemala Temple, the Church's 136th operating temple, is dedicated by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf.

2012

* The Church creates stakes in more countries than in any other year of its history, and the first stakes in more countries than in any year since 1977.
* The Idaho Falls Beautification Commission awards the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple grounds renovation project its top award for the non-residential category.

January 8

* MormonVoices releases its list of “Top Ten Anti-Mormon Statements in 2011”.

January 16

* Having focused his energy and resources on the New Hampshire primary in which he finished third, Jon Huntsman Jr. announces the end of his presidential campaign and endorses Mitt Romney.

January 18

* Elder Russel M. Nelson encourages Nicaraguan members in their holiness, family history work, and Christlike love, and promises that when they are ready the Lord will do his part so that they have a temple. Low rates of member activity continue to delay an announcement.

January 24

* The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum and Miles Goodyear Cabin are relocated from the Ogden Utah Temple site to their new permanent location one block west on a half-acre, city-donated site at the corner of Lincoln St. and 21st Avenue.

February

* Maxine Hanks, one of the scholars excommunicated as part of the “September Six” in 1993, is re-baptized at the invitation of church leadership. She has spent the last ten years studying and searching for a new religion or worldview, and her studies have led her back to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She also says that gender equality does exist in the Church although it is hard to see because it works differently than the secular world.

February 7

* Internet comedian David Ackerman dresses up in blackface and asks mostly white BYU students what they think about black people and black history month. He receives many ignorant and mildly racist answers. However, it is pointed out that Ackerman himself is being racist by dressing up in blackface, and that students in other colleges of similar ethnic demographics would probably do no better. The students also claim their answers are taken out of context.

February 14

* BYU student Brittany Molina receives a note from a fellow student asking her to abide by the Honor Code and consider that what she is wearing has a negative effect on people around her. She tweets a picture of the note and her outfit, which is not in violation of the Honor Code. The tweet goes viral and is featured on the news.
* After his name appears in a church database for potential posthumous baptisms, Nobel-laureate Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel says that Mitt Romney should use his stature as the most famous and important Mormon in the United States to block church members from posthumously baptizing Jewish Holocaust victims against Church policy. The Church indefinitely suspends the genealogy records access of the individual responsible for submitting Wiesel's name.

February 23

* Comedian Stephen Colbert performs a segment in which he posthumously converts dead Mormons to Judaism by symbolically circumcising a hot dog.

February 24

* In response to Mitt Romney's remarks that society should concern itself with the large number of children born out of wedlock, New York Times columnist Charles Blow tweets that he is a single parent and his children are amazing, and tells Romney to stick that in his “magic underwear”.

February 25

* The Portland Oregon Temple Visitors' Center opens in the building adjacent to the temple that formerly housed Distribution Services, which has been relocated a short distance away next to an operating Deseret Book store.

February 28

* In an interview with the *Washington Post* about the Church's stand on race, BYU professor Randy Bott shares some of the disavowed folklore as rationalization for the black priesthood ban. He has been teaching it in his classroom for over thirty years.

February 29

* BYU says that Professor Bott did not follow the university media policy in speaking with the *Washington Post*.
* The Mormon Newsroom issues a statement condemning past racism inside and outside the Church and saying that the reasons for the priesthood ban are unknown. It even acknowledges that black people were ordained to the priesthood under Joseph Smith's tenure. However, many feel it is dishonest for not mentioning that Professor Bott's ideas came from past church leaders.

March

* A Jewish Latter-day Saint named Katrina Lantos Swett becomes head of the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom, a little-known oversight body commissioned by Congress to monitor and call attention to abuse of religious minorities abroad. She wants to expand the organization's visibility at home to increase its effectiveness abroad.

March 12

* Reverend O'Neal Dozier, a conservative black minister and Rick Santorum's Florida chairman, calls for Mitt Romney to renounce his religion for its alleged prejudice against blacks, Jews, and Native Americans. He shows a chart of 104 General Authorities of which only one, Joseph W. Sitati, is black.
* Fred Bethel, a black bishop in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, responds to Reverend Dozier's accusation by listing three points: that the Book of Mormon was translated from an African language, Egyptian; that the LDS scriptures use words like “skin”, “black”, and “darkness” as a metaphorical reference to the state of the spirit, heart, and mind; and that the Doctrine and Covenants states numerous times that all are equal and to receive alike. He invites Reverend Dozier and anyone else to attend an African American Outreach Program class or view the Blacks in the Scriptures DVDs.

