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Updates

5 Types of Apps to Consider

1. Data preservation apps
2. Visualization apps
3. Research assistant apps
4. Geo-spatial apps
5. 3D apps

Discussions

Resources

What should my app do?

APIs, Data, and Tools

Not sure what problem to solve? Here’s a few suggestions to get your motor running…

More Questions?

FAQ

General Questions

How do I follow the challenge and get updates?
Who can I contact if I have questions about the challenge?

Submission Requirements

What do I need to use to build my app?
What APIs or datasets can I include in my app?
Why do I have to upload a video?
What should I put in my video?
Does my app need to be publicly available or, if an app, submitted to an online store?

Testing Process

How can I provide the judges with access to test my app?

Eligibility & IP

Who is eligible to enter the competition?
We are an organization. Can we enter?
Do the apps have to be newly created for this competition, or can they be preexisting apps?
Can more than one person work on an app and receive credit for it? And if the app wins a prize, how will the prize money be split among the creators?
Can my app win more than one prize?
Can I enter more than one app?
Do I retain intellectual property ownership?
What will you do with my submission?

Public Voting
What's in My Closets?

IN PROCESS

My next story and application is a search of my closets, drawers, and computers for information to populate my Persons Knowledge Base. (aka as President Boyd K. Packer's 'place a box in a prominent place so you cannot overlook it to put your important family history papers, photos, etc'.)

So we had many boxes from living in our home for 30 years and those had to be pared down considerably to fit in the smaller condo and one car garage we moved to and have lived in for four years now. The surviving boxes really contain the valuable family history stuff but it still needs to be distilled. My wife asked me to help with that process recently since it was in her bedroom-den and she needed more space. I went through about 15 surviving boxes in her closet by sorting their contents on the queen size bed by categories: photos, important papers, scrapbooks, etc. I then shifted those stacks again for what seemed to be the more important family history items into one large plastic tub since it was bigger than the banker file boxes we were using for storage. After that I was tired and put everything back into the closet shelves, but in a more categorized, organized way. I said to myself at the time, that tub of family history stuff is the next step, so after several months had past, I got it out and sorted it onto a table, with an eye to the most important things that should be put online. The first choice was obvious: the Book of Remembrance book that my sister-in-law had worked on compiling one summer when she brought her mother to live with us and interviewed her almost daily to compile. It had wonderful organization and pictures. The only drawback was it was done on a typewriter so the text was not electronic so I had to input that and cut the picture out of the PDF files to reproduce an online version. It is well worth that effort because it is unique and precious content that her posterity would probably see if it were online.

See: [Personal History of Mildred Edwards](#)

Next, I have another sister-in-law that works day-and-night on family history and temple work in the Ogden Family History Center and Temple. She knows more about family history and genealogy work and has done more with it than anyone I know.

So here is a partial inventory of what she has done and sent us and what I think I should do with it.

MORE TO FOLLOW

MyFamilySearch.org

I did a [FamilySearch.org Tutorial](#) and now I am going to do Data Science for [MyFamilySearch.org](#) so we can have a [Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup](#) (February 16th Presidents Day?) about "making family history
big data by starting small” and eventually offer another Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)! These MindTouch Wiki Pages can be published as Family History and Genealogy Books in PDF.

Overview

• Data Science for MyFamilySearch.org:
  ◦ Site Map to MindTouch and Notes (see below).
• MyTableBox of MyFamily Tree:
  ◦ Big Data is all of your content as data before you for action in a REST with Hypermedia Platform.
• Notes on Sections (sample):
  ◦ My MindTouch Platform is based on a REST architecture and Hypermedia that integrates web, desktop, and mobile apps to search for a person and create relationships. I spend time on publishing my family search work and not on coding. I am building my own FamilySearch.org API from Entity Extraction like Google Pittsburgh!

Application

• CRISP-DM Step 1: Business (Organizational) Understanding:
  ◦ FamilySearch.org Site Map to MindTouch Knowledge Base

• CRISP-DM Step 2: Data Understanding
  ◦ MindTouch Knowledge Base to Excel Spreadsheet

• CRISP-DM Step 3: Data Preparation
  ◦ Data Ecosystem in Excel Spreadsheet

• CRISP-DM Step 4: Modeling
  ◦ Data Ecosystem in Spotfire Dashboard
CRISP-DM Step 5: Evaluation
  ◦ Using Google Chrome Find, Excel Find, and Spotfire Find

CRISP-DM Step 6: Deployment
  ◦ MyTableBox of MyFamily Tree Linked to Persons Knowledge Base

Some Conclusions & Recommendations
  • Data Science for MyFamilySearch.org has created a MindTouch version with custom notes that is searchable to go with the amazing search for Records that FamilySearch.org provides.
  • MyTableBox of MyFamily Tree provides an interface to Big Data, which is all of my content as data before me for action, in a REST with Hypermedia Platform.
  • Entity Extraction like Google Pittsburgh is the key to semantic search and linking in my MindTouch Knowledge Base, Excel Spreadsheets, and Spotfire Dashboard.
  • More Entity Extraction from FamilySearch.org Records for MyFamilySearch.org Names is the next step for building out MyTableBox.

Travel Schedule

Canceled on February 3rd due to skin cancer surgery on February 11th.

Monday, February 9: Flight to SLC (4:30 - 7:30 pm) and drive to Provo

Tuesday, February 10: Family History Technology Workshop at the BYU Conference Center and drive to SLC

Wednesday, February 11: Innovator's Summit and
Friday, February 13: RootsTech and Innovator's Summit Classes

Saturday, February 14: LDS Family Day

Sunday, February 15: Flight to DCA (10 am - 4 pm)

Update about your submission Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service: RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge

Hi BrandNiemann,

We wanted to let you know that RootsTech Innovator Challenge has wrapped up, and the winners have been announced (they can be found in the Submission Gallery). Unfortunately, your submission Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service: RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge didn't win this time, but don't give up! There are plenty of other challenges that could use your creativity and talent.

Here's a message from the challenge managers:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SALT LAKE CITY (February 13, 2015) StoryWorth, a San Francisco start-up company that offers an email-based storytelling service, today swept the RootsTech Innovator Showdown, winning both first prize and the People’s Choice award, and claiming a purse of $15,000.

RootsTech is the world’s largest family history conference hosted by FamilySearch. The Innovator Showdown is the first-annual event where entrepreneurs from around the globe presented their web or mobile app on stage in front of a live audience, vying for a total of $25,000 in sponsor-contributed prize money.

Each of four finalists presented their ideas in five minutes and responded to questions from a panel of renowned judges. Judges and audience members voted on their favorite product in a Shark Tank-like setting. Darin Adams, former KSL Studio 5 host, served as emcee.

StoryWorth vied for the winning title alongside Lucidpress, an intuitive design and layout provider of sleek digital scrapbooking; GenMarketplace, a web app that links those with family history roadblocks to those who can solve them; and ArgusSearch, handwriting recognition technology useful in searching un-indexed digital images of records.

Panel judges included AJ Jacobs, founder of The Global Family Reunion and a New York Times bestselling author; Amy Rees Anderson, managing partner of REES Capital; Curt Witcher, senior manager of The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library; Dan Mano, vice president of business development, MyHeritage; and Jay Verkler, advisor and corporate consultant, The Verkler Group.

StoryWorth brings memories to life and facilitates the preservation of memories and personal histories through simple question prompts, emailed directly to users each week. Questions such as “What is some of the best advice your mom ever gave you?” or “Did you ever pull any pranks?” or “How did you meet your wife?” are emailed to users weekly. Users respond via email, and StoryWorth automatically lays out the stories and privately saves them on the site. In time, with minimal effort and using only technology that’s already familiar, users create their personal histories, one story at a time.
“One of the most important things we can do for both the future and the past is to record our memories,” said Nick Baum, founder of StoryWorth. “When we write our stories, and share them with our families, it brings families closer together in the present.” StoryWorth is highly customizable. There are over 600 engaging questions to choose from, and users can write their own questions. Storytellers can choose to either keep their stories private or invite other family members to receive them by email. There’s a phone option for storytellers who prefer to answer the questions by phone. Stories can be downloaded anytime, as well as printed and bound as books. “Family history, at its heart, is about stories and connection. It’s about learning to love your ancestors by getting to know them,” said Don Anderson, FamilySearch Senior Vice President. “StoryWorth hits all the right notes, helping users ask questions they would otherwise never think to ask, and get answers they’d never expect.”

Innovator Showdown sponsors were MyHeritage (platinum sponsor), Grow Utah, Hero Partners, IPOP Foundation, Sprint, Software Technology Group, and Utah Technology Council.

About StoryWorth

StoryWorth.com is the easiest way to record your family stories. Each week, StoryWorth emails their customers a question about their life. All they have to do is reply with a story, either by email or by phone. Their stories are saved privately on StoryWorth.com and immediately emailed to any family members they've invited. StoryWorth is secure, private, and easy to use. Through over 600 unexpected and engaging questions, StoryWorth is bringing families closer together across the country. Sign up for a free 30-day trial at http://www.StoryWorth.com.

About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 4,600 family history centers in 130 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Media Contacts

Nick Baum, Founder StoryWorth 415-967-1531 press@storyworth.com

Thom Reed, Partner Marketing Manager FamilySearch International 513-349-8379 thom@familysearch.org

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Thanks so much for participating in the challenge!

Best,
The ChallengePost Team
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You're receiving this update because you signed up for notifications from RootsTech Innovator Challenge. If you don't want to receive future notifications, change your update notification settings.

Announcing the 8 Semifinalists for the $25,000 RootsTech Innovator Challenge

We received 51 excellent entries and the competition this year surpassed our expectations. It has been very tough for our judges to make their decisions. We appreciate your patient during the judging process.
After reviewing all entries, we are pleased to announce the eight semifinalists in the $25,000* RootsTech Innovator Challenge:

**Argus Search** - Google-like full text search in historic and handwritten documents without prior referencing

**GenMarketplace** - Find experts for your specific family history needs with Dutch auction pricing

**HistoryLines.com** - An instant biography for any ancestor: Explore the lifestyles, places and events that impacted their lives.

**Legacy Stories** - Your stories making history

**Legacyshare** - Where Everyone Makes History

**Lucidpress** - Bring your family history to life with interactive stories that let your family discover their ancestors

**StoryWorth** - The easiest way to record your family stories

**TapGenes** - Personalized health through genealogy, health histories, & genetics to help families minimize risks & live well

These eight teams will present in the semifinal round of judging that will take place at the RootsTech Innovator Summit at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City Utah, on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. They are competing for the four final spots to be judged on-stage to audience of nearly 3,000 during the Innovator Showdown Friday, February 13, 2015 also at RootsTech.

Thank you again for your participation in this challenge and stay tuned for our final winners to be announced on Friday, February 13.

* The $25,000 in total cash prizes is offered by MyHeritage (platinum sponsor), and Grow Utah Ventures, Hero Partners, IPOP Foundation, Sprint, STG, Utah Technology Council.

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**RootsTech Innovator Challenge Status**

We have scheduled our Meetup for February 16th

Data Science for MyFamilySearch.org and FamilyTree DNA

[http://www.meetup.com/Federal-Big-Da...nts/220271343/](http://www.meetup.com/Federal-Big-Da...nts/220271343/)

Sincerely, Brand

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and the explanation of the selection process.

The benefit for me has the added impetus each year to do my family history research and to document it with the advanced technologies I use in my data science/data journalism work.

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*http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons*

Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT

Powered by [mindtouch™](http://mindtouch.com)
My real interests are not the family history industry, but fostering free meetups and massive open online courses that provide big data science training, and now from mining FamilySearch.org, etc.

If FamilySearch.org is interested in that, I would welcome their participation in my meetups. For example, we are working with large graph databases and Semantic Web applications.

Sincerely, Brand

Thank you for your entry in the RootsTech Innovator Challenge. We appreciate your patience during the evaluation process. We received 51 excellent entries and the competition this year was extraordinarily good. It was very tough for the judges to make a decision.

After reviewing the entries, unfortunately your submission was not chosen as one of the semi-finalists. This had little to do with the quality of the submission and more to do with having a pool of very qualified applicants. You can look for the official announcement of the winners tomorrow (Friday, January 30), at 5:00 p.m. MST at http://rootstech.challengepost.com/updates.

Although you are no longer in the running for this year’s prizes, we would love to stay in contact with you and in many cases work with you to become a partner with FamilySearch. One great way to connect is by meeting with us at RootsTech.

You should have already received an invitation to join us. If you have not taken advantage of this offer, we are willing to extend it until Friday, February 6. Go to www.RootsTech.org and click “Register” in the upper right corner. Be sure to use the following discount code: IS15ICOS. This will give you a FREE pass to Innovator Summit on Wednesday, February 11, and 50% off the discounted rate for RootsTech Thursday through Saturday.

We would love the opportunity to get to know you in person and discuss how your app can shape the future of family history. We hope by attending RootsTech, you will get a first hand look at opportunities that exist in the family history industry and receive inspiration for the 2016 Innovator Challenge. And we’ll let you in our little secret…we are lining up $50,000 to offer to next year’s winners!

Once again, thanks for your participation in the RootsTech Innovator Challenge and we wish you the best.

* The $25,000 in total cash prizes is offered by MyHeritage (platinum sponsor), and Grow Utah Ventures, Hero Partners, IPOP Foundation, Sprint, STG, Utah Technology Council.

2015 RootsTech Hack-a-Thon Registrants Survey

Response to Short Survey: Like to participate remotely to see what others are doing in preparation for Data Science for MyFamilySearch.org and FamilyTree DNA, February 16th Meetup in Washington, DC

http://www.meetup.com/Federal-Big-Da...nts/220271343/

We have had a great registration response to our Hack-a-Thon Wednesday night, 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Please answer a few questions so that we can plan for sufficient gifts, prizes, snacks and drinks. This survey will also help prepare for technical resources and assistance.
Please complete the short survey ASAP:  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Nul...F6pjhYLikMFLhw
Looking forward to a fun productive evening.

Gordon Clarke
RootsTech Hack-a-Thon Director
801-240-0770 office
801-253-6365 mobile

Special Event February 10 (the day before RootsTech Innovator Summit)

Bill, Thank you. I will be unable to attend now. Best regards, Brand

The Annual Family History Technology Workshop will be help Feb. 10 at the BYU Conference Center in Provo, Utah. This year's workshop will focus on enabling technologies that will impact the Future of Family History.

To learn more about and to register for the Workshop visit:
http://fhtw.byu.edu/

The workshop will feature
- a lightning session followed by demos
- keynotes and invited talks including speakers and developers
  from industry, universities and FamilySearch
- a panel discussion

The workshop will take place 1 day before the Rootstech Innovators Summit, allowing attendees with technical interests to attend both.

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 10.

-- Daniel Zappala
-- Dallan Quass
-- Bill Barrett

This year's Family History Technology Workshop will take place February 10 at the BYU Conference Center and will focus on "The Future of Family History Technology."

The workshop will begin with a lightning session (2-3 minute speeches) followed by demos of new software apps. The afternoon will feature a keynote by Curt Witcher from the Allen County Public Library, followed by talks from experts from Google, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch. The day will conclude with a panel discussion on the future of family history technology.

We invite all of you who are participating in the Innovator's Summit on February 11 to register for and participate in the Family History Technology Workshop that will be held the day before at BYU.

For more information and to register, visit:  http://fhtw.byu.edu/
We extend a special invitation to all who are submitting their work to the Innovator Challenge to come and participate in the lightning session the morning of February 10 where you will have the opportunity to provide a brief overview of your work followed by a demonstration to attendees.

Thanks and best regards!

We are sorry to inform you that your abstract has not been accepted for presentation at the 2015 Family History Technology Workshop. The workshop was especially competitive this year. Out of 16 submissions, only 6 were chosen to present talks. We hope you will still consider attending this year, as this will be a great opportunity to network with fellow developers and researchers in the area. We will have a full program posted at http://fhtw.byu.edu soon.

-- Daniel Zappala

Semifinal Judging Process

For all those who made the submission deadline, thank you. You are officially eligible to be considered to receive an award from our $25,000 purse. For those who were unable to submit an app or make our deadline this year, we encourage you to follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter and prepare for the 2016 challenge.

We want to remind you of the judging process. We have an agreement with a third-party for judging, contestant mentoring and the award distribution process. The company we are working with is Grow Utah. Communication about your status in the challenge will come from Grow Utah in addition to RootsTech and FamilySearch.

Here’s what to expect heading to the semifinals:

1. Online judging has been underway since 10:00am MST, Friday, January 16, and will continue until, Thursday, January 30, 5:00pm MST.

2. Judges will review submissions and identify eight (8) semifinalists. As part of their process, if you are under consideration as a semifinalist, you may be contacted by Grow Utah to provide additional information for the judges to review.

3. After a final evaluation, the eight (8) semifinalists will be notified by phone and/or email on or before Thursday, January 30. All semifinalists must confirm their availability to come to Salt Lake City, Utah, USA from February 10 to February 14 in order to be eligible.

