

Joseph Smith

1st President of the Church:
1830 - 1844

Interesting Facts:

At age 14 was visited by God the Father and Jesus Christ; organized the Church in 1830; translated the gold plates and published the Book of Mormon; restored the Priesthood and gospel in its fullness.

Brigham Young

2nd President of the Church:
1847 - 1877

Interesting Facts:

One of the original members of the Quorum of the 12 Apostles; Colonizer of the West and governor of the Utah Territory; "If we do not feel like [praying], we should pray till we do."

John Taylor

3rd President of the Church:
1877 - 1887

Interesting Facts:

Known as Champion of Liberty and Defender of Faith; shot several times at the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith.

Wilford Woodruff

4th President of the Church:
1887 - 1898

Interesting Facts:

Called "Wilford the Faithful" because he was baptized two days after meeting the missionaries; received revelation to discontinue plural marriage; dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.

Lorenzo Snow

5th President of the Church:
1898 - 1901

Interesting Facts:

Instructed by Jesus Christ in the Salt Lake Temple, "As God now is, God once was: As God now is, man may be"; began a drive to reemphasize the law of tithing.

Joseph F. Smith

6th President of the Church:
1901 - 1918

Interesting Facts:

Son of Hyrum Smith; received revelation found in D&C 138; encouraged families to hold Family Home Evening; at age 9 drove an ox team across the plains.

Heber J. Grant

7th President of the Church:
1918 - 1945

Interesting Facts:

Example of persistence and determination (baseball, singing, penmanship); "Keep the commandments" he urged; reaffirmed principles such as Word of Wisdom, tithing, industry and thrift.

George Albert Smith

8th President of the Church:
1945 - 1951

Interesting Facts:

4th generation in family to serve as a General Authority; served in the Quorum of the 12 Apostles at the same time as his father; involved with Boy Scouts and YMMIA.

David O. McKay

9th President of the Church:
1951 - 1970

Interesting Facts:

Focused on missionary work,
"Every member a missionary"
and the home and family,
"No other success can
compensate for failure in the
home"; traveled over a
million miles as an
ambassador of Christ.

Joseph Fielding Smith

10th President of the Church:
1970 - 1972

Interesting Facts:

Invited all to come unto
Christ; ordained an apostle by
his father – Joseph F. Smith;
magnified his callings;
son-in-law was
Bruce R. McConkie.

Harold B. Lee

11th President of the Church:
1972 - 1973

Interesting Facts:

Encouraged us to take time
for family home evening;
organized a Church-wide
program to help the needy,
"I know that there are powers
divine that reach out when all
other help is not available."

Spencer W. Kimball

12th President of the Church:
1973 - 1985

Interesting Facts:

On his desk was a plaque with
the motto "Do It"; received
revelation to extend the
priesthood to all worthy male
members; baptized in a
hog-scalding tub.

Ezra Taft Benson

13th President of the Church:
1985 - 1994

Interesting Facts:

Renewed emphasis on the Book of Mormon; remembered for his condemnation of pride; served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to U.S. President Eisenhower.

Howard W. Hunter

14th President of the Church:
1994 - 1995

Interesting Facts:

Focused on being worthy to enter and attend the temple; dedicated the BYU Jerusalem Center; presided over creation of Church's 2000th stake; served as president for only nine months.

Gordon B. Hinckley

15th President of the Church:
1995 - 2008

Interesting Facts:

Dedicated more temples than any other General Authority; worked for the General Authority of the Church for approximately 65 years; characterized by a caring and personal ministry among people across the world.

Thomas S. Monson

16th President of the Church:
2008 - Current

Interesting Facts:

Was called as a bishop at the young age of 22 and as an Apostle at age 36. As bishop there were 85 widows in his ward and he visited them regularly and later spoke at each of their funerals after they passed away.