March 22

* The City Creek Center is opened to the public, with a ribbon-cutting by President Thomas S. Monson.

March 24

* BYU begins participating in the “It Gets Better” project with videos by gay and lesbian Mormon students. It is intended mostly for other Mormons, as unlike the rest of the project it does not endorse homosexual behavior or relationships. The media incorrectly reports that the students involved are risking excommunication.

March 29-30

* Utah Valley University hosts a conference called “Mormonism and the Internet: Negotiating Religious Community and Identity in the Virtual World”, discussing how the Internet has both benefited and harmed the Church. It features a panel discussion with John Dehlin of the “Mormon Stories” podcast, Scott Gordon of FAIR, and University of Pennsylvania PhD candidate Rosemary Avance.

April 3

* On *Last Word*, MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell goes on a rant against the Church, claiming it was invented by Joseph Smith when Emma caught him having sex with a maid and mocking Mitt Romney for saying he believes in it.

May

* LDS Charities begins partnering with the government of Jordan and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization to provide Syrian refugee camps with infant formula, diapers, hygiene supplies, school kits, blankets, coats, boots, and truckloads of gravel to control the blowing sand and filter storm water away from the tents. Aid is also provided for unemployed Jordanians and other areas of the Middle East.

May 6

* The Kansas City Missouri Temple, the Church's 137th operating temple and the second in Missouri, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson. It is an emotional moment for many, symbolizing how circumstances have changed for the Church in western Missouri.

May 12

* Ground is broken for the Provo City Center Temple, which will be built from the shell of the ruined tabernacle.

May 27

* The Hyderabad India District is upgraded to the Hyderabad India Stake, the first stake in India.

June

* The online Church history catalog, containing millions of documents, photographs and audiovisual items, is released at churchhistorycatalog.lds.org. Many of its items have been digitized from the Church History Library. It is updated on a daily basis over the next several months.

June 7

* A Latter-day Saint named Josh Weed publishes a blog post explaining how he is happily married to a woman, and has children and a great sex life, despite being gay. He does not recommend this for all gay members and expresses love for all gay people no matter what their lifestyle choice. The post goes viral and attracts media attention.
* Actor Chris Rock appears on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* and says the Mormons believed that black people were the devil until 1978, and that he is not making it up. In actuality, he is.

June 10

* The Manaus Brazil Temple, the Church's 138th operating temple and the sixth in Brazil, is dedicated by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf. Local leaders had set a goal of creating four new stakes in the area before this day, but have not created a single one.

June 12

* A black life coach named Ramy Louis posts an 89-minute video on YouTube called “My Great Experience With Mormons” about his eight-month journey of discovery with the Church after investigating twelve other religious groups. He discusses what he has learned and his perspective on controversies such as polygamy and past racism. In all, he has nothing but good to say about the Mormons.

June 30

* One hundred and fifty disgruntled Latter-day Saints from throughout the western United States hike to Ensign Peak in Salt Lake City, sign a “Declaration of Independence from Mormonism”, and publicly resign from the Church. Church spokesman Michael Purdy is saddened but wishes them well in their new lives.

July

* A scientific study on the effects of same-sex parenting vindicates the Church's position against it. Social progressives demonize the study's author, Mark Regnerus, but are unable to demonstrate any flaws in it.

July 30

* The president of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, finally signs the Church's intesa into law. This removes barriers for church leaders in performing marriages, obtaining missionary visas, and gaining access to state hospitals, prisons and military barracks to visit members. It also has a great psychological benefit for the Italian Latter-day Saints, who are now recognized as a legitimate Christian faith.

August 18

* Benjamin Brewer, a drunk driver in Bainbridge, Indiana, raises his middle finger at a pair of Mormon missionaries before hitting the curb, ramping up a telephone pole and flipping his car ten or twelve feet in the air. He is uninjured.

September 8

* Rock band “The Killers” appears on the Swedish television show “Skavlan”. The interviewer asks lead singer, Latter-day Saint Brandon Flowers, about his faith, and then ambushes him with famed atheist Richard Dawkins. Brandon is clearly taken by surprise and lacks the education to address Dawkins' attacks, but does a commendable job of standing up for his beliefs. Later he claims that he had some better responses which were edited out of the broadcast.