4. Once eight (8) semifinalists are confirmed eligible, all non-semifinalists will be contacted by email on or before January 30.

5. An official press release announcing the eight (8) semifinalists will be distributed on Thursday, January 30, at 5:00pm MST.

If you have any question about the process, feel free to contact us through the discussion board.

Best of luck!
Prize for submitting your app in the $25K RootsTech #InnovatorChallenge

You did it!

Thank you for your app and idea submission for the RootsTech Innovator Challenge. You are officially eligible to be considered to receive an award from our $25,000 purse. We will announce the eight (8) semifinalists that will be invited to present in person in Salt Lake City at the Innovator Summit on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 5:00pm MST.

As a thank you for your submission, we invite you to be our guests at the Innovator Summit, the largest event focused on expanding technology and business opportunities that leverage family history data. This day-long event, held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 in Salt Lake City Utah, USA, is a unique opportunity for software developers and business leaders to network, learn, and influence the future of the family history industry. As an Innovator Challenge submitter, we are giving you a free pass to join us in person on February 11.

Go to RootsTech.org/Innovator to learn more and to register using the following discount code: IS15ICOS

This code is for all members of your team to use and entitles each of you to a FREE pass to Innovator Summit on Wednesday -OR- a RootsTech + Innovator Summit 4-day pass for only $89.00 (more than 50% off).

We hope you take this opportunity to come meet us in person for RootsTech!

(Sorry for the formatting issue with the last email)

Thom Reed

Director of Partner Marketing

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Challenge Post and YouTube
Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service

Video Script

Slide 1 Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service: RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge

Hello. My name is Brand Niemann and I am a data scientist/data journalist with Semantic Community in the Washington, DC area. I want to quickly show you the highlights of my Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service application. The Wiki Pages for Semantic Community and my three application pages are shown on this first slide.

Slide 2 Imagine Firstly
Imagine firstly you had an authoring environment that could do all of these things and more.

**Slide 3** Imagine Secondly

Imagine secondly that you could work with many content sources in a very versatile way to be your own publisher. So I have about 20,000 Wiki Pages at Semantic Community and there are two that I created for past RootTech Challenges and now this one.

**Slide 4** Overview

This slides show the broader context for what I am doing. Three examples of Big Data is everywhere on the Web, Three examples of Families Need Everything Before Them, and Three Examples of Community Service Needs Web Applications

**Slide 5 1A. RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge Winner: Saving Memories Forever**

I looked at the previous winner and found that is what I am doing already as well for our family

**Slide 6 1A. Saving Memories Forever**

I looked at their web site and noted that my application platform is a state-of-the-art Wiki that started from Wikipedia and became MindTouch that works on both desktop and mobile devices.

**Slide 7 1B. LDS.org: Largest Religious Website in the World**

I am familiar with LDS.org and decided my application should provide the same functionality.

**Slide 8 1C. Share Goodness through Social Media Channels to Flood the Earth**

I believe in using social media to spread goodness and do that with the MindTouch and Meetup.com software platforms as you will see.

**Slide 9 2. Families Need Everything Before Them**

So busy families nowadays need everything before them on the Internet like I have done in my application with Past, Present, and Future.

**Slide 10** Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish

My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish was done for the 2012 Roots Tech Innovation Challenge and received praise from BYU Professor Bill Barrett for my innovative use of MindTouch, spreadsheets, and Spotfire, a leading Business Intelligence and Analytics tool for dashboards.

**Slide 11** My David Furnish Personal Family History Dashboard: How

This slide shows how Spotfire enabled me to visualize the spreadsheet data extracted from a family history book with about 1300 names.
Slide 12 Present: MyLDS.org With Personalized Gospel Study

This slides shows how I responded to a request from Family Search staff to show how I would improve search and personalized use of LDS.org using my data science data mining techniques and tools.

Slide 13 MyLDS.org with Personalized Gospel Study: Result

This slide shows how I use My LDS.org to write talks and lesson that reference content at LDS.org, especially the standard scriptural works.

Slide 14 Future: My Stories and Lessons for Others

Finally this slide shows the Mind Touch site were I leave my legacy for the future in my stories and lessons.

Slide 15 3A. Healthy Family Lifestyles

Next, I show three examples of the use of my application for Community service, first for promoting Healthy Family Lifestyles.

Slide 16 3A. Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

Second with my participation in the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force.

Slide 17 3B. Welcome to Semantic Community.info Community Infrastructure Sandbox for 2015

Third, with my founding, co-organizing, and hosting community Meetups to help people work with big data and foster small businesses.

Slide 18 3B. The Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup

This is the Meetup.com Web Page for my Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup that has about 600 members now in just one year.

Slide 19 Meetup.com

Meetup.com provides this application platform at low cost to many Meetup groups that are revitalizing communities throughout the world.

Slide 20 3C. Data Science for HealthData.gov Developers & Family Caregivers

An upcoming Meetup I have organized is one of special interest to me that focuses on working with big health data for developers and family caregivers since I do that in my professional work and for my wife.

Slide 21 3C. What Family Caregivers Need from Health IT and the Healthcare System to be Effective Health Managers

As I have learned from being a caregiver to my wife, access to her personal health information and that which she needs is critical to her care.
Slide 22 Summary

My Summary is

- Problem: Big Data Is Everywhere on the Web, but:
  - Families Need Everything Before Them; and
  - Community Service Needs Web Applications.

- Solutions:
  - Advanced Web Technologies That People Can Use; and
  - Free Online Courses and Networking Groups to Learn How to Use Them.

- RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge:
  - Multiple Applications Developed Over 4 Years That Does This for Our Family and My Community Service.

- What Would You Do With It?
  - Almost Everything
  - Almost Everyday
  - Almost Anywhere

Please note that all of my content is organized and structured to work on both desktop and mobile applications (iPhone, iPad, etc.) and to produce print publications.

RootsTech Developer Challenge Requirements

Create an app to connect the past with the present and the future!

Get started now by registering now and reading the requirements below. Afterwards, head to the Resources page for app ideas and data! I Registered, Read Requirements, and Looked at Resources.

Eligibility: I have reached the age of majority and my company has less than 50 employees.

Requirement

Content: My submission solves a problem in the family history industry using family history data or services.

Platforms: My submission includes software components:

- native smartphone or tablet app (iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows Mobile) iPad & Tablet
- web app or subscription service YES, IN AMAZON CLOUD
- desktop app (Windows PC, Mac Desktop) YES, WEB BROWSER-BASED
- software running on other hardware (including, but not exclusive to, wearable technology, open source hardware, etc.) NO
- custom hardware which includes a software component (wearable technology, etc.) NO

Supplemental Material: A demo video (hosted on YouTube, Vimeo, or Youku) that walks through the main functionality of the app via screencast or video. You must also submit at least one image/screenshot of your working app. VIDEO AND 22 SLIDES WITH SCREEN CAPTURES

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons

Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT

Powered by mindtouch
Testing: My app has been publicly available at no charge for the past four years.

Judging Criteria

Quality of Idea
Includes creativity, originality, and “wow” factor of the idea. **ENABLING THE USE BIG DATA BY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IS A QUALITY IDEA**

Implementation of Idea
Includes how well the idea was executed by the developer. **I HAVE POSTED SOME OF THE COMPLIMENTS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND FROM PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS ROOTS TECH CHALLENGES**

Potential Impact
Will users get excited about this? Is it applicable? Does it solve a genuine problem? **MY SITE TRAFFIC STATISTICS INDICATES CONSIDERABLE USE**

MVP Status
Preference will be given to innovations where there is a minimum viable product (MVP) and are closer to delivery for real-world use. **IT IS IN REAL-WORLD USE**

Relation to Family History Activities
Preference will be given to ideas that directly or indirectly relate to family history activities (including photos, stories, DNA, social media, etc.), or use family history data. **THIS APP USES ALL BUT DNA**

5 Types of Apps to Consider
- 1. Data preservation apps **YES**
- 2. Visualization apps **YES**
- 3. Research assistant apps **YES**
- 4. Geo-spatial apps **YES**
- 5. 3D apps **COULD BE WITH APPROPRIATE DATA**

APIs, Data, and Tools: MindTouch and Spotfire use multiple data formats and sources and do APIs, Family Trees (Graph and Network Analytics), Statistics, and Visualizations.

Engage the youth, Make it easy to start, and Data Validation: **My BYU student grandson most recently, family, church ward and global community in Meetups.**

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**Background Story**

Recently my grandson said to his dad: I am working with Jonathan my roommate to build a website. He is forming a startup company and I want to help him. I need to get a domain/design the website. It is fairly simple website with contact info and info about his company. Can you help me sometime ... well as soon as you can to help me start? Should have talked about this over the break. Text or call me Thanks Dad
My son replied: Son, for your BYU school of management internship this semester building a data science project in the cloud, I recommend that you get a twitter account and follow Brand, Sr as Spotfire visualizations are being posted there.

I replied: I suggest GoDaddy for domain and web site. And I suggest entering Roots Tech 2015 Challenge due 1/15.

Maybe we can collaborate on this!

I also provided information on the 2015 Family History Technology Workshop:

- Good morning! Are you interested in sharing your ideas about family history and technology? We’d like to invite you to submit a proposal to present at the 2015 Family History Technology Workshop. Talks run anywhere from 2 minutes to 15 on a variety of topics. Submissions are due January 19, 2015. Please see the attached flyer (Wiki version below) for submission instructions and details.

and my recent Sunday Lesson on this:

- Gospel Essentials Class, December 14, 2014, Lesson by Brand Niemann
- The Body Stores Truth

Because Families Need Everything Before Them, I have prepared a series of Dashboards

- Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard:
  - For RootsTech 2012 Innovation Challenge
  - Also see Niemann Family
- Present: MyLDS.org With Personalized Gospel Study
  - For FamilySearch 2013 and 2014 Family History Technology Workshop @ BYU, March 20, 2014
- Future: My Stories and Lessons (This Wiki Page)
  - For RootsTech 2015 Innovator Challenge

We use our car dashboard everyday to tell us Past (Odometer), Present (Speedometer) and Future (Gas Gage).

The Introduction, Overview and Results are shown in the Slides below.

My Summary is

- Problem: Big Data Is Everywhere on the Web, but:
  - Families Need Everything Before Them; and
  - Community Service Needs Web Applications.
- Solutions:
  - Advanced Web Technologies That People Can Use; and
  - Free Online Courses and Networking Groups to Learn How to Use Them.
- RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge:
  - Multiple Applications Developed Over 4 Years That Does This for Our Family and My Community Service.
- What Would You Do With It?
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Almost Everyday
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Note: This content is organized and structured to work on both desktop and mobile applications (iPhone, iPad, etc.) and to produce print publications.

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**Slides**

**Slide 1 Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service: RootsTech 2015 Developer Challenge**

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**Slide 2 Imagine Firstly**

Imagine Firstly

- You had your own authoring environment that was like:
  - Word processing without needing to learn Word
  - Wikipedia but both easier and more powerful
  - Programming without coding
  - Graphics without being an artist
  - Data without being a data scientist
  - Etc.
Slide 3 Imagine Secondly

Imagine Secondly

- You want to have your own:
  - LDS.org
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Scriptures with annotations and cross-references
  - Talks and lessons
  - Personal history
  - Etc.

- That uses:
  - Content management and analytics
  - Search and discovery
  - Security and privacy
  - Cloud services
  - Publishing of books and data sets
  - Etc.

Slide 4 Overview

Overview

- 1. Big Data is Everywhere on the Web:
  - A. RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge Winner: Saving Memories Forever
  - B. LDS.org: Largest Religious Website in the World
  - C. Social Media: Flood the Earth with Truth
- 2. Families Need Everything Before Them:
  - A. Past: Family History
  - B. Present: Religious Study
  - C. Future: Stories and Lessons
- 3. Community Service Needs Web Applications:
  - A. Healthy Family Lifestyles: Nutrition and Domestic Violence Prevention
  - B. Massive Open Online Courses: Semantic Community
  - C. Meetups: Data Science for HealthData.gov Developers and Caregivers
Slide 5 1A. RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge Winner: Saving Memories Forever

1A. RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge Winner: Saving Memories Forever

- FamilySearch is pleased to announce the winner of the RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge, Saving Memories Forever. Saving Memories Forever is an app that is available for iOS and Android devices that allows you to record and share your family memories and access them securely through the website.
- Harvey and Jane Baker, of St. Louis, Missouri, are the founders. They were recognized today onstage at the conclusion of the keynote presentation at RootsTech.
- Their video, which was shown to the capacity audience at the Salt Palace Convention Center, tells their story.

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT
Powered by mindtouch
Slide 7 1B. LDS.org: Largest Religious Website in the World

1B. LDS.org:
Largest Religious Website in the World

- In the October 2011 General Conference, Elder L. Tom Perry, Quorum of the Twelve said: “The Church also attracts attention on the Internet, which, as you know, has dramatically changed the way people share information. At all times of the day across the entire world, the Church and its teachings are being discussed on the Internet, on blogs and social networks, by people who have never written for a newspaper or a magazine. Changes in the way we communicate partly explain why we ‘Mormons’ are more visible than ever.”
- Recently, Jeff Isom, director of LDS.org. “[LDS.org] is believed to be the largest religious website in the world in terms of traffic, design, and content.”

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT

Slide 8 1C. Share Goodness through Social Media Channels to Flood the Earth

1C. Share Goodness through Social Media Channels to Flood the Earth

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT
Slide 9 2. Families Need Everything Before Them

2. Families Need Everything Before Them

- 2A. Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish:
  - My Personal Family History Dashboard
    - For RootsTech 2012 Innovation Challenge
- 2B. Present: MyLDS.org With Personalized Gospel Study:
  - MyLDS.org
    - For FamilySearch 2013 and 2014 Family History Technology Workshop @ BYU, March 20, 2014
- 2C. Future: My Stories and Lessons for Others:
  - My Stories and Lessons
    - For RootsTech 2015 Innovator Challenge

Slide 10 Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish

Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT
Powered by mindtouch
Slide 11 My David Furnish Personal Family History Dashboard: How

Slide 12 Present: MyLDS.org With Personalized Gospel Study
MyLDS.org with Personalized Gospel Study: Result

Future: My Stories and Lessons for Others
Slide 15 3A. Healthy Family Lifestyles

Slide 16 3A. Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

3A. Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

- Dear FCIA Domestic Violence Prevention Committee,
- A BIG THANKS goes out to each of you for the success of the Domestic Violence Workshop for Clergy and Lay Leaders! Without your 1) registration and logistical support, 2) breakfast management, 3) presentations, 4) videography and photography, 5) packing/unpacking/loading/unloading, and 6) knowledgeable responses to participants’ questions, this workshop would not have received such positive feedback. Thank you!
- Some 83 people attended. As I said above, preliminary reviews of the evaluations show high satisfaction ratings. We are still analyzing the evaluations but will have those results to you soon. Brand Niemann recorded the entire event. This video will help us assess and strengthen future workshops. Also, there may be a possibility for us to use sections of the video for future trainings or as a reference tool on the web. We will discuss and see what your thoughts are.
- Source: Sandra (Sandy) Chisholm, Program Manager, Community Interfaith Coordination

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT
Powered by mindtouch™
3B. Welcome to Semantic Community.info Community Infrastructure Sandbox for 2015

3B. The Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup

- Semantic Community is about saving small businesses through People, Process, and Products.
- The Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup is also about helping government agencies develop:
  - People – Data Scientists/Chief Data Officers
  - Process – Data Infrastructure
  - Products – Data Publications
- Some examples:
  - EPA
  - FDA
  - NOAA
  - HHS
  - Eastern Foundary
- And provide MOOCs/Meetups for training and networking.
Slide 19 Meetup.com

Meetup.com

- **Meetup** is the world’s largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 9,000 groups get together in local communities each day, each one with the goal of improving themselves or their communities.
- Meetup’s mission is to revitalize local community and help people around the world self-organize. Meetup believes that people can change their personal world, or the whole world, by organizing themselves into groups that are powerful enough to make a difference.
- Learn more on the Meetup HQ Blog.
  - Members: 20.10 million
  - Meetup Groups: 181,586
  - Countries: 179
  - Monthly Meetups: 380,133
  - Monthly RSVPs: 2.54 million
  - Meetups Happening Now: 2,540

  Meetup HQ Blog

Slide 20 3C. Data Science for HealthData.gov Developers & Family Caregivers

3C. Data Science for HealthData.gov Developers & Family Caregivers

Federal Big Data Working Group

Data Science for HealthData.gov Developers & Family Caregivers

Monday, April 6, 2015

Federal Big Data Working Group Meetup
Slide 21 3C. What Family Caregivers Need from Health IT and the Healthcare System to be Effective Health Managers

3C. What Family Caregivers Need from Health IT and the Healthcare System to be Effective Health Managers

- What do family caregivers need from health information technology? Until recently, this is a question that few had bothered to ask. And yet, there are 93 million family caregivers today in the United States who will provide an estimated $522 billion in care for their loved ones. Imagine the economic impact to our healthcare system were it not for the dedication of family caregivers.
- I am one of them. We are the perfect audience to both use and influence the development of health information technology. But these emerging tools must support our specific information needs in order to become a permanent component of our caregiving toolbox and they must be accompanied by a collaborative healthcare ecosystem in which the family caregiver is a key member of the patient’s care team.
- Source: Mary Anne Sterling, Co-Founder, Connected Health Resources. What Family Caregivers Need from Health IT and the Healthcare System to be Effective Health Managers

Slide 22 Summary

Summary

- Problem: Big Data Is Everywhere on the Web, but:
  - Families Need Everything Before Them; and
  - Community Service Needs Web Applications.
- Solutions:
  - Advanced Web Technologies That People Can Use; and
  - Free Online Courses and Networking Groups to Learn How to Use Them.
- Rootstech 2015 Developer Challenge:
  - Multiple Applications Developed Over 4 Years That Does This for Our Family and My Community Service.
- What Would You Do With It?
  - Almost Everything
  - Almost Everyday
  - Almost Anywhere

Spotfire Dashboards

My Personal Family History Dashboard

For Internet Explorer Users and Those Wanting Full Screen Display Use: Web Player Get Spotfire for iPad App
MyLDS.org

For Internet Explorer Users and Those Wanting Full Screen Display Use: Web Player Get Spotfire for iPad App

Media, iframe, embed and object tags are not supported inside of a PDF.

