

Examples for Ministering Through Family History

Helping someone with their family history is a powerful way to minister. As you connect with others with their ancestors for family stories and details, you end up with filling gaps in their hearts that they sometimes never knew they had (see Malachi 4:5-6). Whether it's a lifetime church member or someone who has never heard of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, all of God's children have a yearning to know about where they came from. It often doesn't take long to leave a deep and lasting impression as demonstrated in the following stories which can read in their entirety in the February 2020 issue of the Ensign. This article can found on pages 8 to 11. When that issue is posted on the Church's web site, it will be found at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/magazines/ensign?lang=eng>.

This article features hear-warming, priceless stories about how individuals have been ministering angles to others through family history conversations. The titles of these articles are: *"Finding Family at 30,000 Feet,"* *"Recipe for Ministering,"* and *"Surrounded by New Family."* In addition, there are specific ways to help each of us in being better ministering angels to others. Family history can open doors for ministering opportunities when it seems like mothering else will. Here are a few ideas you might try.

- Help them upload family photos to family search.
- Help them record and upload audio recordings of family history stories, especially ones that match photos.
- Create a fan chart or other printable family history document that can give as a gift. Teach ways to capture their own history through keeping a journal in a way they enjoy. Audio Journal? Photojournalist? Video locks? There are many options for those who don't prefer standard journal formats.
- Go to the temple together to do ordinances for ancestors. Her offer to do ordinances for their family names if they have more than they can handle.
- Get together to share family traditions.
- Take a family history class together.
- Find other ideas at [Ministering.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/Family History Activities/In-Home Activities](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/FamilyHistoryActivities/In-HomeActivities).

Closing Comments

We can all be difference-makers for others. Although we live in a cold and dreary world at times, we all can be a positive influence to others. Never under-estimate the power of family history in motivating others to greater aspirations. Consider this statement: **This is Ministering: "therefore they did watch over their people, and did nourish them with things pertaining to righteousness." (Mosiah 23:18).**

Considers those you minister to. How could you use family history to bless their lives? Don't hesitate to share your ministering experiences on this Facebook group. We all need motivation and positive experiences can be the very ingredient that can make us all more spiritual by sharing these family history blessings with others through either your own postings or simply adding comments underneath this posting.