September 9

* The Buenos Aires Argentina Temple, the Church's thirty-ninth operating temple, is rededicated by President Henry B. Eyring.

September 10

* Elders Ronald A. Rasband and Kent F. Richards meet with Croatian President Ivo Josipovic in Zagreb, Croatia. They thank him for his government's support of religious freedom and pledge the Church's commitment to family, humanitarian service, education and self-improvement, and high moral standards. President Josipovic thanks them for the Church's humanitarian aid to his country, including after the Balkans war in the nineties.

September 12

* Elders Ronald A. Rasband and Kent F. Richards meet with Željko Komšic, one of the three-person presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Elder Rasband expresses his appreciation for the government officials who helped the Church obtain registration in the country, and President Komšic welcomes the Church to join their diverse religious community. They share their mutual concern for the success and well-being of families in the country.

September 19

* The Seoul Korea North Stake is discontinued, the first stake to be discontinued in Korea, owing primarily to active membership emigrating elsewhere.

September 21

* David Twede, a church-going but faithless Mormon, faces a disciplinary council for his involvement as the webmaster of anti-Mormon site MormonThink.com. He falsely tells the media that he is in trouble for criticizing Mitt Romney.

September 23

* The Brigham City Utah Temple, the Church's 139th operating temple and the fourteenth in Utah, is dedicated sooner than expected by Elder Boyd K. Packer, a native of the town.

October 6

* President Thomas S. Monson announces in General Conference that the minimum age for missionary service will be lowered from nineteen to eighteen for young men who have completed high school or its equivalent, and from twenty-one to nineteen for women. He stresses that the new ages are options and not requirements. The number of mission applications started per week increases from 700 to 4,000, with the vast majority of the increase coming from young women. This new age is far more convenient for them to fit in with education and career plans.
* Temples are announced for Tucson, Arizona and Arequipa, Peru.
* A teenaged Latter-day Saint named Zach Gormley from Fort Collins, Colorado, becomes the National Yo-Yo Champion at the competition in Chico, California. His respectfulness and maturity leave a deep impression on his competitors and the audience.

October 9

* The *Daily Show with Jon Stewart* airs a segment on “The Black Mormon Vote”, in which Stewart's assistant Jessica Williams interviews five black Mormons on their political views. She discovers that they are the same as all other Americans; argumentative and intolerant of each other's viewpoints.

October 10

* In response to growing interest from students and faculty, the University of Virginia announces the establishment of the Richard Lyman Bushman Chair of Mormon Studies in its Department of Religious Studies, the first such program outside the western United States. The Chair is funded by a $3 million gift from anonymous donors.

October 18

* Following a meeting with Mitt Romney, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Organization quietly removes Mormonism from the list of cults on their website. In response to widespread backlash from outraged evangelicals, they explain that they do not wish to be involved in an issue that has been so politicized during the presidential campaign.

October 19

* The Book of Mormon app, previously available only for Windows, is released for Android, Apple, Windows, Nokia Symbian, Nokia Series 49, and Java Phones.
* Apostate David Twede publicly resigns from the Church, removing both the need for a disciplinary council and the possibility of using his status as an “active Mormon” to deceive people. However, his media exposure has created publicity for and increased visitors to MormonThink.

October 20

* The first convert baptism in Macedonia takes place.

October 22

* Elder Dallin H. Oaks meets with Monsignor Ricardo Ezzati Andrello, the Catholic Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, and presents him with a model of the Christus statue. They discuss their shared Christian beliefs and the importance of religious freedoms.

October 28

* The Calgary Alberta Temple, the Church's 140th operating temple, the eighth in Canada, and the third in Alberta, is dedicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

October 29

* On Gbazabangui hillside overlooking the Ubangui River and the capital city of Bangui, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland dedicates the Central African Republic for the preaching of the gospel.

October 30

* The Mormon Tabernacle Choir launches its official YouTube channel. Other famous Mormon musicians comment favorably on the move.
* President Dieter F. Uchtdorf receives the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the nation's highest honor, for his service in the community, the field of aviation, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

November 4

* The Gaborone Botswana Stake is created from units in the Roodeport South Africa Stake, becoming the first stake in Botswana.

November 6

Mitt Romney loses the presidential election to incumbent Barack Obama, owing in large part to third-party voting and widespread Democrat vote fraud. Liberals come out of the woodwork to gloat and mock the losing candidate. However, the fact that he made it this far is considered by many to have shattered a glass ceiling for the Church in general and individual Mormons everywhere.