My Stories and Lessons

For Internet Explorer Users and Those Wanting Full Screen Display Use: Web Player Get Spotfire iPad App

Media, iframe, embed and object tags are not supported inside of a PDF.

Research Notes

Whitehouse NITRD 2015 Big Data Strategic Initiative Workshop, January 22-23, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Live: http://www.ustream.tv/GeorgetownLive

Agenda: http://workshops.cs.georgetown.edu/B...015/agenda.htm

Upcoming Meetup, February 2, 2015: http://www.meetup.com/Federal-Big-Da...nts/218868025/

Background: http://semanticommunity.info/Data_Sc...d_D_Initiative

My Slides: http://semanticommunity.info/@api/de...n01232015.pptx

Domestic Violence Tier Two Training, February 12, 2015

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10, 9 am - 12 pm

The Use of Storytelling in our Work

featuring: Kathleen Kelmelis and Susan Folwell

NARRATIVES - MAKING SENSE OF OUR STORIES, KATHLEEN KELMELIS
Each of us has a story to tell and in the telling our lives take on shape and meaning. Through the use of narrative we are able to examine our actions, question our motives, and recognize the effects our choices have had on our lives and the lives of others. Biography tells the when, where, and what of our lives; life story examines the why and how of it.

This workshop will give you tools and ideas for accessing, examining, and conveying your life story. Your life story is uniquely yours. Through the recalling and telling of your life story, your values and beliefs come to life and can be passed on to others. Through the sharing of our stories, we can accept and appreciate ourselves and one another.

USING STORIES TO HELP SURVIVORS, SUSAN FOLWELL

As survivors of domestic and sexual violence, our clients often tell stories, many of which are traumatic. As advocates, therapists, and “those who listen,” we often lend voice to what has been unspoken or unspeakable in their lives, participating in the telling of their stories. The process is sometimes difficult and painful, and can become overwhelming. Exploring a topic metaphorically or using stories may add clarity and insight, giving fresh perspectives.

This workshop will explore ways that we can use stories to convey essential messages, provide information in a new way, and help survivors overcome obstacles in the process of coping, healing and moving forward. Resources and examples will be provided.

**Domestic Violence – Faith Communities’ Response to Victims, October 8, 2013**

Domestic Violence Prevention Committee Meeting

Source: [Word](#)

Brand Niemann, Member of the Domestic Violence Prevention Committee, August 5, 2013

My experience with attending these committee meetings and training sessions and working directly with a victim and offender in our congregation have taught me the importance of the following:

**Recognize:** You first need to observe and prepare to serve under the direction of your faith community leaders and Fairfax County experts. **Realize:** The conditions the victim, offender, and children are in and that significant time and effort are needed over a period of time. **Recommend:** The professional services of a lawyer, doctors, and counselors for the victim, offender, and children.

The best description of a victim I have heard comes from a professional trauma and emotional stress counselor in this area: “Trauma occurs when, in order to survive or process an event, the individual freezes and become stuck. Trauma is the inability to stay in the present – individuals are in a stuck point or pattern. Rarely will people know to report these symptoms…what you will likely see is stress, avoidance, tensing up, minimizing, stuck in certain parts of their lives, or a behavior on a spectrum from sharing to not opening up at all. They will likely present as overwhelming or confusing to you.”

The video shown in the Tier 1 Domestic Violence Training by the Academy of Early Childhood Trauma should be seen by all to understand the developmental damage that occurs to the innocent young children in these situations.
Catherine Hassinger, Executive Director, Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc., asked all of us in one of our recent committee meetings for the scriptural basis for what we are doing and my response was the following from my church’s teachings in a Family Proclamation (excerpt):

Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. “Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.

We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

My experience this past year has given me an appreciation for the wonderful services provided by Fairfax County, the need for training in victim resiliency and violence interruption, and the need for more “Stephen-type ministers” to do this work.

The 2015 Family History Technology Workshop, February 10, 2015

Source: PDF

Call for Participation

February 10, 2015 BYU Campus, Provo

http://fhtw.byu.edu

Registration $60 Includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, admission to all sessions $30 Student registration

IMPORTANT DATES Submissions Due January 19, 2015 MY NOTE: I submitted a Developer Talk

Notification of Acceptance January 30, 2015


Workshop February 10, 2014

SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP

The 2015 Family History Technology Workshop will bring together developers, researchers, technology professionals, and users to discuss the future of family history technology and genealogical research. The workshop will feature developer sessions, lightning talks, technical presentations, panels, and demos to showcase emerging and future technologies.
DEVELOPER TALK

Give a 10 to 15 minute talk about new tools, libraries, or languages, accompanied by a demo of what is being developed. Our emphasis is on novel approaches that will impact the future of family history technology.

To submit an idea for a developer talk, send us a 1-2 paragraph description of what you will cover. Include a short biographical statement and a link to your developer profile on GitHub or other relevant sites.

LIGHTNING TALK

Give a 2 to 5 minute presentation on your latest work in family history technology. We welcome startups, new open source projects, work in progress, or strongly held (but informative) opinions on where the future of family history technology will go.

To submit an idea for a lightning talk, send us a one paragraph description of what you will cover. Include a short biographical statement and a link to your product or web site and to your social media profile. Indicate whether you would also like to provide a demo in between sessions.

RESEARCH TALK

Give a 10 to 15 minute presentation on your research, including key ideas, algorithms and results. Topics could include data modeling, extraction, search, natural language processing, document processing, handwriting recognition, machine learning, expert systems, social networks, human interfaces, data visualization, mobile technologies, automated research, cloud computing, security, or other areas of computing as they relate to family history research. Working demos are strongly encouraged.

To submit an idea for a research talk, send a 1-2 page extended abstract, including citations, similar to what you would submit to a technical conference in your field of study. Include a short biographical statement and a link to your personal web presence and/or social media profile.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Presenters should submit the above information by January 19, 2015 to fhtw@internet.byu.edu. Submissions will be reviewed by members of the program committee.

Workshop Organization

General Chair: Bill Barrett

Program Chair: Daniel Zappala

Developer Chair: Dallan Quass

Program Committee

Sue Dintelman, Pleiades Software
The 2015 Family History Technology Workshop, February 10, 2015, Submission

DEVELOPER TALK

Give a 10 to 15 minute talk about new tools, libraries, or languages, accompanied by a demo of what is being developed. Our emphasis is on novel approaches that will impact the future of family history technology.

To submit an idea for a developer talk, send us a 1-2 paragraph description of what you will cover. Include a short biographical statement and a link to your developer profile on GitHub or other relevant sites.

Title: Big Data from Everywhere for Families and Community Service

Link to Story, Slides, Video, and Dashboard Applications: http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons#Story

Also: 2015 RootsTech Developer Challenge Post: http://rootstech.challengepost.com/s...oper-challenge
Faith Community In Action Network Meeting, January 14, 2015

Three basic things I learned about helping the homeless that I told others:

• Call the help line with the person
• Go into the Hypo Center with the person to make sure they are fully registered and get medical help
• Take the person to one of the partner organizations (e.g. Cornerstones) to get comprehensive help

Web addresses:

• http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm
• http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/
• http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/
• https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxhomeless
  ○ You can see me (bald spot on head to the right) in the picture of the meeting posted at Facebook!

Agenda

Welcome: Rabbi David Kalender, Chairperson, FCIA & Fairfax County Clergy & Leadership Council

Participant Announcements: Network Participants

FCIA Committee Reports

• Domestic Violence Prevention: Reverend Bruce Langwiser My Note: February 12, SEE ABOVE AND DO VIDEO
• Community Dialogues: Marie Monsen
• Older Adult Ministries: Patricia Rohrer
• Interfaith Emergency Preparedness/Response: Tom Lambiese
• Children and Youth: Shari Zamarra My Note: Mentoring works! Who is doing it in their churches. We are! January 15th Event and Computer C.O.R.E. Training
• Food Council & Community Gardening Workgroup: Sandy Chisholm
• Day for All People at the General Assembly Building: January 20th, 8 am-3 pm My Note: Meet your state representatives in Richmond
• Stuff the Bus For Local Food Pantries: Fairfax Walmart (two blocks away), Saturday, January 17th
Ten Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness—What’s the Status?: Dean Klein, Director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

- Plan Overview
- Status
- Community and Government Efforts
- How Faith Communities Can be Involved
- Questions and Answers

Closing: Rabbi David Kalender

My Note: I have a copy of the training materials they handed out.

**Hypothermia Prevention Program Update**

History: The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of the community’s effort to prevent and end homelessness that incorporates the collaborative work of area faith communities, civic organizations, businesses and individual volunteers. The program represents a shining example of collaborative effectiveness in serving the critical needs of the chronically and vulnerable homeless persons when they are in most danger of exposure to cold and frigid weather. In the Winter season of 2013-2014, the program served 1,056 guests at all of the sites and moved many clients directly into permanent housing. There were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Current Status:

- Partners opened their shelters to “no turn-away” status effective November 4, 2014
- Full operations were in effect by December 1, 2014
- During the week between Christmas and New Year’s an average of 185 people per night were served
- A total of 55 shelter sites, mostly houses of worship, are used over the season
- Over 2,000 volunteers provide space, food, care and time over the course of the season

Partners:

- **FACETS** season began on November 23, 2014, and goes through March 15, 2015, with doors opening at 5:30 pm each evening at two site locations that rotate weekly and closing at 7:00 am each morning seven days a week. FACETS served 261 clients last season. For further information, contact Abby Dunner at ADunner@facetscares.org or 703-452-5090.
- **Volunteers of America Chesapeake’s Program** began serving on December 1, 2014, and goes through March 31, 2015. Last year the program served 349 clients. Guests assemble at the Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter each evening at 4 pm. By transporting guests to their prospective off-site-hypothermia prevention shelter sites the program rotates week-to-week between faith community hosting sites. For further information, contact Jerrianne Anthony at janthony@voaches.org or 703-820-7621.
- **Cornerstone’ Program** began December 1, 2014, at the North County Government Building and additional spaces available at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. Last season, the program served 419 clients. For further information, contact Ken Hinkel at Ken.Hinkel@cornerstonesva.org or 703-437-0200.
- **New Hope Housing** operates the Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VIC-HOP) and opens its doors on December 1, 2014, at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. VIC-HOP and the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter Winter Overflow programs served 379 clients. New Hope Housing shelter coverage is provided by a partnership of over 17 faith-based agencies and organizations located in Hybia Valley, Mount Vernon, and the
South County area. For further information, please contact Sherry Edelkamp at sedelkamp@yahoo.com, Tonya Golden at tgolden@newhopehousing.org or 703-799-0200.

- Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter in Partnership with New Hope Housing operates from November 15, 2014, to March 31, 2015, providing a warm bed, meals, life skills classes, and case management services to the guests. Last season, the program served 46 guests. For further information, contact Tonya Golden at tgolden@newhopehousing.org or 703-799-0200.

- Additionally, the Fairfax County Health Department's Homeless Healthcare Program's nurse practitioners provide medical care to guests. Outreach workers visit each venue to enroll clients into the clinics Community Health Care Network. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board provides mental health care to clients at the various sites. The effective collaboration also includes the Police Department, the Fire Marshall's Office, and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. These groups support the program and its client's needs throughout the season. This collaborative effort prevented deaths from hypothermia, provided case management to hundreds of clients, and moved individuals into permanent housing directly from the Winter Seasonal Hypothermia Prevention Program.

- Fairfax County continues to operate the six year-round emergency shelters for individuals and families who are homeless. Families with children who need shelter must contact Coordinated Services Planning at 703-222-0880 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. After business hours, families with children in need of shelter should go directly to the nearest family shelter.

Team Excellence Award: While the Hypothermia Prevention Program originally simply provided cover from the freezing winter temperatures, many of the private facilities were not designed to be shelters, and therefore following the 2009-2010 program year, the county created a committee to ensure that the facilities met all safety requirements for overnight occupancy with the growing number in need.

The Office of the County Executive, the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Office of the County Attorney, and the Office of Public Affairs formed a committee, which was comprised of participants from a number of county agencies, including the Office of the Fire Marshall, and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, to ensure the temporary shelter sites- often places of worship not intended to be overnight residences - met applicable fire and building codes. The committee developed a list of criteria that met the code requirements while minimizing the impact on the use of existing temporary Faith Community Buildings already participating in the program, and still guaranteeing homeless individuals the opportunity for shelter. Although a few of the previously used facilities did not meet the newly established criteria, the committee enabled all of the facilities to stay in use for the transition year.

This group also helped secure passage of a change to the 2012 capital State Code Adoption process that would grant the county's Building Official the authority to grant a temporary change of use for a facility. This will help ensure that private facilities entering the Hypothermia Prevention Program in the future can meet applicable fire and building codes and be approved for overnight occupancy in a more expedited manner.

As we go into the 2014-2015 Hypothermia program year the committee has provided shelter from the elements for the homeless individuals but also a safe place for them to stay. Public and private partners involved in this effort were awarded the Team Excellence Award on November 7, 2014.

The Ten-Year Plain is guiding our efforts in helping clients to be better off by providing more services, more assessments and more referrals to housing from the Hypothermia Prevention Program and seeing positive results. For further information on the Hypothermia Prevention Program, please contact Debbie Scaggs at debbie.scaggs@fairfaxcounty.gov or 571-722-8952 in the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.
FamilySearch is pleased to announce the winner of the RootsTech 2014 Developer Challenge, Saving Memories Forever. Saving Memories Forever is an app that is available for iOS and Android devices that allows you to record and share your family memories and access them securely through the website, http://www.savingmemoriesforever.com. Harvey and Jane Baker, of St. Louis, Missouri, are the founders. They were recognized today onstage at the conclusion of the keynote presentation at RootsTech. Their video, which was shown to the capacity audience at the Salt Palace Convention Center, tells their story.

As the grand prize winner, in addition to the recognition they received at the keynote presentation, Saving Memories Forever receives $2,000 cash and a Dell laptop computer.

On behalf of FamilySearch and RootsTech, we’d like to congratulate Harvey and Jane Baker for their winning entry in the Developer Challenge.

Also announced today were the second and third place finishers in Developer Challenge. Find-A-Record, the product of John Clark and Justin York of Provo, UT, was awarded $1,000, and second place. PhotoFaceMatch, developed by Steve Miller and Charley Smart of Eclipse Identity Recognition, was awarded third place with a cash prize of $500.
Since I am going to RootsTech 2015 and teaching the Gospel Essential Class, I thought I should do a tutorial on Family Search (New and Family Tree) since there is an announcement that the old new.FamilySearch.org website is being taken down publicly on February 1, 2015:

The new.FamilySearch.org website was recently closed down because, among other things, it no longer allowed us to provide the best possible service and data resources to our users. The few users who were still using the new.FamilySearch.org site were redirected to the current FamilySearch Family Tree website. However, several people have asked questions about why FamilySearch migrated away from new.FamilySearch.org site to the FamilySearch Family Tree. Below are some of the most commonly asked questions regarding this transition and answers to those questions.

My eldest son has used FamilySearch (new and Family Tree) more than I have since I have used my MindTouch Wiki, Excel Spreadsheets, and Spotfire Dashboards for my Family History and MyLDS.org Dashboards to complete four generations of research and temple work on both sides of my family. I also use these same tools extensively for my data science/ data journalism work with Semantic Community.

So I am going to create a storyboard with PowerPoint slides and screen captures to help understand current use of FamilySearch.org and why technology is not the most important part of this. For example, having all things before me and my family and being able to print out the Temple Ready Information has been the most important feature for me recently.

