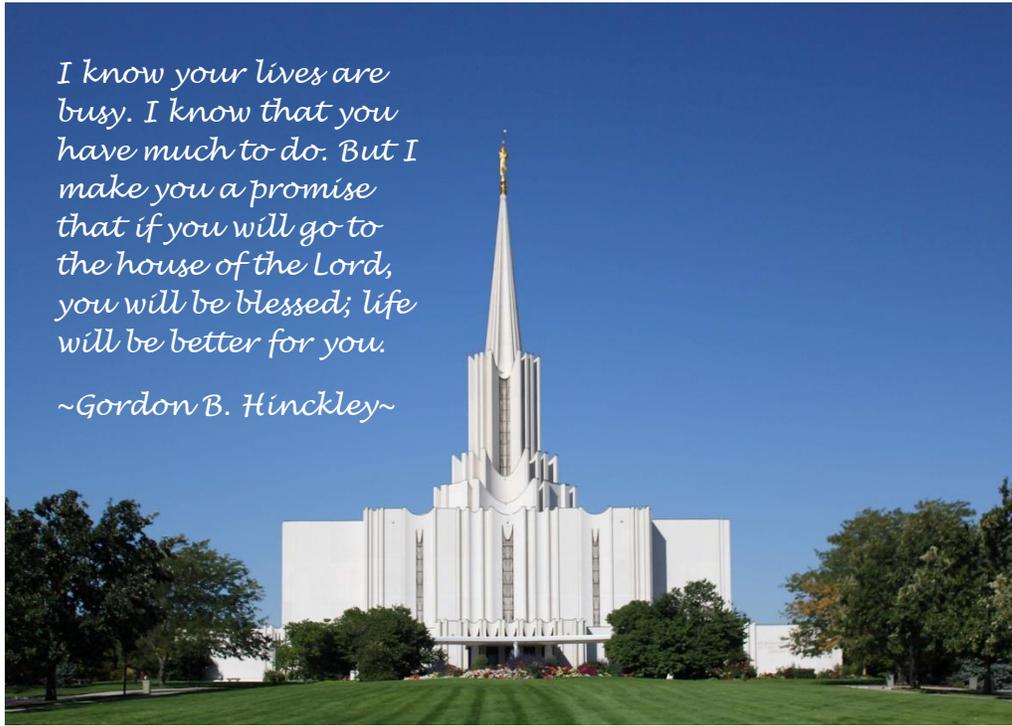


*I know your lives are busy. I know that you have much to do. But I make you a promise that if you will go to the house of the Lord, you will be blessed; life will be better for you.*

*~Gordon B. Hinckley~*



# JORDAN RIVER UTAH TEMPLE



Issue #2, February 2018

## Jordan River Utah Temple Facts and Features

The Jordan River Utah Temple is located at 10200 South 1300 West, South Jordan, Utah.

With attendance at the Salt Lake, Ogden and Provo temples at all-time highs in 1977, President Kimball announced plans for the Jordan River Utah Temple at a news conference in the Church Office Building on Feb. 3, 1978. Church leaders broke ground 9 June 1979, and President Marion G. Romney, a counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, dedicated the Jordan River Utah Temple two year later, 16 November 1981. Following its dedication, the Jordan River Utah Temple quickly became one of the busiest, and three decades after its dedication it continued to be a workhorse in an era of accelerated temple work. Of course much of the credit must also go to the members of the 122 stakes which comprised this temple district. Since the construction of the Oquirrh Mountain and Draper Utah temples this number has been reduced to 66 stakes. We know that this workhorse reputation will continue after its rededication. This work flowed smoothly because of the design of its six ordinance rooms and 16 sealing rooms.

The 148,236-square-foot exterior of the temple is cast stone containing white marble chips, which enhances its white walls and make it sparkle. Although the tower appears to be of the same material, it actually contains fiberglass in a product called "cemlite" in order to reduce weight. Jordan River was the 20th temple worldwide and seventh built in Utah and the second in the Salt Lake Valley. When new, the temple had the largest capacity of any temple at that date (25 percent larger than the Ogden and Provo temples). After formally acquiring the property, a twist came when church leaders learned the temple straddled two areas with different zoning laws. It was fortunate that

the part of the temple in the section with more restrictive regulations for height did not include the tallest parts of the building. There were no height restrictions in the zone where the 200-foot-tall tower and statue of the angel Moroni would be built, sparing architects the challenge of designing new blueprints. As for the gold statue of Moroni and his trumpet, it's interesting to note that the Jordan River Utah Temple is one of five temples featuring Moroni holding the gold plates. Tear drops are an architectural theme found in the fence and spire.



*Jordan River Temple Dedication – 16 November 1981  
Where are all the trees?*

Donovan H. Van Dam was called as the first Jordan River Utah Temple president. With six temples already in Utah, the new president expressed his gratitude.

"Never did most of us dream of such a thing happening," he said. "From raw dirt to colorful gardens, from cold concrete and steel has risen a beautiful temple – a beacon on a hill." Come to the open house and see the changes.