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles release a statement congratulating both presidential candidates and asking members to pray for the President and Congress to make good decisions.

November 7

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf and his wife Harriet receive the Humanitarians of the Year Award from Catholic Community Services in Salt Lake City.

November 15

The Association of Fundraising Professionals honors the Church with its Outstanding Community Service Organization award for the Church's peanut butter cannery in Houston, Texas. Elder Gifford Nielsen, an Area Seventy, accepts the award on behalf of the Church.

November 18

The Boise Idaho Temple, the Church's twenty-seventh operating temple, is rededicated by President Thomas S. Monson.

December 2

The Freetown Sierra Leone District is upgraded to the Freetown Sierra Leone Stake, becoming both the first stake in Sierra Leone and the three thousandth stake in the entire Church. The *Ensign* had predicted thirty-two years earlier that the Church would have 3,600 stakes by the year 2000, but poor convert retention and increased standards for stake formation prevented that from happening.

December 6

The Church releases a website two years in the making titled “Love One Another: A Discussion on Same-Sex Attraction” at mormonsandgays.org. In addition to educating members and non-members alike about the Church's stance on same-sex attraction and homosexuality, its main purpose is to encourage love and compassion towards gay people as children of God, even when they choose a homosexual lifestyle. It is viewed by critics and the media as a change in stance but only clarifies what leaders have been trying to say for years.

December 16

Several Mormon feminists hold “Wear Pants to Church Day” to combat the Church's perceived sexism, despite the fact that there is no rule or even recommendation against women wearing pants to church. The event generates controversy, debate, and even death threats.

2013

January 1

Ex-Mormon Shawn McCraney of Alathea Ministries announces that after seven years of targeting the Church, his television program “Heart of the Matter” will use this year to shine a light on his own house, American evangelical Christianity.

January 6

Shawn McCraney receives written notice from the owners and management of KTMW TV20 that they are officially severing all ties with Alathea Ministries and that the decision is non-negotiable. He responds with gratitude for the use of their facilities over the years and asks his supporters for donations.

January 7

The Church announces that it has finalized the acquisition of property for the Lisbon Portugal Temple, but does not announce the site.

March 17

After several construction delays, the Tegucigalpa Honduras Temple, the Church's 141st operating temple, is dedicated.

?

The polarization of opinion toward the Church culminates in the Battle of Armageddon, in which all the nations of the world participate.

Jesus Christ returns to Earth in glory, wearing a crimson robe to symbolize the sins of the world he has taken upon himself. The wicked are burned while the righteous living are “translated” to become immortal and the righteous dead are resurrected. Every person on Earth witnesses this event.

Jesus Christ reigns on the Earth, and Satan is powerless, for a thousand years. People go about relatively normal, albeit immortal, lives, except that there is an increased urgency in missionary and temple work and much less sin and heartache.

Satan is released and the wicked are resurrected for a final battle between good and evil. Satan loses and is cast into outer darkness.

Everyone is judged individually by Jesus Christ and his disciples to determine where, based on their actions and their hearts, they should go for their final reward – the Celestial Kingdom, the Terrestrial Kingdom, the Telestial Kingdom, or outer darkness. The Atonement allows everyone who accepts it to get something much better than they deserve, yet exactly what they have chosen.

Glossary of Terms

Angel: 1. An unborn spirit, “dead” spirit, or resurrected being who serves as a messenger for God. Angels do not have wings. This is a temporary state until judgment, when they have the opportunity to receive exaltation just like everyone else. Notable angels include Michael (Adam in mortality), Gabriel (Noah in mortality), and Moroni. 2. A person who reaches the Celestial Kingdom but not the highest degree, and therefore does not receive exaltation and become a god. He or she serves those who have been exalted.

Apostate: 1. One who has abandoned a former religious faith. Within the Church, the term usually refers to those who actively fight against the Church. 2. An adjective referring to groups of apostates or even other Christian religions which, due to the Great Apostasy, do not contain the full truth. However this latter usage is rare as it is perceived as derogatory.

Apostle: A man selected to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ. The Church has fifteen Apostles, constituting the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the First Presidency. They serve in these capacities until their deaths.