Family Search provides the following functions:

- Family Tree: Tree, Person, Find, and Lists
- Memories: Photos, Stories, Documents, Audio, People, Albums, and Find
- Search: Records, Genealogies, Catalogs, Book, and Wiki
- Indexing: Overview, Find a Project, Help Resources
- Temple: All Reserved, Not Printed, Printed, Shared, and Opportunities

In taking stock on my experience with these functions:

- I have been a Ward Family History Consultant, taught the Family History Class and worked in the Family History Library of the Oakton Virginia Stake
- I have received help on the telephone and in-person for the Salt Lake City Family History Library
- I have traveled to Czechoslovakia for family history records and met with a foremost genealogist there
- I have obtained family history records from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- I have Indexed Family History Records in a Family Book
- I maintain a Family History Research Wiki (MindTouch)
- My Family History Research Wiki contains Family History Memories: Photos, Stories, Documents, Audio, People, Albums, and Find (using the Google Chrome Web Browser, Excel Find and Spotfire Find)
- I have done the temple work for my ancestors and have enlisted my children and friends to help me.
I may have left out something in my 50+ year history of this!

So what came to me in doing this was the following:

- FamilySearch.org continues to evolve to provide more comprehensive tools and opportunities to a global audience of members and non-members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- I have used more comprehensive tools in my work because I am a data scientist/data journalist and wanted all things before me and my family on the Web (with confidentiality for some very sensitive and sacred content).
- I need to use by spreadsheet information to build my Family Tree in FamilySearch.org.

Sound Byte:

- I am a data scientist/data journalist by profession and a convert member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- I have worked on my family history research and temple work for 50+ years to complete the work on four generations on both sides of my family.
- I was prompted to use my data science knowledge and tools to extract about 1,500 names from a book that sat on my shelf for about 30 years and submit that application to the RootsTech 2012 Innovation Challenge.
- That application was essentially a visualization of my family tree which is the current focus of Family Search.
- Then I was prompted to want to have all things before me for family and community service which is essentially what Family Search has become, plus MyLDS.org and use of social media with my Semantic Community Sandbox Wiki for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and Meetup.com for Big Data Meetups.

MORE TO FOLLOW AFTER THE BYU FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP, INNOVATORS SUMMIT, AND ROOTSTECH 2015

Research Notes:

Why is my temple opportunities list empty?
FamilySearch scans your family tree to see if any of the deceased ancestors there need ordinances. If any are found, their names appear here—as opportunities for temple service.

Specifically, FamilySearch scans back as far as your great–great–grandparents, also looking at each of their spouses, their children, and their children’s spouses. If your family tree extends farther, you can find those ordinances by working in Family Tree.

Slides

Slides
My FamilySearch.org Tutorial

Dr. Brandi Niemann
Director and Senior Data Scientist/Data Journalist
Semantic Community
My Personal Family History Dashboard
My LDS.org
My Stories and Lessons
January 22, 2015

Slide 2 Story: Introduction

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Slide 3 FamilySearch.org: Overview

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Slide 4 FamilySearch.org: Fan Chart

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 5 FamilySearch.org: Fan Chart Start

https://familysearch.org/tree/#section=fan
Slide 6 FamilySearch.org: Memories

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 7 FamilySearch.org: Memories Start

https://familysearch.org/photos/images
Slide 8 FamilySearch.org: Family Tree

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 9 FamilySearch.org: Family Tree Start

https://familysearch.org/tree/#section=pedigree
Slide 10 FamilySearch.org: Search

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 11 FamilySearch.org: Search Start

https://familysearch.org/search
FamilySearch.org: Search Start

https://familysearch.org/search

Slide 12 FamilySearch.org: Indexing

https://familysearch.org/

FamilySearch.org: Indexing

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 13 FamilySearch.org: Indexing Start

https://familysearch.org/indexing/
FamilySearch.org: Indexing Start

https://familysearch.org/indexing/

Slide 14 FamilySearch.org: Family Booklet

https://familysearch.org/

FamilySearch.org: Family Booklet

https://familysearch.org/

Slide 15 FamilySearch.org: Family Booklet Start

https://familysearch.org/campaign/myfamily
Slide 16 FamilySearch.org: Volunteer

https://familysearch.org/volunteer/

Slide 17 FamilySearch.org: Get Help

https://familysearch.org/volunteer/
Slide 18 FamilySearch.org: Read Only


Slide 19 FamilySearch.org: Family Tree

https://familysearch.org/tree/#view=...erson=KW84-11Z
Slide 20 FamilySearch.org: Fan Chart

https://familysearch.org/tree/#view=...erson=KW84-11Z

Slide 21 Niemann Family History: Harold Emil Niemann

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons/Eagle_Scout
Helping the Poor in the Lord's Way, by Brand L. Niemann

TALK IN PROCESS

Last Sunday at Word Conference, our Bishop talked about helping the poor by reading and talking about several key scriptures and the words of modern day prophets and apostles like Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in his recent 2014 General Conference Address: Are We Not All Beggars?:

Rich or Poor, we are to "do what we can" when others are in need

In what would be the most startling moment of His early ministry, Jesus stood up in His home synagogue in Nazareth and read these words prophesied by Isaiah and recorded in the Gospel of Luke: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and … set at liberty them that are bruised.”
Thus the Savior made the first public announcement of His messianic ministry. But this verse also made clear that on the way to His ultimate atoning sacrifice and Resurrection, Jesus’s first and foremost messianic duty would be to bless the poor, including the poor in spirit.

From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus loved the impoverished and the disadvantaged in an extraordinary way. He was born into the home of two of them and grew up among many more of them. We don't know all the details of His temporal life, but He once said, "Foxes have holes, and … birds … have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."2 Apparently the Creator of heaven and earth “and all things that in them are”3 was, at least in His adult life, homeless.

Down through history, poverty has been one of humankind’s greatest and most widespread challenges. Its obvious toll is usually physical, but the spiritual and emotional damage it can bring may be even more debilitating. In any case, the great Redeemer has issued no more persistent call than for us to join Him in lifting this burden from the people. As Jehovah, He said He would judge the house of Israel harshly because “the spoil of the [needy] is in your houses.”

“What mean ye,” He cried, “that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor?”4

The writer of Proverbs would make the matter piercingly clear: “He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker,” and “whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor … shall [also] cry himself, but shall not be heard.”5

In our day, the restored Church of Jesus Christ had not yet seen its first anniversary when the Lord commanded the members to “look to the poor and … needy, and administer to their relief that they shall not suffer.”6 Note the imperative tone of that passage—“they shall not suffer.” That is language God uses when He means business.

In an 1831 revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord said the poor would one day see the kingdom of God coming to deliver them “in power and great glory”. May we help fulfill that prophecy…. by doing what we can to deliver any we can from poverty…..

What does it mean to grind the faces of the poor?: Someone who grinds the faces of the poor, treats poor people very badly, often to get money from them. Source: Cambridge Dictionary

Matthew 26:11. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

Matthew 25:40: Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Providing in the Lord’s Way, Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency

The welfare principles of the Church are not simply good ideas; they are revealed truths from God—they are His way of helping the needy.

One of my favorite scriptures is: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27

Before I joined the LDS Church, I loved this scripture as a teenager, who got their first bible from perfect attendance at church. I always thought the test of the Lord and every church would be the following: Was the spirit of the Lord especially evident in carrying out this scripture and did the church teach and practice this with its own members and those in their community that were not members of their congregation.

Well to make a long story short, I have recently found that both of these are true in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Fairfax County where I live outside of Washington, DC. I have written previously about my experiences, while protecting confidentiality, of helping a mother and her child go through the three year process of protecting herself and her young child from domestic abuse and violence with the help of the LDS Church and the wonderful experts and training programs provide by the Fairfax County through its Faith Community in Action Program that partners with members of all faiths and congregations in many ways.

Now I have begun a new journey of learning and discipleship with helping the homeless man who has committed to baptism and wants to marry a member of our Ward congregation, who herself is mentally disabled by an inherited genetic disease.

Again to make a long story short, everything I did not know to do to help these two individuals, the Holy Ghost has prompted me to do so far because the Lord does not lie and leave us alone when He tells us to practice pure religion, care for the poor and alleviate their suffering. He is there in the details of our lives and those we try to purely serve.
A well meaning Ward member who learned of this sacred ministry, said: I would like to help, but there is a fine line between serving and enabling. I did not know how to respond to that, but the spirit whispered to me to respond simply and politely by saying: Listening to the Spirit erases that fine line.

So the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and their Hypothermia Prevention Program Update (see elsewhere on this page) have taught me the three basic things about helping the homeless that am using and sharing with others:

- Call the help line with the person
- Go into the Hypo Center with the person to make sure they are fully registered and get medical help
- Take the person to one of the partner organizations (e.g. Cornerstones) to get comprehensive help

I have certainly learned the short-hand terms of the homeless like Hypo for Hypothermia Centers and FACETS which is:

Founded in 1988, FACETS is a well-established nonprofit organization that touches and improves the lives of thousands of families and individuals every year. We open doors by helping people meet their emergency shelter, food, and medical needs, helping them gain safe, sustainable and permanent housing and working with them to end the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs. Our multi-disciplinary professional staff manages a comprehensive range of programs and services and a volunteer base of several thousand. As a founding and active partner in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, FACETS is committed to working collaboratively in the county-wide effort to help our neighbors in need of safe and affordable housing. We invite you to be and feel a part of our work to open doors for people in need in Fairfax County.

I feel so blessed to live in a community that offers such excellent services and has so many wonderful people of different faiths that have united to collaborate in such a noble cause.

Attending these Faith Community In Action (FCIA) meetings now for several years, I wondered if there was anything I could contribute. I have had three experiences where I was asked to contribute and did and it was well-received as follows:

First, the entire membership of the FCIA Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force I participate in were asked in a meeting by the head of the women's shelter for domestic violence victims and their children to state the scriptural basis for what were trying to do and I ended up being the only one to respond by telling them about our Family Proclamation. The head of the women's shelter said that was on of the best things she had ever heard and asked me to send it to all the members. Recently, I was at a training session for clergy on Domestic Violence and sat across the table for a women that looked very familiar and she said I know who you are, I have never forgot what you told us about your Church's Family Proclamation.

Second, I volunteered to video the recent Domestic Violence Training Session for Clergy and when they saw the video they wanted copies on DVD for others, my Stake President wanted a copy for Bishops and Relief Society Presidents, and the video captured the story of a women victim of serious domestic violence that she had been unable to do previously and now she and others have that video.
Thirdly, my fellow FCIA members ask me what I do in my church and I try to describe it in a few words, while protecting confidentiality, that I work under the direction of our Bishop and other priesthood and women leaders to help individuals with serious mental and physical disabilities and poverty, and they say 'oh so you are what we call "a Stephen Minister.' I looked that up on Wikipedia and had to agree that is a good way for them to understand it. Others says that I am a mentor or life coach. I just tell them that what it really is is something that brings that is very challenging and brings me me great joy in my older years because I have gained in wisdom and experience and the Gift of the Holy Ghost to do it.

From a recent visit to the Social Security Office with our disabled Ward member, I have become what they call the Payee for her monthly Social Security Disability income payment using a debit card. She and her mother wanted me to do this because I am a in the same ward and more aware of her day-to-day needs and hope to train her future husband in this. Word cannot describe the feelings I had when she said she wants me to pay her tithing first when I receive her money on that card and that she wants to go to the temple.

My hope is that one day I will see her at the front of the line of the poor the Savior promised the would one day see the kingdom of God coming to deliver them "in power and great glory".

So this new journey begins with a receipt book to account for how every cent of he income is spent each month. Elder Holland said in his recent General Conference address entitled Are We Not All Beggars? By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, that he had never really been poor, nor could he imagine how that would be. I also know I have never really been poor, but I now know in small measure the daily walk of a poor person and a homeless person from Bishop's Storehouse, to thrift stores, to food panties, etc. and from homeless shelter to homeless shelter, to try to get any kind or work and assistance with food stamps, medical care, etc.

The closest I ever recall to not having anything to eat was when I was a poor college student who had just joined the church and was learning to exercise faith in paying my tithing. One Sunday, I paid my tithing knowing full well that my money would run out by mid-week and my food shortly thereafter. Mid-week came and so did a knock on the door by a graduate student friend who liked to fish in the canyons who brought the fish he had caught thinking that I might like to eat them and I eat them the rest of the week until I got my next paycheck. I am reminded of that experience when someone needs food to eat - someone needs to bring it to them and teach them to fish.

So the poor need friends who listen to the promptings of the Spirit and bring those things that are needed and both are edified by this scared experience that teaches us that Our Heavenly Father knows all things we all stand in need of in our lives.

MORE TO FOLLOW AS WE KEEP THE RECEIPT BOOK AND PREPARE FOR THE BAPTISM

Testimony on Fast Sunday, January 5, 2015, by Brand L. Niemann

Source: Word

Brothers and Sisters, I need to read my testimony because I am at an age when I need to write things down when they come to me or I will forget them and this came to me in the early morning.

I want to bear testimony of what I have come to know is the most important thing to know about our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, in addition to that they love us all unconditionally.
When thinking about this principle that I taught recently in the Gospel Essentials Class, I was reminded by the spirit of an experience I had as a young father many years ago with one of my children.

My second eldest son was an energetic teenager who liked to have fun and one night he decided to go to a party wearing my scout uniform. When I heard about this I was very upset because I thought this was very disrespectful of my scout uniform and the scouting tradition we had in our family - my father was an Eagle Scout and so was I, and eventually all four sons and now two grandsons, and two more this year.

I decided to summon him to my den to as people like to say: read him the riot act or scold him severely. But as he sat down in front of me, the most amazing thing happened. The spirit showed me a brief vision of him as a wonderful priesthood holder, father, and husband in the future, and I was so taken back by that, that all I could say to him was that I knew that he would be a wonderful priesthood holder, father, and husband in the future, and what could I do to help him be that.

Fast forward to today, that son is that, not in my words, but in the words of my non-member sister and brother, and many others that tell me that and post that to his Facebook page. His eldest son is one of the youngest national chess masters at only age 11 in history. Bishop Bryan Earl in our Ward also knows my son because he served as the High Priest Group Leader in the San Francisco Ward where Bishop Earl presided.

So the restored gospel principle this illustrates is that all things are continually before the Godhead: past present and future, and that we should strive to maintain this eternal perspective in this life.

Finally, the best example of that in my life that I want to bear testimony of is as follows:

Past - Then Shirley Edwards (now Shirley Niemann) prepared 32 years in this life, and probably in the pre-existence, knowing her as I do know, to fulfill the mission the Lord gave her in her Patriarchal Blessing that says: "The Lord wants you to prepare to become the mother of a family."

She always thought that meant to be married after her church mission and have her own children, but then she wondered why of all her six brothers and sisters, she was still not married at age 32 and could not have children. How that would be fulfilled?

Present - Then my first wife and mother of our 7 children died suddenly and the Lord told me to propose temple marriage to Shirley Edwards, and she accepted because we truly fell in love and she knew while becoming the instant mother of a family of 7 children would not be easy. It was what she and the Lord had prepared for.

Future - So now Shirley Niemann and I have been happily married for almost 32 years and have 22 grandchildren and look forward to eternal life together with of our children and grandchildren because of our temple sealing.

I did not know all of this was going to happen as a non-member over 70 years ago when I started this life, but I do bear fervent testimony that it has happened and was in my Patriarchal Blessing and that of Sister Niemann, so clearly all things are before the Lord. Of which I bear humble and grateful testimony, in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
My Assignments

Are We Not All Beggars? By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Rich or Poor, we are to “do what we can” when others are in need

In an 1831 revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord said the poor would one day see the kingdom of God coming to deliver them “in power and great glory”. May we help fulfill that prophecy…. by doing what we can to deliver any we can from poverty….

Finding Lasting Peace and Building Eternal Families By Elder L. Tom Perry

It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that provides the foundation upon which we can find lasting peace and build eternal family units

We must instill in future generations an ever stronger reliance on the teachings of our Lord and Savior.

Priesthood Session

Choose Wisely By Elder Quentin L. Cook

“Refuse the evil, and choose the good." )Isaiah 7:15)

In all things we should remember that being “valiant in the testimony of Jesus” is the great dividing test between the celestial and terrestrial kingdoms.

I Know These Things of Myself By Elder Craig C. Christensen

Learning for ourselves that the restored gospel of Jesus Christ is true can be one of the greatest and most joyful experiences.

Like the young deacon I spoke of earlier, I admire President Monson for his testimony. It is like a towering redwood, yet even President Monson’s testimony had to grow and develop over time.