### Jordan River Utah Temple Rededication Events: and Websites

January 22 – February 12 – Online Volunteer Signup to assist during the open house

February 12 – Online Open House Tickets become Available

March 12 – Media Day

March 13 to March 16 - VIP Open House

Sunday March 18 – Youth Kick-off Fireside

March 17 to April 28 – Public Open House

March 19 to May 18 – Youth Cultural Celebration rehearsals, activities, and preparations

March 24 – Youth Open House

April 14 – Youth Outdoor Concert

May 12 – Youth Temple Walk

May 19 – Youth Cultural Celebration Performance

May 20 – Temple Rededication

May 22 – Temple Open for Ordinances

[www.jordanrivertemple.com](http://www.jordanrivertemple.com)

[www.jrtready.org](http://www.jrtready.org)

[www.templeopenhouse.lds.org](http://www.templeopenhouse.lds.org)

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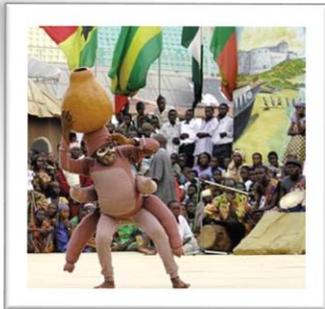
# What is a Cultural Celebration?



Seventeen thousand youth within the Jordan River Utah Temple district have the opportunity to participate in a Cultural Celebration, scheduled for May 19, at 1:00 pm, in the LDS Conference Center. This will be the largest number of youth to ever participate in a cultural celebration and it's going to be spectacular. Many activities held on ward, stake, and tri-stake levels, as well as three activities where all 17,000 youth will come together preceding

the rededication of the temple, on May 20th.

What is a Cultural Celebration? Cultural Celebrations are not unique, because they are held in countries all over the world. People celebrate special events on many various occasions, a holiday, religious event, a tradition, a country's culture, or independence. These celebrations are usually filled with excitement and happiness and are displayed



*Accra Ghana Temple Cultural Celebration, 2004*

through traditional music, dance, song, food, traditions, stories, culture, and native dress or costumes. They help people bond for that event.

The tradition of holding a youth cultural celebration before the dedication of a temple began with the dedication of the Accra Ghana Temple in Africa, in January 2004. At the request of President Gordon B. Hinckley, the people and youth of Ghana performed their cultural celebration based on the folktales and dances of West Africa. The storyline of their celebration followed an African folk character named Kwaku Anansi, a spider whose stories are sometimes used to teach values to children. Desmond Ahwireng played the legendary spider that went searching from village to village for all the good things in the world. He moved across the stage to each performing group, weaving together the different dance numbers of the youth. The spider found many good values consisting of family, courage and love, but

as he noticed the Accra Ghana Temple its beauty convinced him that he should share the good things he had collected with the world. This celebration was the beginning of many more cultural celebrations to come, each being performed before the dedication of a temple.

Elder F. Melvin Hammond, of the Seventy, remembers the effects these cultural activities had in his own life. He recalls, "Although I wasn't experienced in dancing, I participated with 3,000 other Church members in expressing my love for the gospel. I felt part of something much bigger than myself. That was an important moment in my young life."

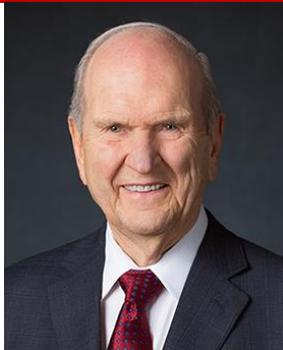
David Warner, director of the Church's Music and Cultural Arts Division, observes: "As we hear reports of cultural arts activities throughout the Church, we note that successful efforts always strengthen the participants and their families. For youth, this strengthening comes as they have fun together, organize their time, develop their talents, and make sacrifices to serve. What they learn in the process prepares them for future responsibilities as missionaries, parents, and leaders in the Church. Most importantly, as youth seek the Spirit of the Lord to uplift and inspire others, they receive that Spirit more abundantly in their own lives."

A temple dedication offers a rare opportunity to do just that, inviting the rising generation to understand the promises made to their fathers, imprinting them with a memory forever of the days a temple came to their land.

The workers inscribe "Holiness to the Lord" on the face of every temple, but there is somewhere even more important to carve that message — in the hearts of the children. They are children of the covenant — and that is something to celebrate!

As temples continue to be built throughout the world and special historical anniversaries are celebrated, there will be Cultural Celebrations that continue to inspire, provide togetherness, and remind each person who they really are. As in times past, celebrations will be carried forth by those who follow the commandment in Doctrine and Covenants 136:28 "praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving."

We hope to see your youth participate in this Cultural Celebration!



## Inspired Guidance

**A message from President Russell M. Nelson, January 16, 2018**

Now, to each member of the Church I say: Keep on the covenant path. Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. As a new presidency, we want

to begin with the end in mind. For this reason, we're speaking to you today from a temple. The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God, that of eternal life. The ordinances of the temple and the covenants you make there are key to strengthening your life, your marriage and family, and your ability to resist the attacks of the adversary. Your worship in the temple and your service there for your ancestors will bless you with increased personal revelation and peace and will

fortify your commitment to stay on the covenant path.

Now, if you have stepped off the path, may I invite you with all the hope in my heart to please come back. Whatever your concerns, whatever your challenges, there is a place for you in this, the Lord's Church. You and generations yet unborn will be blessed by your actions now to return to the covenant path. Our Father in Heaven cherishes His children, and He wants each of us to return home to Him.