Atonement: The little-understood but unspeakably important process whereby Jesus Christ suffered for the sins and heartaches of all mankind, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane, continuing on the cross and culminating with his resurrection. Because of this process, those who repent and strive to keep the commandments are able to have their sins erased and return to live with Heavenly Father.

Baptism: The ordinance of immersing a person in the water and raising them out, representing death and rebirth. This allows people to be cleansed of their sins and nominally become members of the Church, and is an essential step towards salvation.

Baptisms for the Dead: The practice of performing baptisms for deceased persons within temples. The spirits of these people have had a chance to learn about the gospel, and are free to accept or reject the ordinance performed on their behalf, although depending on their actions in mortality it does not guarantee their salvation.

Bishop: A man who presides over a ward with the aid of two counselors. He can also be, but rarely is, referred to as a pastor.

Branch: A congregation of the Church, usually smaller than a ward. However, if it is part of a district, it may be large enough to become a ward yet held back by other branches which are too small, as a certain number of wards must be created to form a stake.

Branch President: A man who presides over a branch with the aid of two counselors. He is the branch's equivalent of a bishop.

Christian: A follower of Jesus Christ.

Covenant: A two-way promise made between a person and God. The person promises to keep certain commandments, in exchange for which God promises to bestow certain blessings.

Deacon: An Aaronic Priesthood holder, usually twelve or thirteen years old, who is able to pass the sacrament to a congregation.

District: A unit of the Church presided over by a District President and containing a certain number of branches. Unlike a stake, it does not have a patriarch and is largely administered by the local Mission. Districts are usually necessitated in areas where the Church is newly established or suffers severe activity problems, although small population sizes can also be a cause.

Doctrine: The official teachings of the Church, consisting of that which is included in the standard works and that which is ratified by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as doctrine. Many other teachings and even personal opinions are commonly considered doctrine even though they are not.

Doctrine and Covenants: One of the Church's standard works, consisting mostly of revelations given by the Lord to Joseph Smith for the organization and operation of the Church.

Endowment: A ceremony performed in the Church's temples which teaches the words and signs necessary to pass by the angels guarding the Celestial Kingdom. Some aspects of the ceremony have been changed over the years to adapt to the times but the vital things remain. Out of respect for the sacred, its specific details are not to be shared with non-members.

Exaltation: The process of inheriting all that God the Father has and becoming gods ourselves, which requires having an eternal marriage and reaching the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom. This does not replace God, nor does it detract from his glory. Though commonly viewed as blasphemous, it is referenced several times in the Bible and even by non-Mormon Christians such as C.S. Lewis.

Excommunication: The process of removing a person from the membership records for grievous sins or apostasy. After fully repenting and interviewing with church leaders, the person may be re-baptized.

First Presidency: The highest governing body of the Church, composed of the President of the Church, his first and second counselor, and occasionally a third counselor.

General Authority: A high-ranking church leader from the First Presidency, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, First Quorum of the Seventy, or Presiding Bishopric.

Gospel: The “good news” that Christ's Atonement enables everyone to return to live with the Father, and the associated principles and ordinances. Though the word is often used interchangeably with “Church”, the gospel and the church organization are two distinct yet interdependent things.

Great Apostasy: The period of time during which the early Church established by Jesus Christ lost its priesthood authority, adopted pagan beliefs and Greek philosophy, and split into several separate churches.

Homosexuality: Sexual relations between two people of the same gender. It is a grievous sin. Although it only constitutes a temptation for those with same-sex attraction, it is in the same category as any and all extramarital sexual relations.

Journal of Discourses: A collection of sermons given by church leaders in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Although they contain much of great value, they contain some transcription errors and some speculation in the absence of revelation that we now have, and so are not considered doctrinal.

Latter-day Saint: A term for members of the Church. “Saints” is what the early Christians were called, and “Latter-day” refers to the last days before the Second Coming of Christ.

Mission: 1. The period of service by one of the Church's ordained missionaries. It usually entails proselyting but may include service, welfare, or family history work, depending on the missionary's capabilities. 2. An area of proselyting jurisdiction over a certain area of the world, usually including about 250 missionaries and led by a Mission President and his wife.

Missionary: One who shares the gospel with others. Worthy and able church members are able to serve as officially ordained missionaries beginning at the age of eighteen for men and nineteen for women, and for two years or eighteen months, respectively. Elderly couples can also serve missions together for varying lengths of time. However, every member of the Church is expected to be a missionary by sharing the gospel with friends and neighbors.