2014 October Conference Talks Assignments

Saturday Morning Session

Welcome to Conference By President Thomas S. Monson

Elder Peterson

The Reason for Our Hope By President Boyd K. Packer
Which Way Do You Face? By Elder Lynn G. Robbins

The Sacrament—a Renewal for the Soul By Cheryl A. Esplin

Rescue in Unity By Elder Chi Hong (Sam) Wong

**Elder Seely**

Free Forever, to Act for Themselves By Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Receiving a Testimony of Light and Truth By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Saturday Afternoon Session

The Sustaining of Church Officers Presented by President Henry B. Eyring

Loving Others and Living with Differences By Elder Dallin H. Oaks

**Elder Nyman**

Joseph Smith By Elder Neil L. Andersen

Parents: The Prime Gospel Teachers of Their Children By Tad R. Callister

Approaching the Throne of God with Confidence By Elder Jörg Klebingat

Yes, Lord, I Will Follow Thee By Elder Eduardo Gavarret

**Brother Niemann**

Are We Not All Beggars? By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Finding Lasting Peace and Building Eternal Families By Elder L. Tom Perry

Priesthood Session

Choose Wisely By Elder Quentin L. Cook

I Know These Things of Myself By Elder Craig C. Christensen

**Annalise Dew**

The Law of the Fast: A Personal Responsibility to Care for the Poor and Needy By Bishop Dean M. Davies

“Lord, Is It I?” By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

The Preparatory Priesthood By President Henry B. Eyring

Guided Safely Home By President Thomas S. Monson
Continuing Revelation By President Henry B. Eyring

Sunday Morning Session

Andy Earl

Sustaining the Prophets By Elder Russell M. Nelson

Live according to the Words of the Prophets By Carol F. McConkie

Eternal Life—to Know Our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ By Elder Robert D. Hales

The Sacrament and the Atonement By Elder James J. Hamula

Elder Slater

Ponder the Path of Thy Feet By President Thomas S. Monson

Sunday Afternoon Session

Stay in the Boat and Hold On! By Elder M. Russell Ballard

Make the Exercise of Faith Your First Priority By Elder Richard G. Scott

The Lord Has a Plan for Us! By Elder Carlos A. Godoy

Steve Johnson

The Book By Elder Allan F. Packer

Our Personal Ministries By Elder Hugo E. Martinez

Trifle Not with Sacred Things By Elder Larry S. Kacher

Come and See By Elder David A. Bednar

Who?

Until We Meet Again By President Thomas S. Monson

General Women's Session

Prepared in a Manner That Never Had Been Known By Linda K. Burton

Covenant Daughters of God By Jean A. Stevens

Video Presentation: The Holy Temple The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sharing Your Light By Neill F. Marriott
Living the Gospel Joyful By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Mapping High Priests to Members Near Their Homes for Missionary Exchanges

https://lds.org/maps/?lang=eng#ll=38...ard&ward=42919

Download of Spreadsheet That Can be Used For GPS Devices or Spreadsheet Applications

Listing: Needs Rest of First Three Columns
Map of 194 Ward Members With Addresses

Find High Priests, Home Teacher Niemann, List of Families

Display Locations of Niemann Home Teaching Families

Gospel Essentials Class, December 14, 2014, Lesson by Brand Niemann

Source: Word
Overview

1 Introduction
2 Gospel Game
3 Application and Assignment

1. Introduction

Google: All things are before the Lord

First Hit: Continually Before the Lord - BYU Computer Science

http://faculty.cs.byu.edu/~clement/r...oreTheLord.htm

CONTINUALLY BEFORE THE LORD

By Lael J. Woodbury, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University since 1973

FOREWORD

COMMISSIONER'S LECTURE SERIES
by Neal A. Maxwell (Eventually Elder Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles)

Second Hit: Doctrine and Covenants 130:7

https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-te...130.7?lang=eng

4 In answer to the question—Is not the reckoning of God's time, angel's time, prophet's time, and man's time, according to the planet on which they reside?

5 I answer, Yes. But there are no angels who minister to this earth but those who do belong or have belonged to it.

6 The angels do not reside on a planet like this earth;

7 But they reside in the presence of God, on a globe like a sea of glass and fire, where all things for their glory are manifest, past, present, and future, and are continually before the Lord.

Google: Neal Maxwell All things are before the Lord

First Hit: http://math.byu.edu/~grant/avoc/religion/nam.txt (get a long list of quotes)

"Our own intellectual shortfalls and perplexities do not alter the fact of God's astonishing foreknowledge, which takes into account our choices for which we are responsible. Amid the mortal and fragmentary communiques and the breaking news of the day concerning various human conflicts, God lives in an eternal now where the past, present, and future are constantly before Him (see D&C 130:7)." (Neal A. Maxwell, "Care for the Life of the Soul", Ensign, May 2003, p. 70.)

A lesser hit: Imagine Everything is Before You: Past Present and Future
A Car Dashboard: Past (Odometer), Present (Speedometer) and Future (Gas Gage)

This Data Scientist Does This with Dashboards: Past (Family History), Present (Church Web Sites), and Future (Stories and Lessons)

My Dashboards:

- Past: My Personal Family History Dashboard for Ancestor David Furnish:
  - [http://semanticommunity.info/My_Personal_Family_History_Dashboard](http://semanticommunity.info/My_Personal_Family_History_Dashboard)
  - For RootsTech 2012 Innovation Challenge

- Present: MyLDS.org With Personalized Gospel Study:
  - [http://semanticommunity.info/MyLDS.org](http://semanticommunity.info/MyLDS.org)
  - For FamilySearch 2013 and 2014 Family History Technology Workshop @ BYU, March 20, 2014

- Future: My Stories and Lessons for Others:
  - [http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons](http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons)
  - For RootsTech 2015 Innovator Challenge

Next a game, then the application and assignment: A Journal Entry and Talk (Become Your Own Family Scriptures)

Assignment: To prepare a talk that you will one day give so "if you are prepared, ye have no need to fear."

**2. Game: The Restored Gospel of Fours**

As a data scientist, I love numbers, but as a member of the church I am not into numerology!

First Principles of the Gospel:

- Faith
- Repentance
- Baptism
- Gift of the Holy Ghost

Temple Covenants:

- Sacrifice
- Obedience
- Chastity
- Consecration

Mission of the Church:

- Preach the Gospel
- Save the Dead
- Perfect the Saints
• Rescue Lost Souls

Bible Gospels:
• Matthew
• Mark
• Luke
• John

Priesthood Keys:
• Aaronic
• Melchizedek
• Patriarch
• Apostle

Existence:
• Pre-mortal
• Mortal
• Spirit World
• Exaltation

Judgments:
• Outer Darkness
• Telestial
• Terrestrial
• Celestial

3. Application and Assignment

Many of life’s experiences and problems cause trauma starting in childhood (even infancy) and continuing in adulthood. For example: The trauma associated with recent events involving the police and citizens dying.

Trauma causes real mental, physical and spiritual pain. Experts say that “trauma lives in your body” and “the mind might forget, but the body does not”. Experts also say that “behind violence comes shame and humiliation.” For example: A rape victim who is unwilling to report it.

President Joseph Fielding Smith says: “Through the Holy Ghost the truth is woven into the very fibers and sinews of the body so that it cannot be forgotten.”

Trauma manifests itself in behavior that we would like to control, but usually cannot because it is not the root cause. Trauma can be recognized when there is a normal response to an abnormal situation (e.g. denial). Healing from trauma starts by asking and answering: What happened to you? in relationships with the Lord and others we trust who have empathy (the ability to understand and share the feelings of another), not sympathy. See: http://youtu.be/1Evwgu369Jw.
A group exercise: I am going to give you a word to say 10 times, we will say it together 10 times, and then I will ask you a question to answer with that word.

The scriptures use a powerful illustration to teach us how to protect ourselves in the battle against evil.


https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1979/05/put-on-the-whole-armor-of-god?lang=eng

We should put on the “helmet of salvation” (Ephesians 6:17; D&C 27:18). Focusing our minds on Christ and His salvation will protect us from unworthy thoughts, keep our “eye single to the glory of God” (D&C 4:5), and guide us in our decisions.


Put on the full armor of God, especially the helmet of salvation (knowledge of the truth), use the space of time to think about your response, and to reason and take an eternal perspective. Resiliency is when the truth that is stored in your body is greater and stronger than the trauma. The Lord does this through the repentance process.

The Body Stores Truth, December 14, 2014, Lesson by Brand Niemann

Source: Word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Body Stores:</th>
<th>Trauma Is Healed By:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truth (President Joseph Fielding Smith)</td>
<td>Truth (Atonement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma (Experts)</td>
<td>Human Connections (Experts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lord Jesus Christ
Vast Majority Without the Gospel

Truth <= Trauma (Pain)

Time is a Concept: That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been (Ecclesiastes 3:15). When you enter a holy temple. You are by that course gaining fellowship with the Saints in God’s eternal kingdom, where time is no more. President Harold B. Lee

God’s Concept of Time Differs from Man’s Concept of Time: The evidence suggests that God does so because he perceives time as we perceive space. That is why “all things are before him, and all things are round about him and he is above all things, and is round about all things.” Time, like space, is continually before the Lord.” Knowledge of this fact “should change our entire approach to life.”

The Way to Perfection May Be Understood by Perceiving Time Eternally: Sometimes by looking above an object, we see it more clearly than when we look directly at it. This is the purpose of the doctrine of Jesus Christ: to redirect our perspective; to elevate our gaze above reality, so that we can perceive reality, truth, what is, more closely. President Lael J. Woodbury

It is who we are, not who we are becoming, a distillation of our essence over time that exalts us: …that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. The Book of Moroni, 7:48 (a pure love and righteous power without bounds)

Questions, doubts, and fears: What the Hymn O My Father, The Prophet Joseph Smith, and Patriarchal Blessings Teach Us by Brand Niemann, October 1, 2014

Source: Word

"O My Father" is a Latter-day Saint hymn written by Eliza R. Snow, who felt inspired to write the lyrics after Joseph Smith had taught her the principle of heavenly parents. The hymn is significant in terms of Mormon theology in that it is one of the few direct references to a "Heavenly Mother" in materials published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
After discussing pre-mortal existence and a sense of belonging to "a more exalted sphere" in heaven, stanza three reasons that if there is an eternal Father there must also be an eternal Mother:

I had learned to call thee Father, Through thy Spirit from on high,  
But until the key of knowledge Was restored, I knew not why.  
In the heavens are parents single? No, the thought makes reason stare!  
Truth is reason, truth eternal Tells me I've a mother there.


This verse refers to “the key of knowledge Was restored” and the other verses asks four questions:

When shall I regain thy presence And again behold thy face?  
In thy holy habitation, Did my spirit once reside?  
In my first primeval childhood Was I nurtured near thy side?  
When I leave this frail existence, When I lay this mortal by, Father, Mother, may I meet you In your royal courts on high?

So we are taught that truth is reason and is obtained by reasoning and when we find it, it stares us in the face as though there could be no other answer. We ask our Heavenly Father questions in prayer and He answers in His own way and time that is best for us, and we continue in faith and faithfulness in keeping the commandments in the meantime.

Oliver Cowdery learned this principle from the Lord in a revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Oliver Cowdery, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, April 1829. Oliver is admonished to be patient and is urged to be content to write, for the time being, at the dictation of the translator, rather than to attempt to translate.

8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.

9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.


The Prophet Joseph taught:

“A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.) those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.”

Source: *History of the Church*, 3:381; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on June 27, 1839, in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards. [https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings...er-10?lang=eng](https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings...er-10?lang=eng)

The Prophet Joseph Smith also taught:
“Where doubt and uncertainty are there faith is not, nor can it be. For doubt and faith do not exist in the same person at the same time; that persons whose minds are under doubts and fears cannot have unshaken confidence; and where unshaken confidence is not the faith is weak.” Joseph Smith, Lectures on Faith

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency said:

The office of patriarch is an office of the Melchizedek Priesthood. It is one of blessing, not of administration. It is a sacred and spiritual revelatory calling which usually continues for much of the patriarch’s life. Our patriarchs devote themselves fully to their callings and do all they can to live in faith and worthiness so that each blessing is inspired. The patriarch’s calling becomes a beautiful, sacred, spiritual, and fulfilling experience. As moved upon by the Holy Spirit, the patriarch declares by inspiration the lineage in the house of Israel of the recipient, together with such blessings, spiritual gifts, promises, advice, admonition, and warnings the patriarch feels inspired to give. The patriarchal blessing is, in essence, a prophetic blessing and utterance.

A patriarchal blessing from an ordained patriarch can give us a star to follow, which is a personal revelation from God to each individual. If we follow this star, we are less likely to stumble and be misled. Our patriarchal blessing will be an anchor to our souls, and if we are worthy, neither death nor the devil can deprive us of the blessings pronounced. They are blessings we can enjoy now and forever.

I want to share with you that my Patriarchal Blessings contains a very specific warning and blessing that relates to doubts and fears, even a commandment:

The Lord loves you, He desires to guide and direct you, so do not let any doubt, fear, or discouragement, or despondency enter into your heart, but rather be worthy of the blessings which he has for you.

The phrase "cross yourself in all these things" comes to my mind:

This is an unusual phrase, one not found elsewhere in scripture. To cross oneself may mean to go against one’s carnal or sinful nature, to resist the pull of the fallen man. In this way it is similar to the Savior’s invitation to “take up [our] cross.’ Matthew records: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every, worldly lust, and keep my commandments." (JST, Matthew 16:25–26; see also 3 Nephi 12:29–30.)"

Of course this is easier said than done and I have been working on this my entire live by saying to myself in stressful and fearful situations: remember that faith and fear cannot exist in me at the same time, I need to choose faith.

Of course the great example of a question and answer that is the reason we are all here today is the boy Joseph Smith who asked in faith: “Which of all these churches is right?” Little did he know the answer he would receive would change his life and that of the world forever.

I had that life changing experience in answer to my question when my wife and the mother of our seven children died suddenly: Why have you done all of this to me? Little did I know the answer would be one word: Shirley, and she would become my eternal companion for 32 years now and finish raising those seven children and now enjoy having 22 grandchildren.
In conclusion, I want to share my testimony of these principles using recent specific examples because my great eternal companion, Shirley, has taught me to exercise the priesthood in complete faith in her and others behalf.

I will say very simply without giving the details, several months ago I was asked to give priesthood blessings to two family members that were in very difficult, life threatening medical conditions, and in both instances, despite my own doubts and fears, when I cast out those doubts and fears, the spirit told me to command by the power of the Priesthood that those family members lives would be preserved and they would be healed, and that did happen.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

O My Father

1. O my Father, thou that dwellest
   In the high and glorious place,
   When shall I regain thy presence
   And again behold thy face?
   In thy holy habitation,
   Did my spirit once reside?
   In my first primeval childhood
   Was I nurtured near thy side?

   2. For a wise and glorious purpose
      Thou hast placed me here on earth
      And withheld the recollection
      Of my former friends and birth;
      Yet oftentimes a secret something
      Whispered, "You're a stranger here,"
      And I felt that I had wandered
      From a more exalted sphere.

   3. I had learned to call thee Father,
      Thru thy Spirit from on high,
      But, until the key of knowledge
      Was restored, I knew not why.
      In the heav'ns are parents single?
      No, the thought makes reason stare!
      Truth is reason; truth eternal
      Tells me I've a mother there.

   4. When I leave this frail existence,
      When I lay this mortal by,
      Father, Mother, may I meet you
      In your royal courts on high?
      Then, at length, when I've completed
All you sent me forth to do,
With your mutual approbation
Let me come and dwell with you.
Meet the Mormons Movie: October 10, 2014

Ballston Common Stadium 12, 671 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203-2110

Hoffman 22 with IMAX, 206 Swamp Fox Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314

For more information and locations: [http://meetthemormons.com/](http://meetthemormons.com/)

Meet the Mormon Children Special Program: November 9, 2014

11:45 a.m. at the Fairfax Ward Building, 4911 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Meet the Mormons at the Temple Visitors Center: December Christmas Lights and Programs

9900 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington, Maryland 20895, (301) 587-0144

Talk on Baptism and The Holy Ghost and Confirmation of Patty Michelle Desantis, August 16, 2014

My Note: Personal

Using Church Technology Mini-Tutorial by Ward Technology Specialist, Brand Niemann, May 11, 2014

Source: Word

Would you like help with any or all of the following?

- How to get help with computer/Internet problems?
- How to connect to the building WiFi?
- How to find and bookmark church web sites?
- How to use LDS.org for scripture study and lesson and talk preparation?
- How to use LDS Tools to schedule a meeting, etc. with Brother Jeff Shummer?
- How to serve online?
- How to use social media to spread the Gospel?
- What happened at Root Tech 2014?
• How to attend The Family History Technology Workshop: [http://fht.byu.edu/](http://fht.byu.edu/) at the BYU Conference Center?

So here is a sample of answers below.

**Roots Tech 2014** (February 6-8): Connecting generations past, present and future, Church News Week of February 16, 2014

Priesthood leaders and other Church members desiring to review the LDS sessions may access them at: [http://lds.org/rootstech](http://lds.org/rootstech)

Keynote and other sessions may be accessed at the conference web site: [http://rootstech.org](http://rootstech.org)

**Photos and Stories**: To date, some 150,000 people have uploaded more than 2 million photos and stories to FamilySearch.org, and 12 million documents have been attached to ancestral entities.

**Free access to FamilySearch partner websites**: FamilySearch has teamed with commercial family history companies such as Ancestry.com, Archives.com, FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com to put the world’s historical records online in one generation. Later this year, Church members will have free access via their home computers to the online collections and research tools of these commercial at no cost.