Patriarch: A man who has been set apart to communicate patriarchal blessings from God to worthy members. The Church once had a position of church-wide Patriarch filled by a descendent of Joseph Smith, but now each stake has its own patriarch. Patriarchs are referred to as “evangelists” in the Articles of Faith.

Polyandry: The practice of having more than one husband. Although this is said in Doctrine and Covenants to never be acceptable, Joseph Smith is known to have married several women who already had husbands. The circumstances surrounding this are mostly unknown.

Polygamy: The practice of taking more than one spouse. It is usually polygyny, having more than one wife, although Joseph Smith was sometimes involved in polyandry, more than one husband. Polygamy is an abomination before God except for when he commands it, as he has done in Old Testament times and during the first few decades of the restored Church. Its practice was mostly ended by the Manifesto and became an excommunicable offense with the Second Manifesto.

Polygyny: The practice of taking more than one wife, usually referred to generically as “polygamy”. The Book of Mormon says it may be commanded by God to raise up seed unto him. Joseph Smith took over thirty wives and Brigham Young took over fifty, though most Saints who entered the practice had only between two and five. It was taught as an eternal principle necessary for exaltation but is no longer practiced.

President of the Church: The leader of the Church and the only man entitled to receive revelation for the entire world. He serves in this capacity until his death.

Priesthood: Power delegated to mankind to act in God's name, divided into the Aaronic or “lesser” Priesthood and the Melchizedek or “greater” Priesthood. It can only be received at the hands of someone who already holds it, and it can only be held by males twelve and older. Between the late 1840s and June 1978, for unknown reasons, it was withheld from men of African descent.

Prophet: One who receives revelation from God for other people. The Apostles are also prophets, although the President of the Church is usually referred to as “the” prophet because he has the highest authority. Prophets are fallible mortals like everyone else, and they sometimes make mistakes and express their own opinions.

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: The second highest governing body of the Church, composed of twelve Apostles whose seniority is determined by their date of entrance into the Quorum. The President of the Quorum is next in line to become President of the Church.

Revelation: Truth spoken to a person by God, usually through the Holy Ghost but sometimes by divine manifestations. A person may receive revelation for him or herself as well as those under his or her familial or Church authority, but no one else.

Sacrament: An ordinance, known as “communion” in other Christian religions, wherein broken bread and water are blessed and administered to a congregation in remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This allows members to renew their covenants and be cleansed of their sins. Unlike some religions, the Church does not teach that the blood and water become Christ's literal flesh and blood.

Same-Sex Attraction: Being attracted to one's own gender in addition to or instead of the opposite one. The causes of this are unknown, but it is not a sin unless it is acted upon by engaging in sexual relations with the same gender, known as homosexuality.

Scripture: Sacred text including the Church's standard works, patriarchal blessings, and the words of General Authorities when they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

Stake: A unit of the Church, presided over by a Stake President, consisting of a certain number of wards and possibly some branches as well. When a stake has enough congregations it is split to form two stakes, or if some congregations are closed it may be downgraded to a district or consolidated with another stake. Each stake has its own patriarch.

Standard Works: The canonical scriptural texts of the Church – the King James Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. Any statement that conflicts with these works cannot be considered a doctrine of the Church, with exceptions for metaphors and symbolism or portions of the Bible that have not been translated correctly.

Temple: A sacred edifice in which the distractions of the world are shut out and the Holy Ghost may be felt more powerfully. Here the ordinances of baptisms for the dead, eternal marriage, and the endowment are performed. After a temple is dedicated to the Lord only members with temple recommends may enter. The Church has 141 operating temples throughout the world, with several more planned or under construction.

Temple Garments: White garments received after going through the endowment ceremony and worn under one's clothing as a reminder of the covenants made therein. Though often derided as “magic underwear”, their value is symbolic and they are not claimed to have supernatural powers.

Testimony: One's conviction of the truthfulness of the gospel, obtained through the whispering of the Holy Ghost. Testimonies are typically shared on the first Sunday of the month, in conjunction with fasting, so the members can strengthen each other's belief.

Tithing: One tenth of a person's annual interest, paid to the Church. This finances the Church's worldwide operation and helps members to remember that everything they have is given from God in the first place.

Ward: A congregation of the Church, presided over by a bishop. Several wards form a stake.