**Indexing by volunteers to make obituaries searchable online**: FamilySearch has signed several agreements and several more pending to publish literally hundreds of millions of searchable obituaries online. The goal for this year is to index 100 million names from the obituaries. This indexing opportunity is live now on FamilySearch.org for volunteers to sign up and be trained.

**Elder Alan F. Packer**: Past approaches in the Church have resulted in less than 3 percent of Church members submitting names of ancestors for temple ordinance work. To reach the other 97 percent, we need to change how we think, how we teach, and what we teach. The 97 percent need to be the priority for priesthood leaders and they are a priority for the Family History Department.

His suggestions are: An Ivory Coast Stake where not many families or members have computers uses consultants or computers at the ward buildings to clear names to take to the temple and is submitting five times the Church average of name submittals for temple ordinance work.

Helping members is best done one-on-one or in small groups, especially families.

It is about the hearts first, not the charts: that will come later. Start by touching their hearts with stories and pictures of their ancestors to help members have a spiritual experience to feel the Spirit of Elijah.

Change the order of teaching in family history classes, starting with stories and pictures first before filling out charts.

Put family back in family history by making our family history libraries more family friendly.

Seven proven points learned from a survey of bishops: Make the “To Turn the Heart” guidebook a core of the ward plan: to call youth as family history consultants; to have youth take family names on temple trips; to have consultants help
family members at least monthly; to have consultants met with priesthood leaders at least monthly; and to have consultants help new converts at least monthly.

Lest you get discouraged, we are adding 1.7 million names to the Family Tree every day on the average. We have recently signed partnership agreements with major commercial family history companies like Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, MyHeritage.com, The New England Genealogical Society and others. We estimate it will increase the records we have available to search by three or four times. Technology has improved to the point that it is now easy to be able to submit names for temple ordinance work.

**Elder Bradley D. Foster:** A knowledge of past generations blesses future generations. The past is the roots – or your ancestors. The present is the tree – you are the tree. The future is the branches, your children. You are the one that helps provide nourishment to the branches (just like a real tree). You connect past generations to future generations.

There are three ways that technology is helping turn the hearts of people to their ancestors and posterity: Share a Memory, Family Tree, and Finding Your Cousins sections of FamilysSearch.org

A new computer program called Puzilla.org allows users to see hundreds of an individual's family line from an aerial view with compact patterns revealing patterns of incomplete research.

**Elder Neil L. Andersen:** While the youth in the Church today have become extremely devoted in visiting temples to be baptized for the dead, in the months and years ahead you will need to be just as outstanding in finding and bringing names to the temple with you. I want to challenge each of you to set a personal goal to help prepare as many names for the temple as baptisms you perform in the temple. This past year for the first time I could see my ancestors in a seven-generation fan chart online. My apostolic blessing to all within the sound of my voice is: As you seek to contribute to this scared work, both by finding those needing ordinances and then beginning their work in the temple, your own knowledge and faith in the Savior will increase, and you will receive a more certain witness that life continues beyond the veil. I know that life continues beyond the veil. I know it.

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**What:** Help the youth prepare for their Temple-centered stake youth conference by finding one ancestor for whom the work has not been done, April 4, 2014

**Source:** Word

**Why:** Elder Neil L. Andersen: While the youth in the Church today have become extremely devoted in visiting temples to be baptized for the dead, in the months and years ahead you will need to be just as outstanding in finding and bringing names to the temple with you. I want to challenge each of you to set a personal goal to help prepare as many names for the temple as baptisms you perform in the temple. This past year for the first time I could see my ancestors in a seven-generation fan chart online. My apostolic blessing to all within the sound of my voice is: As you seek to contribute to this scared work, both by finding those needing ordinances and then beginning their work in the temple, your own knowledge and faith in the Savior will increase, and you will receive a more certain witness that life continues beyond the veil. I know that life continues beyond the veil. I know it.

**Where:** Church Classes, Home Evenings, and the Johnson’s Home (most Sunday afternoons from 4-6 p.m.)

**Use Back Page to Be Prepared.**
How: Some of the following ways

- Mentor the youth in the families we home teach
- Mentor youth in families we don’t home teach, but where help may be needed
- Set an example of family history work/indexing/temple service
- Pray for the youth, their preparations for this conference, and their future spiritual welfare
- Provide computers and/or technical help for the Sunday afternoon sessions
- Once a youth has found a name, help him or her learn about the person
- Call on the resources of the Annandale Family History Center
- And something that is very important to do, although less directly related to the youth conference, is to participate in oral history sessions with your children and grandchildren. Sometimes, rather than write your personal history, it is easier to record a Q&A session and then transcribe it. Or you can supplement your personal history with oral history sessions. Communications technology makes it easier than ever to do oral histories.

Whom: See Using Church Technology Mini-Tutorial by Ward Technology Specialist, Brand Niemann, May 11, 2014, Handout: Would you like help with any or all of the following?

- How to get help with computer/Internet problems?
- How to connect to the building WiFi?
- How to find and bookmark church web sites?
- How to use LDS.org for scripture study and lesson and talk preparation?
- How to use LDS Tools to schedule a meeting, etc. with Brother Jeff Shummer?
- How to serve online?
- How to use social media to spread the Gospel?
- What happened at Root Tech 2014?
- How to access LDS Tech: http://tech.lds.org/ and become an LDS Tech Missionary Today!

Sacrament Meeting Talk by Brand Niemann, December 27, 2013

Source: Word

I actually volunteered to give this talk because during my recent temple recommend interview with Brother Jensen I felt prompted to do that. I was reminded of that prompting again on Christmas morning while working at my computer preparing a tutorial where I was going to ask the students to provide a profile of themselves as to what prepared them for this subject and what they hoped to do with the material in the tutorial.

I was reminded of the recent words of Elder Dallin H. Oaks (Ensign August 2013, page 24): “We will get promptings of the Spirit when we have done everything we can, when we are out in the sun working rather than sitting back in the shade praying for direction on the first step to take. Revelation comes when the children of God are on the move. So we do all we can. Then wait upon the Lord for His revelation. He has his own timetable.”

I decided to first give them my profile by inventorying the stories I had published online in my work in the past several years. As I did that inventory, I thought about several things:
There were lots of stories written by others I wish I could have written;

My stories were a combination of my choices and my editor’s suggestions;

Quality was more important than quantity;

I had used social media to express my values;

My intent in doing my work was more important than anything else.

I was reminded of the quote: “To be valiant in the testimony of Jesus is to believe in Christ and his gospel with unshakable conviction. It is to know of the verity and divinity of the Lord’s work on earth.”

“But that is not all. It is more than believing and knowing. We must be doers of the word and not hearers only. It is more than lip service; it is not simply confessing with the mouth the divine Sonship of the Savior. It is obedience and conformity and personal righteousness…”

As I got in the car to drive to Christmas dinner with our eldest daughter, I felt prompted to send an email to Brother Jensen with my offer to talk and he graciously replied that they already had talks lined up for the next several months. I realized this was a talk mostly for me to take stock at the end of another year of the following:

What have I done?

What do I still want to do?

What do I really need to do to prepare for that final interview with the Lord?

This list reminded me of the great principles taught my Stephen R. Covey: Begin with the end in mind.

The First Three Habits surround moving from dependence to independence (i.e., self-mastery):

Habit 1: Be Proactive- Take initiative in life by realizing that your decisions (and how they align with life’s principles) are the primary determining factor for effectiveness in your life. Take responsibility for your choices and the consequences that follow.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind-Self-discover and clarify your deeply important character values and life goals. Envision the ideal characteristics for each of your various roles and relationships in life.

Habit 3: Put First Things First-A manager must manage his own person. Personally. And managers should implement activities that aim to reach the second habit. Covey says that rule two is the mental creation; rule three is the physical creation.

So the answers to my three questions are not the complete list for each, but what really matters for the final interview as follows:

What have I done?
I have been married in the temple to an amazing person for 32 years, we have raised a family of seven children and now 22 grand-children, and have prepared a book of remembrance of the temple work for 4 generations on both sides of my family. This took me nearly 50 years to complete.

What do I still want to do?

Endure to the end and fill everyday with righteous service to Shirley, my family, and others.

What do I really need to do to prepare for that final interview with the Lord?

Increase my faith and love for others so I can stand in the presence of the Lord and not shrink from that encounter.

I know this scripture in Moroni Chapter 7: 47-48 is true:

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Primary Lesson, Sunday, December 1, 2013

Source: Word

Handcart Companies Come to the Salt Lake Valley

Martin Handcart Co., Bitter Creek, Wyoming, 1856
Three Young Men Rescue the Martin Handcart Company

Introduction

The passage of time is hard to judge. Sometimes time seems to go by very quickly, while on other occasions it seems to pass very slowly.

None of us knows how much time we have to live on the earth, but we have been commanded to endure to the end no matter how long our lives are. To endure to the end means to live righteously, repenting when we do wrong things, and to never give up, even when life becomes hard. If we want to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus again, we must endure to the end valiantly. A valiant person is one who is strong, obedient, courageous, and true in living the gospel of Jesus Christ. This lesson is about some of the early Saints who valiantly endured to the end of their lives.

Brigham Young’s Plan

Many Saints came to the Salt Lake Valley in covered wagons pulled by oxen. Some of these Saints had purchased their wagons and supplies with money loaned to them by the Church. After arriving in the valley, they worked to pay back the money they had been loaned. The money they paid back was then loaned to other Saints making the journey across the plains. This was called the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

The fund was a good plan, but some people were too poor to pay back all the money they had borrowed, and many more Church members still wanted to come to the Salt Lake Valley. Church leaders had to find a less expensive way to bring people to the valley. President Brigham Young wrote in 1855: “We cannot afford to purchase wagons and teams as in times past, I am consequently thrown back upon my old plan—to make hand-carts, and let the emigration foot it. … They can come just as quick, if not quicker, and much cheaper” (“Foreign Correspondence,” p. 813; see also Church History in the Fulness of Times, p. 358). It was estimated that using handcarts would cost one-third to one-half as much as using wagons.

Handcarts were like small, uncovered wagons and were pushed or pulled by people instead of oxen. In addition to the handcarts, each company of pioneers had a cow or two for every ten people and a few wagons and ox teams to carry those who could not walk. Handcarts did have some advantages over wagons: some parts of the trail were difficult to drive wagons over but could be more easily walked over, and because the handcarts were smaller and lighter than wagons, the pioneers could travel faster. They also did not have to worry about caring for so many animals. The
handcarts also had advantages, however: they offered little room for food and supplies and gave no protection from storms.

Problems of the Willie and Martin Handcart Companies

The first three handcart companies had some difficulties, but they crossed the plains safely. The next two companies were not as fortunate (see enrichment activity 1). Members of the Willie and Martin handcart companies had arrived from England in the summer. When they arrived in Iowa City no handcarts were available, so they had to wait for some to be built. The companies left Iowa City late in July 1856. Their handcarts had been made of unseasoned (green) wood, so the handcarts broke down as the wood dried out, causing more delays. Many of the Saints’ cattle were stolen by unfriendly Indians. The late start and numerous delays caused many problems for the Willie and Martin companies, for severe winter storms came much earlier than usual that year. In an attempt to lighten their loads so they could travel faster, the Saints discarded their extra clothing and bedding. They therefore had little protection when the storms came. The storms and the extremely cold weather caused many deaths. Those who died had to be buried in shallow graves along the trail.

Rescue of the Willie and Martin Handcart Companies

As Brigham Young prepared for general conference in October 1856, he received word that the Willie and Martin handcart companies were in trouble. During conference, rescue parties were organized.

Ephraim K. Hanks had just returned to Salt Lake City from a fishing trip. He had spent the night before he returned at a friend’s home. Before he fell asleep that night, he heard a voice call his name. The voice said, “The hand-cart people are in trouble and you are wanted; will you go and help them?” Brother Hanks answered, “Yes, I will go if I am called.” This conversation was repeated three times.

When Brigham Young called for volunteers to go and help the Willie and Martin companies come to Salt Lake, some of the men said they would be ready in a few days, but Ephraim Hanks said, “I am ready now!” He was one of the first people to reach the handcart companies. On his way to find them, he ran into the worst storm he had ever experienced. The snow became so deep that it was impossible to move his wagon through it. He left the wagon and started out with two horses, one to ride and one to carry supplies. At night, as he prepared a place to sleep, he thought how nice it would be to have a buffalo robe to sleep in and some meat to eat for supper. He prayed and asked Heavenly Father to send him a buffalo. After he finished praying, Brother Hanks looked up and saw a buffalo close to his camp. He killed the buffalo with one shot. In the morning he shot another buffalo, loaded the meat onto the horses, and again headed east.

Ephraim Hanks reached the immigrants in the Martin company as they were setting up camp for the night. They were overcome with joy when they saw him and the fresh buffalo meat he had brought. One of the men in the company had prophesied earlier that when the supplies ran out the people in the company would feast on buffalo. Ephraim Hanks helped fulfill that prophecy and continued to do so as he shot other buffalo for the company as they continued their journey.

When the people of the Martin handcart company arrived at the Sweetwater River, they were very weak. They saw no way they could cross the river, which was deep and wide and very cold. All they could do was pray. Then three eighteen-year-old boys from the relief party came to their rescue. George W. Grant, David P. Kimball, and C. Allen Huntington plunged into the icy water and began carrying people across the river. They made many trips and carried...
almost the entire company across. The cold water caused health problems for the boys, and years later all three died from these health problems. When President Brigham Young heard what these three boys had done, he wept. He later said that this act alone would ensure the three young men places in the celestial kingdom.

Many members of the Willie and Martin companies died from the effects of the freezing storms, and others suffered frozen feet and legs. Mary Goble was a member of the Martin handcart company. Once, when the company had gone several days without any water but melted snow, Mary’s sick mother begged Mary to get her a drink from a freshwater spring a few miles away. Another woman went with Mary, and on their way to the spring they found an old man in the snow. He was nearly frozen, and they knew he would soon die if they did not get help for him. They decided that Mary would go on to get the water while her companion went back to the camp to get help.

When Mary was alone she began to worry about running into unfriendly Indians. While trying to watch out for them she became lost and wandered around in snow up to her knees for several hours. When a search party found her, it was almost midnight. The search party brought Mary back to camp and tried to warm her frozen legs and feet by rubbing them with snow and putting them in a bucket of water. This was very painful. Mary’s legs and feet recovered, but her toes did not.

Mary’s mother died the day they arrived in Salt Lake City. The next day Brigham Young and a doctor visited Mary. She wrote: “When Bro. Young came in he shook hands with us all. When he saw our condition—our feet frozen and our mother dead—tears rolled down his cheeks.” The doctor had to amputate Mary’s toes, but Brigham Young promised Mary the remainder of her feet would heal. Her feet got worse, however, and the doctor wanted to cut off both feet at the ankle. Mary refused, remembering what the prophet had promised. A woman came each day to change the dressings on Mary’s feet. Several months later Mary saw the doctor again. He said, “Well, Mary, … I suppose your feet have rotted to the knees by this time.” When Mary told him her feet were well, he did not believe her. She took off her stockings and showed him her feet. The doctor said it was a miracle that her feet had healed. (See “Mary Goble Pay,” pp. 144–45.)

**Enrichment Activities**

Map: The map illustrates some of the hardships and sufferings of the Willie and Martin handcart companies.

Video: 17 Miracles (start at 55:40)

Pedigree Chart: Jace Niemann’s relationship to Maryann Meller

I can be valiant: Look at the valiant words for Ephraim Hank’s name below and do the same for your name for the valiant qualities you want to have.
Quote: “To be valiant in the testimony of Jesus is to believe in Christ and his gospel with unshakable conviction. It is to know of the verity and divinity of the Lord’s work on earth.”

“But that is not all. It is more than believing and knowing. We must be doers of the word and not hearers only. It is more than lip service; it is not simply confessing with the mouth the divine Sonship of the Savior. It is obedience and conformity and personal righteousness…”

**Suggested Family Sharing: Share with your families this lesson**

Opening Prayer

Suggested Scripture Reading: Doctrine and Covenants 14:7 and 24:8.

7 And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.

8 Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for, lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days.

Sing or say the words to “I Will Be Valiant”, “Pioneer Children Sang As They Walked”, and/or “The Handcart Song” in the Children’s Songbook.

Testimony: Ask for the bearing of testimonies

Testify that valiantly living the gospel every day of our lives will help us overcome afflictions and enable us to return to the presence of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ after this life.

Closing Prayer

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**Sacrament Meeting Talk, Brand Niemann, January 1, 2012**

Source: [Word](http://www.word.org)

**Making Time (and Eternity) The Most Important Dimension in Our Life**

President Monson has said:

Enjoy the journey of life along the way.

Take time to enjoy the simple things of life.

Make June memories for the fall of our lives.

My life’s experience have taught me to write down the three most important things for me to accomplish each day, the night before and/or first thing in the morning and focus on doing them. Life is full of choices – my Patriarchal Blessing says the Lord desires to guide me if I will listen. My recent experience with my iPad in having to drive to about 10 new
places illustrates this – it told me how to get from one place to another, but not which order – I had to rely on the spirit and my own reasoning for that.