Salamander Letter apologetics

Fawn Brodie/Thomas Jefferson

check Elder Widtsoe's evolution speech

they lie in wait to deceive 3 and 4

finding seer stones

Adam-God

William McCrary

First Presidency blacks and priesthood

First Vision versions

116 pages

name changes of the church

book of pukei

Vincenzo di Francesca

Willard/William Chase?

Mark Twain

Bill Clinton

Hurlbut affidavits

Harold Bloom

Philo Farnsworth

J. Golden Kimball

Anthony Obinna

Brigham of Africa

FARMS

John Wycliffe

John Calvin

Anie Dick Obot

White Horse prophecy

Kinderhook plates

founding of Mesa

gay leader in California

Salt Lake temple bomb sixties

wordprint studies

wadi sayq

church debt Lorenzo snow

Walter Murray Gibson

Theodore Roosevelt

Winston Churchill

Mountain Meadows Massacre

Bridgett Jack Jeffries

Delbert H. Groberg

anti-communist message

interracial marriage

Chip Murray

Journal of Discourses

hill Cumorah location (letters)

date of Expo '70 in Japan

pre-hominids ;)

blood atonement

Rodney Meldrum XP

Anson B. Owen Call

Douglas A. Wallace

Richard W. Young

age of Tucker at death

world tour

vote for Jesus

1893 Columbian Exposition Chicago

Hill Cumorah Pageant

communications with Czechoslovakia

Hermann Moessner

Loeffelspende Hamburg

Jay Paul Jongkees

Tatsui Sato

Bat Creek

Joseph Smith Papers

division of Moscow district

Alice Johnson arm

origin of religion

Helen Keller

temples 111-134

African oral histories project

Ebenezer Owusu

Ed Decker Chile

pride

AIDS

socialism

book of Enoch

JST

Darrick T Evenson

poison, vomit, dislocated jaw

do something about about.com

Literary Firm D&C 70

Lectures on Faith

Orson Hyde can't convert his family

B.H. Roberts doesn't lose testimony

**Magna Carta**

Section 88 Olive Leaf

white/pure

Joseph Smith three rattlesnakes, contaminated milk

Daniel Dunklin

Apostle Thomas India

Willes and Richards journey through India

William Sheppard

Hugh Findlay

James Patric Meik

**Utah Lighthouse Ministries lawsuits**

Reflections of a Scientist

Dead Sea Scrolls

Walter Martin

Ex-Mormon Foundation

Open Stories Foundation

Sunstone

**Gandhi's son**

**The RM**

**Sons of Provo**

**The Singles Ward**

**The Singles 2nd Ward**

**The Home Teachers**

Latter-day Night Live

Heart of Africa

Jeffrey R. Holland testimony

Don Bradley

Gary Novak

Wade Englund

Craig Blomberg

New Witness for God BH

Tanners denounce Ed Decker

Tanners guess Hofmann forgery

Jupiter talisman

LDS women blessing the sick

Homefront commercials

Tricia Erickson

Richard Packham?

Zebedee Coltrin Elijah Abel

John Tanner

Canada – some revelations of the devil

Sampson Avard/Danites

John D. Lee book/execution

SPAM

For the Strength of Youth

Glenn Beck conversion

Victor Garcia da Rosa

Lengthen Your Stride

Journal of Discourses a “standard work”

why we should love the street preachers

An Interesting Account of Several Remarkable Visions

Al Sharpton anti-Mormon

John C. Bennett's book

The Simpsons/Family Guy

Book of Mormon musical awards, the book is better

**Roe vs. Wade, Brown vs. Board of Education, Scopes trial, Edmunds-Tucker Act date, ERA date, Spain religious liberty law 1967**

god is not great date

Josiah Quincy

Lucy Mack biography

BYU Studies Latter-day Saint Mission to India

Japanese Saints Sing

* The *Millennial Star* calculates that a man with forty wives might have 3,500,441 descendents by the time he is seventy-eight. In practice, the few polygamists with forty or more wives have fewer than eighty children.
* LDS opponents of Proposition 8 launch “Mormons for Marriage”. Though at first they remain true to their goal of respectfully, albeit fallaciously, explaining their disagreement with church leadership, they soon begin ridiculing Apostles such as Elder Boyd K. Packer.
* The three-ring binder is invented. Its design has already been used anciently for the golden plates of the Book of Mormon, of which nineteenth-century sketches exist, so that technically the Church could secure the patent if it wanted to.