Time is the hardest dimension in our life to understand and use wisely, the world’s greatest minds have tried to understand it. We do not see it, like the 3 dimensions we live in, but we feel it – we are late, we are looking forward to something in the future, we wish we could relive something in the past, etc. Astronomers and physicists tell us that when we look out into space we are seeing light from objects that was emitted billions of light years ago even to the beginning of the universe in time called “the big bang.”

You may have heard of the books “A Brief History of Time: From Big Bang to Black Holes” and “The Universe in a Nut Shell”, by world renowned physicist Steven Hawking, who describes time as having a beginning and ending and the universe as having the dimensions of nested nut shells. Leonard Susskind, a former plumber, world renowned physicist, and Steven Hawking’s greatest rival and critic, proved that information that disappears into a black hole is not destroyed but emerges somewhere else as information. I find this to be consistent with the teachings of the Restored Gospel. Hawking, though losing the battle on his theory of black holes as he did, is viewed as contributing to finding the answer to one of the biggest questions in the entire universe: that our world is just a hologram projected from the outer boundaries of space - there is a time event horizon out there in space where our three dimensional world is projected on a two-dimensional screen like a holograph. We will have to wait and see if this stands the test of time, but it does remind me of the scripture that says: All things are continually before the Lord – the past, the present, and the future.


Now I am going to tell some stories in my talk and I am reminded of the quote our Bishop Howell has at the bottom of his emails by Helen Rowland: Life begins at 40 - but so do fallen arches, rheumatism, faulty eyesight, and the tendency to tell a story to the same person, three or four times. So please forgive me if you have heard these stories before.

My Grandson Jace Niemann asks me regularly: Grandpa do you have any junk? I say to myself, Jace, everything is junk compared to you my precious grandson. Your earthy father, who has past on, and Our Heavenly Father are watching over you and all of us because they are spending their time wisely in our behalf like a recent prophet said: Be assured that the Lord will leave nothing undone for our salvation and exaltation.

A few months after Jace’s father, Sterling, had past away, his daughter Sterling was twirling the swings in our back yard and one of the chains broke and I breathed a sigh of relief that she was not hurt. Then Jace began to ask, Grandpa: what is in your garage attic, can I climb up the ladder and see, and I finally said okay, and he did as I held the ladder. He said Grandpa there are some more swings up here and I looked and saw that they had more sturdy chains on them so I replaced them and as I was doing that I heard a voice say: See I am still watching over my children.

Sister Niemann reminds me that I cannot show favoritism by telling a story about just one grandchild so here is another about another grandchild and time: My grand-daughter Kylie got a new cell phone for Christmas and she texted me yesterday “I’m bored” – with a sad Smiley face after it. I responded: You inherited that from me – go find someone who needs help, love Grandpa. Sometimes our problem with time is that there is too much of it or it goes by too slowly. I can assure you that as you grow older and wiser you will not have that problem.

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons

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Years ago, Sister Niemann picked me up at the Metro one evening and said you need to deliver these flowers to Sister Cangemi, who I home taught, but I didn’t want to because I was so tired after work, but did, and Sister Cangemi said, How nice of you Brother Niemann to remember me on my 60th birthday, please come in. I came in and we started talking and she asked me why her husband died at such an early age leaving her with 11 children to raise on her own and why her eldest grand-daughter had died at a young age from cancer, and to my amazement the spirit told me to tell her that her husband’s mission was to go on ahead and that he and her grand-daughter were together now in the spirit world. Then she said that her greatest desire was that at least one person in her family would accept the Restored Gospel, and again to my amazement, the spirit told me to tell her that we should pray for that and it would happen.

When I got home, I thought what have I said?, the next time I see her she is going to ask me who that was in her family that would accept the gospel. The next morning, as I was kneeling in prayer by my bedside, I was especially praying for an answer to that question and the spirit told me directly that it was her husband that had accepted the Restored Gospel in the next life and wanted his temple work done, and that he had in fact been there in her home when I had been home teaching. I learned that we may be teaching those we do not see when we are home and visiting teaching. So to make a long story short, Sister Cangemi gave me her cigarettes and a promise that she would become worthy to enter the temple and the paperwork and permission to have the work done for her husband and grand-daughter. She was sealed to her husband and departed this life soon after.

So the key dimension in our life should be using our time for “time and all eternity” as the scriptures, prophets, and temple remind us.

Sister Niemann made me promise not to talk about New Year’s Resolutions, so I will suggest some things to use our time and all eternity more wisely:

1. Come early to meetings to gain the spirit and personal revelation – I mentioned this in a recent testimony.
2. Try to spend meaningful time with each child and your spouse – a hug and breakfast with Shirley makes my day and visits from our grandchildren make us feel like angels are in our home!
3. Attend the temple regularly – for the recent Stake High Priest’s Temple Session, I thought I was too late, but made it as the next to last seat and was moved to tears of joy for being in the company of fellow saints in this stake and friends from other stakes.
4. Show your love for the Lord and support for our dear Bishop Howell by serving faithfully in your callings and obeying the commandments.
5. Use The Gift of Family History Card – I started it for Bishop Johnson because Shirley was ill, then Shirley did her critical part, and we delivered it to the Ward. I sent it to my children and non-member family members and got some dates and corrections back from them. I set a goal to do my father’s endowment on February 27th, the one year anniversary of his passing, and other work.

Yesterday I was shifting through my home office at year-end to “out with the old and in with the new” and rediscovered a hand-made book entitled "David Furnish: Descendants, History & Family Record" given to me by my grandmother, Ethel Elaine Niemann, more than 40 years ago. This book contains an index with over 1900 names, including mine, and stories like the following:

“William David Hollabaugh, 88, who as a youth, watched the battle of Gettysburg from a point of vantage in a tree and a few months later heard President Abraham Lincoln speak his immortal words at Gettysburg, dropped dead in Nebraska City Saturday morning. He died in the post office, a building he helped build as a skilled carpenter, before his sudden
death came. William married Margaret Jane Furnish (daughter of David Furnish) and they were the parents of seven children (the youngest of which was my grandmother Ethel Elaine Niemann), had a good life and spent many anniversaries together, their 59th being their last.”

I resolved to add these names to my family history at Family Search and to the new Fan Chart. But first I need the names in a digital form so I did a Google Search and found the book, but it was not in digital form, and only available at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN. I recalled that many years ago, I had tried to contact the author of this book, Vera (Furnish) Harris, Hartog, to get an electronic copy and more information, but received no reply, so I assumed that she had died. I learned from the book’s Preface that Vera had received much help in her work from that library. Family Search is now using a wiki so I decided to use mine (MindTouch) and a dashboard tool to build my personal Family History Dashboard.

Ask the Lord to help you spend your time wisely and know that you are doing so. When I met Shirley after my wife died leaving me with 7 children to raise, I marveled that the Lord made me feel that I was at the exact time and place in my life that I should be. Shirley experienced what see referred to as one of those “déjà vu” experiences which she described as seeing that she had experienced what was happening in our family before and knowing she was doing the right thing.

Truly there are many gifts of the spirit associated with time and eternity because the Lord and our Heavenly Father govern that dimension of our lives in righteousness by their priesthood powers.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; [that is,] those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.

In closing, I would like to say that we often think of using our time to meet our own needs and get ahead in life. But then things happen in all of our lives in opposition to that and we are confronted with the reality that life is not going to be easy that way and we can either become bitter and rebellious towards life or seek for a higher purpose in life. The higher purpose in life is to learn and be refined and sanctified, and just meeting our own needs and getting ahead in life doesn’t accomplish that end. Becoming true disciples of Jesus Christ and using our time for both time and all eternity does. Accept that our loving Heavenly Father wants us to have certain experiences for a time so that we can be with him and inherit all that He has for eternity.

So I would suggest that the best use of our time is when it come from personal revelation and it serve’s both time and all eternity.

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

We must devote our time to the things that matter most.

The eighth chapter of Preach My Gospel focuses our attention on the wise use of time. In this chapter, Elder M. Russell Ballard reminds us that we must set goals and learn how to master the techniques to achieve them (see Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service [2004], 146). Mastering the techniques needed to reach our goals includes becoming the master manager of our time.
I am grateful for President Thomas S. Monson’s model. With all that he does as a prophet of God, he ensures, as the
Savior did, that there is still sufficient time to visit the sick (see Luke 17:12–14), to lift the poor in spirit, and to be a
servant of all. I am also grateful for the example of many others who give their time in the service of their fellowmen. I
testify that giving our time in the service of others is pleasing to God and that such will draw us nearer to Him. Our
Savior will be true to His word that “he who is faithful and wise in time is accounted worthy to inherit the mansions
prepared for him of my Father” (D&C 72:4).

Time is never for sale; time is a commodity that cannot, try as you may, be bought at any store for any price. Yet when
time is wisely used, its value is immeasurable. On any given day we are all allocated, without cost, the same number of
minutes and hours to use, and we soon learn, as the familiar hymn so carefully teaches, “Time flies on wings of
lightning; we cannot call it back” (“Improve the Shining Moments,” Hymns, no. 226). What time we have we must use
wisely. President Brigham Young said, “We are all indebted to God for the ability to use time to advantage, and he will
require of us a strict account of [its] disposition” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young [1997], 286).

With the demands made of us, we must learn to prioritize our choices to match our goals or risk being exposed to the
winds of procrastination and being blown from one time-wasting activity to another. We are well taught about priorities
by the Master Teacher when He declared in His Sermon on the Mount, “Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but
seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33, footnote a; from Joseph

Alma spoke of priorities when he taught that “this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God” (Alma
12:24). How to best use the rich heritage of time to prepare to meet God may require some guidance, but surely we
would place the Lord and our families at the top of the list. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf reminded us that “in family
relationships love is really spelled t-i-m-e” (“Of Things That Matter Most,” Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2010, 22). I testify
that when help is prayerfully and sincerely sought, our Heavenly Father will help us to give emphasis to that which
deserves our time above something else.

The poor use of time is a close cousin of idleness. As we follow the command to “cease to be idle” (D&C 88:124), we
must be sure that being busy also equates to being productive. For example, it is wonderful to have the means of instant
communication quite literally at our fingertips, but let us be sure that we do not become compulsive fingertip
communicators. I sense that some are trapped in a new time-consuming addiction—one that enslaves us to be
constantly checking and sending social messages and thus giving the false impression of being busy and productive.

There is much that is good with our easy access to communication and information. I have found it helpful to access
research articles, conference talks, and ancestral records, and to receive e-mails, Facebook reminders, tweets, and
texts. As good as these things are, we cannot allow them to push to one side those things of greatest importance. How
sad it would be if the phone and computer, with all their sophistication, drowned out the simplicity of sincere prayer to a
loving Father in Heaven. Let us be as quick to kneel as we are to text.

Electronic games and cyber acquaintances are no lasting substitute for real friends who can give an encouraging hug,
who can pray for us and seek after our best interest. How grateful I have been to see quorum, class, and Relief Society
members rally to the support of one another. On such occasions I have better understood what the Apostle Paul meant
when he said, “Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints” (Ephesians 2:19).
I know our greatest happiness comes as we tune in to the Lord (see Alma 37:37) and to those things which bring a lasting reward, rather than mindlessly tuning in to countless hours of status updates, Internet farming, and catapulting angry birds at concrete walls. I urge each of us to take those things which rob us of precious time and determine to be their master, rather than allowing them through their addictive nature to be the master of us.

To have the peace the Savior speaks of (see John 14:27), we must devote our time to the things that matter most, and the things of God matter most. As we engage with God in sincere prayer, read and study each day from the scriptures, ponder on what we have read and felt, and then apply and live the lessons learned, we draw nearer to Him. God’s promise is that as we seek diligently from the best books, “[He] shall give unto [us] knowledge by his Holy Spirit” (D&C 121:26; see also D&C 109:14–15).

Satan will tempt us to misuse our time through disguised distractions. Although temptations will come, Elder Quentin L. Cook taught that “Saints who respond to the Savior’s message will not be led astray by distracting and destructive pursuits” (“Are You a Saint?” Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2003, 96). Hiram Page, one of the Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon, taught us a valuable lesson about distractions. He had a certain stone and through it recorded what he thought were revelations for the Church (see D&C 28). On Hiram’s being corrected, an account says the stone was taken and ground into powder so it would never again be a distraction. I invite us to identify the time-wasting distractions in our lives that may need to be figuratively ground into dust. We will need to be wise in our judgment to ensure that the scales of time are correctly balanced to include the Lord, family, work, and wholesome recreational activities. As many have already discovered, there is an increase of happiness in life as we use our time to seek after those things which are “virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy” (Articles of Faith 1:13).

Time marches swiftly forward to the tick of the clock. Today would be a good day, while the clock of mortality ticks, to review what we are doing to prepare to meet God. I testify that there are great rewards for those who take time in mortality to prepare for immortality and eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

1. See Provo Utah Central Stake general minutes, Apr. 6, 1856, vol. 10 (1855–60), Church History Library, Salt Lake City, 273 (spelling, punctuation, and capitalization modernized): “Father [Emer] Harris said the Apostle said we have to fight against principalities and powers in high places. Bro. Hiram Page dug out of the earth a black stone [and] put it in his pocket. When he got home, he looked at it. It contained a sentence on paper to befit it. As soon as he wrote one sentence, another sentence came on the stone, until he wrote 16 pages. Bro. Joseph was told of the fact. One person asked Joseph if it is right. He said he did not know, but he prayed and got revelation that the stone was of the devil. Then it was broke to powder and the writings burnt. It was a work of the power of darkness. Amen.”


Source: Word

“If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear.”

Doctrine and Covenants 38:30.

Ten Essentials in a two week class (like Family History) where the Ward Members attend by invitation – week one to understand the essentials and week two to discuss their implementation as follows:
1. Safe place inside the home in the event of tornado, earthquake, etc. and place to meet outside the home in the event of fire, etc.
2. Phone list of family members for purse/wallet and who to contact in the event of emergency (e.g. relative outside the area).
3. Supply of essential medicines and money on hand.
4. Gas in car always more than ½ full and emergency food and water in trunk.
5. Important papers in a safe, fire-proof container.
6. Immediate 1-3 day backpacks of food and water for each family member.
7. Short-term (3-months) of essential-readily eatable canned goods, etc.
8. Long-term food storage of wheat, etc. (multiple-years supply).
10. Workplace Shelter-in-Place and Evacuation to Home Plans.

Peace and Healing Through the Atonement (Alma 7:11-12) Sacrament Meeting Talk by Brand L. Niemann, July 18, 2010

Source: [Word](http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons)

And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and sicknesses of his people. And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

I was asked by Brother Stevenson to address this topic and shortly afterwards I noticed the Announcement of the Healing Power of Jesus Christ: A stirring exhibit of sculptures depicting the ministry and healing miracles of Jesus Christ at the Washington DC Temple Visitors Center. And shortly after that I was sitting at my sister-in-law’s table having lunch and noticed her new July Ensign and opened it and the first article after the First Presidency Message was “He can heal any wound” which interesting quotes this same scripture and reads as follows (excerpting for brevity):

“It happened on December 16, 1991—our eighth wedding anniversary. On that day our first son died as the result of a babysitter’s actions. He was only two and a half months old.

The following months and years were clouded by sadness, anger, disappointment, and hopelessness. The personal turmoil that overcame me is indescribable. Nothing anyone said or did eased my pain.

I read many books and scriptures, but none of them satisfied my cry for answers.

I had the rare opportunity to counsel with Elder James E. Faust (1920–2007), then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, because of his friendship with my parents. (He met my mother, Flavia, and her family while serving his mission in Brazil.) I was certain Elder Faust would be able to comfort me.

I asked many questions while he patiently listened. Elder Faust acknowledged that what I had experienced was certainly painful and extremely difficult. He shared several scriptures and talked about the need to work through my grief and find total submission to the Lord’s will in order to be reunited with my son again. He said, “Sylvia, this is about you now.”
realize you are worried about your son, but in reality, you should be worried about yourself and how to rebuild your life. It won’t be easy, but you can mend your heart through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.”

He then gave me a blessing that I would be able to understand the vital role Jesus Christ plays in our existence and allow Him to be the source of strength I needed.

I left our meeting still discouraged; his counsel seemed so simple and yet so unattainable. My mother felt hopeless as well since nothing she said to me seemed to help. I recall her saying, “Please have faith and hope in our Savior, and allow time to heal your wounds.”

After, I read that story, I felt qualified to talk on this subject since I have lost both a wife and a son in the past 30 years as well as many dear friends including members of this Ward.

Next to my easy chair at home I have a plaque entitled “Faith in Every Footstep” that reads: Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you. If ye will have faith in me, ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. For it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men. Moroni 7: 26, 33, and 37.

Recently I read in the Book of Mormon the following stirring experience in Helaman 5: 24-50.

Preface: Nephi and Lehi devote themselves to preaching—Their names invite them to pattern their lives after their forebears—Christ redeems those who repent—Nephi and Lehi make many converts and are imprisoned, and fire encircles them—A cloud of darkness overshadows three hundred people—The earth shakes and a voice commands men to repent—Nephi and Lehi converse with angels, and the multitude are encircled by fire. About 30 B.C.

24 And when they saw that they were encircled about with a pillar of fire, and that it burned them not, their hearts did take courage.

25 For they saw that the Lamanites durst not lay their hands upon them; neither durst they come near unto them, but stood as if they were struck dumb with amazement.

26 And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did stand forth and began to speak unto them, saying: Fear not, for behold, it is God that has shown unto you this marvelous thing, in the which is shown unto you that ye cannot lay your hands on us to slay us.

27 And behold, when they had said these words, the earth shook exceedingly, and the walls of the prison did shake as if they were about to tumble to the earth; but behold, they did not fall. And behold, they that were in the prison were Lamanites and Nephites who were dissenters.

28 And it came to pass that they were overshadowed with a cloud of darkness, and an awful solemn fear came upon them.

29 And it came to pass that there came a voice as if it were above the cloud of darkness, saying: Repent ye, repent ye, and seek no more to destroy my servants whom I have sent unto you to declare good tidings.
30 And it came to pass when they heard this voice, and beheld that it was not a voice of thunder, neither was it a voice of a great tumultuous noise, but behold, it was a still voice of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper, and it did pierce even to the very soul—

31 And notwithstanding the mildness of the voice, behold the earth shook exceedingly, and the walls of the prison trembled again, as if it were about to tumble to the earth; and behold the cloud of darkness, which had overshadowed them, did not disperse—

32 And behold the voice came again, saying: Repent ye, repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; and seek no more to destroy my servants. And it came to pass that the earth shook again, and the walls trembled.

33 And also again the third time the voice came, and did speak unto them marvelous words which cannot be uttered by man; and the walls did tremble again, and the earth shook as if it were about to divide asunder.

34 And it came to pass that the Lamanites could not flee because of the cloud of darkness which did overshadow them; yea, and also they were immovable because of the fear which did come upon them.

35 Now there was one among them who was a Nephite by birth, who had once belonged to the church of God but had dissented from them.

36 And it came to pass that he turned him about, and behold, he saw through the cloud of darkness the faces of Nephi and Lehi; and behold, they did shine exceedingly, even as the faces of angels. And he beheld that they did lift their eyes to heaven; and they were in the attitude as if talking or lifting their voices to some being whom they beheld.

37 And it came to pass that this man did cry unto the multitude, that they might turn and look. And behold, there was power given unto them that they did turn and look; and they did behold the faces of Nephi and Lehi.

38 And they said unto the man: Behold, what do all these things mean, and who is it with whom these men do converse?

39 Now the man's name was Aminadab. And Aminadab said unto them: They do converse with the angels of God.

40 And it came to pass that the Lamanites said unto him: What shall we do, that this cloud of darkness may be removed from overshadowing us?

41 And Aminadab said unto them: You must repent, and cry unto the voice, even until ye shall have faith in Christ, who was taught unto you by Alma, and Amulek, and Zeezrom; and when ye shall do this, the cloud of darkness shall be removed from overshadowing you.

42 And it came to pass that they all did begin to cry unto the voice of him who had shaken the earth; yea, they did cry even until the cloud of darkness was dispensed.

43 And it came to pass that when they cast their eyes about, and saw that the cloud of darkness was dispensed from overshadowing them, behold, they saw that they were encircled about, yea every soul, by a pillar of fire.
44 And Nephi and Lehi were in the midst of them; yea, they were encircled about; yea, they were as if in the midst of a flaming fire, yet it did harm them not, neither did it take hold upon the walls of the prison; and they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

45 And behold, the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire, and they could speak forth marvelous words.

46 And it came to pass that there came a voice unto them, yea, a pleasant voice, as if it were a whisper, saying:

47 Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my Well Beloved, who was from the foundation of the world.

48 And now, when they heard this they cast up their eyes as if to behold from whence the voice came; and behold, they saw the heavens open; and angels came down out of heaven and ministered unto them.

49 And there were about three hundred souls who saw and heard these things; and they were bidden to go forth and marvel not, neither should they doubt.

50 And it came to pass that they did go forth, and did minister unto the people, declaring throughout all the regions round about all the things which they had heard and seen, insomuch that the more part of the Lamanites were convinced of them, because of the greatness of the evidences which they had received.

Now I have been a member of the Vienna Ward for a few weeks short of 30 years and humbly testify to you that I have experienced and see miracles and the ministering of angels in this wonderful ward. We have raised seven children in this ward and are now trying to help raise twenty grand-children, but 10 of them live in two other Wards a short distance from here so we need to down-sized our empty home and move closer to them. We have been blessed to sell our home to a wonderful Mormon family, the Bournes’, so you are loosing two but gaining 6! Words can’t express our gratitude to the Lord for being guided to the home and Ward we leave and to each of you for our associations in the Restored Gospel with you over these many years. We hope to speak with each of you personally before we leave and from time-to-time after that.

As I reflected back on our time in the Vienna Ward and the callings and experiences I have had, I could think of at least one miraculous experience I had had as a Scoutmaster and Blazer Leader, Ward Clerk, High Priests Group Counselor, Home Teacher, Ward Employment Specialist, Primary Nursery Leader, Member of the Mormon Choir (for 28 of those 30 years), Activity Chair, Family History Consultant, Sunday School President, etc. Actually I just copied most of the the list of positions off the Ward Bulletin from Ward Clerk – and oh yes, that reminds me I also did the Ward Bulletin (like Sister Goold does now) for a number of years.

SISTER MARY D NELSON EXPERIENCE.

Actually I have to throw in another calling – not official but very important – husband of the Relief Society President! I want to pay tribute to the biggest miracle and gift in my life, my eternal companion, Shirley, who has made all these things possible, because she has been the most faithful, supportive, hard-working, devoted, self-sacrificing, and I could go on and on person, to spend the past 29 years with and to go forward with in our new adventure at this stage of our life together.

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
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So some of the most memorable experiences I recall are as follows:

As Scoutmaster: Ryan Faust, son of Bishop Marcus and Susan and Faust and President Faust, Marcus’s father, at the Goshen and Rock Enon Scout Camps. The first might be titled: Where there are sparks there is smoke and then fire. As Scoutmaster I always felt a keen responsibility to get all the Scouts home alive and hopefully uninjured. One night before retiring in my tent, I did on last check to make sure all the Scouts were in their tents and the lights were out I noticed they all the lights were out, but I saw light flashes coming from the one tent next to mine and then thought, there tent can’t be the only one with lightning bugs in it and when I went to investigate, sure enough it was not lightning bugs, it was Ryan Faust making sparks by chipping his knife against his flint stone for enjoyment. I said Ryan stop that because one of those sparks could get into you bedding and cause a fire. Those turned out to be prophetic words. Early next morning I was awakened very early with a distinct uneasy felling that something was wrong, but I couldn’t hear anything, but the felling was strong so I jumped up and looked at side of my tent, it was still dark and foggy so I really couldn’t see much until I looked over at Ryan’s tent and noticed what looked like fog rolling out from under his tent platform and it came to me – that wasn’t for that was smoke from a fire and I knew what was going on – I rush to his tent and shouted Ryan get out of your bedding and when I did I dragged his mattress and sleeping bag out of the tent and turned the mattress over and sure enough it was smoldering. The second is my encounter with an Apostle of the Lord: One summer at Goshen I learned from Marcus Faust that his father Elder Faust would be visiting us and his two sons at camp on Friday. At first I thought how wonderful for the Scouts to have his visit, but when I asked who would volunteer to cook the Friday night dinner, no one would volunteer and it fell to my son Spencer and I to cook one of the hard meals over open fire – dutch oven chicken. I held my breath to see what Elder Faust would say about his dinner and he was appreciate and I breathed a sigh of relief. But next morning he had more to say: I wrote in my journal this morning that I ate dutch oven chicken cooked by Brother Niemann and his son Spencer last night and it was the best I had eaten since my father cooked it for me years ago. Riding home in Brother Marcus Faust’s Mercedes and almost falling asleep I was so exhausted, a voice from the back seat said: Brother Niemann tell me about yourself and I was wide awake and fully aware that I was being interviewed by an Apostle of the Lord!

As Home Teacher to the Mason Family: Lily Mason, mother of Ron and Shelia Mason. Ron there is someone else standing here besides us in the ICU and it is your father and he is presiding over our administration of the priesthood to his wife Lily.

As a son to by mother, Helen Niemann. I learned early in life that my mother had very high expectations for her children and I am grateful that she saw to it that I worked hard in school, was active in church (not Mormon) and scouting, and developed my musical talents. But I learned she had another side when I told her I knew the Mormon Church was true and planned to join it – she said: What an insult – didn’t we raise you good enough as you were – and our relationship was all downhill from there and I cannot repeat publicly what she did to make my life, and that of my wife and children miserable because of that. It took many years for me to get to the point where I was receptive to following Shirley’s advice to really ask the Lord to take the animosity towards my mother from deep in my heart, but when I was humble enough to follow that it advice, it finally came gushing out of my heart in the most miraculous experience that only the Lord could cause and then followed the most amazing sequence of events. A year after my mother passed away, we were sitting at the family dinner table and my wife’s sister Maryann said: well its time to do your mother’s temple work, Brand. An awkward silence followed.

Brother Horace and Sister Lois Masters. Like the mother in the church that I never had who taught me to exercise the priesthood in complete faith. Bother Niemann I am not going to let the Rescue Squad take Horace to the hospital until
you administer to him. He is in the final stages of congestive heart failure, all we can do is to pray for him and I will be doing that. Take him by the other hand and pray form him and use your priesthood Brother Niemann and his color returned and he sat up in bed and ask for a drink of water and retuned home to his family and past away in their midst peacefully about a year later. The end of a righteous man is peace.

Nick and Eddie Cangemi. I was her home teacher for many years.

Robbie Belcher, son of Dick and Gayle Belcher. The Lord wants Robbie to prepare for a mission.

The brother of Lucretia Bartuchivek in the ICU from a stroke that had left him blind. Brother Faust and I were the Home Teachers and were riding in the car to the hospital in DC and the spirit said the Lord loves this brother who has great faith to be healed. What do you want – to receive my sight again so I can return to work and support my family – that is the blessing. I can see!

Daughter Susan Niemann during her mission in Brazil. The mission president called just before July 4th to say your daughter is being sent home by the Church Medical Committee due to a cyst that is engulfing her spleen and could rupture at any time. Please give her a blessing that she will make it home (26 hours on the airplane) okay.

Sister Donna Daly, Relief Society President, call asking me to assist in giving a blessing to a sister that was residing in a care facility following serious heart surgery that had requested a blessing.

My testimony to your is simply have complete faith in the Lord, hold to the iron rod in every situation and know that with the Lord things are more wonderful than we can imagine now and forever. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Innovators Summit Classes

Source: https://rootstech.org/bc/content/ima...e.pdf?lang=eng (PDF)

For Wednesday, February 11, a full lineup of cutting-edge content is available for developers and business leaders with an Innovator Summit pass. A limited selection of Innovator Summit classes will also be offered on Thursday and Friday. Registration is required. This schedule is subject to change.

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2015 • SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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<tr>
<th>ID #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Tech Skill Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>IS1200</td>
<td>API Simplicity + Consistency == Speed: Designing APIs That</td>
<td>Application developers like building apps and want to do it quickly. What’s</td>
<td>Harold Madsen</td>
<td>Developer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<td>IS1285</td>
<td>FS-Traversal—a JavaScript Traversal Framework for the FamilySearch Family Tree</td>
<td>Learn how fs-traversal works and how to use it for traversing through the FamilySearch Family Tree. Learn about its different configuration options and callback functions. Discuss possible use cases and view some demos.</td>
<td>Justin York</td>
<td>All Beginner</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1327</td>
<td>Developing a Storytelling API</td>
<td>This presentation will focus on the lessons learned in the development of the StoryPress backend and API, including concepts and best practices on web and</td>
<td>Eric London</td>
<td>All Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1328</td>
<td>How to Raise a Seed Round for a Family History Start-Up</td>
<td>mobile clients and selecting backend service providers for redundancy, speed, and scale.</td>
<td>Steve Wagh</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>IS1476</td>
<td>Reimagining the Family Tree</td>
<td>This panel will be led by an accredited and seasoned angel investor who invests in consumer products. He will explain what he looks for in start-ups and why the family history space is exciting. Joined by StoryPress founder</td>
<td>Harrison Tang</td>
<td>Developer</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Family trees help people document their past, but family trees don’t have to look like the past. Learn about how Harrison Tang and the team at Family.me have applied cutting-edge design philosophies, such as gamification and transitional interfaces, to</td>
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<table>
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<th>IS1505</th>
<th>The Ecosystem of Genealogical Data Exchange</th>
<th>Ryan Heaton</th>
<th>Developer</th>
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<th>Beginner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This presentation is an introduction to the technologies that define the flows and establish the infrastructure for sharing genealogical data. It is an overview of the sources of genealogical data, where data is flowing, how it moves between systems, and how service providers use these mechanisms to deliver value to customers.</td>
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<td>IS1513</td>
<td>Facing the Opportunity to Fail: A Case Study</td>
<td>Gleb Budman</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every start-up faces the opportunity to fail. How it navigates these situations can determine success or failure. In this case study, the CEO of Backblaze will reveal</td>
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### IS1545

**Name Entities Recognition for Family History Searching**

This talk describes the need for name-entities recognition in search-service development. It highlights the advent of existing technologies and discusses how these can be integrated into search engines for the searching of unstructured family history data, such as family notices and obituaries from historical newspapers.

- **Presenter:** Boon Low
- **Role:** Developer
- **Audience:** All
- **Skill Level:** Intermediate

### IS1657

**The M&M's (Money and Marketing) of Partnering with FamilySearch**

We hear time and time again that new developers and companies in the family history space...

- **Presenter:** Thom Reed
- **Role:** Business
- **Audience:** All
- **Skill Level:** Intermediate

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IS1692</td>
<td>Becoming Investment Ready—What It Takes to Get Investors Interested in Your Business</td>
<td>struggle with finding the money and marketing expertise to become key players. This class provides tips for how you can access both by partnering with FamilySearch. Drawing on the insights from a panel of investment experts arranged by Grow Utah, this discussion will address how to make a genealogy tech start-up of interest to investors. The main takeaway for the audience will be an understanding of how best to position their opportunity for investment.</td>
<td>T. Craig Bott</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1695</td>
<td>So You Think You Have a Good Idea—Think Again!</td>
<td>This presentation will provide insight into determining if an innovation has market potential and designing a...</td>
<td>T. Craig Bott</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<td>IS1699</td>
<td>Starting It the Right Way. Lessons Learned from Successful Start-ups</td>
<td>This presentation will draw insights from a panel of entrepreneurs and executives as they discuss what it takes to create a successful start-up. The panel will address a range of topics relevant to start-ups. Attendees will be better positioned to start their own business.</td>
<td>T. Craig Bott</td>
<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1721</td>
<td>Show Me the Data: Applying Modern Data Visualization Principles to Family History</td>
<td>Data visualization is a fascinating mixture of science and art that has lately become its own</td>
<td>Bob Meyers</td>
<td>Developer</td>
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<th>IS1730</th>
<th>From 20 to 1.5 million Downloads: Audience-Building Lessons for Your Business</th>
<th>Genealogy entrepreneurs can either wait for their audiences to show up, or proactively draw them in. Lisa Louise Cooke (Genealogy Gems) shares strategies that dramatically grew her business that you can employ regardless of your product or service.</th>
<th>Lisa Cooke</th>
<th>Business</th>
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<tr>
<td>IS1761</td>
<td>Don't Make Me Write Citations, Please</td>
<td>Writing citations for online sources is difficult and error prone. Let's talk</td>
<td>Jimmy Zimmerman</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1762</td>
<td>Hot Open Source Projects for the Genealogy Industry</td>
<td>about a new approach to citations and data exchange that could change how we do genealogy</td>
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<td>IS1765</td>
<td>Kickstarter: Create the Future</td>
<td>Open-source code for family history is growing. During this past year, organizations have begun collaborating on reusable code that will have tremendous impact on the industry. Come learn how these projects could benefit your organization.</td>
<td>Jimmy Zimmerman Jordan Mulford</td>
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<td>Kickstarter is a crowdfunding site that helps creative people launch projects. This presentation will explain the basics of Kickstarter, provide insights from those who have successfully funded a project, and</td>
<td>Jimmy Zimmerman</td>
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<th>IS1830</th>
<th>Mission Impossible? Tough Challenges, Which Need Automated Solutions</th>
<th>explore successful Kickstarter projects that could impact family history.</th>
<th>Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to develop automated solutions for some of the toughest family history research challenges. You will learn details about specific challenges faced by those doing family history research for which automated solutions have yet to be found.</th>
<th>Robert Anderson Diane Loosle David E. Rencher John Wylie</th>
<th>Developer</th>
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<tr>
<td>IS1902</td>
<td>Starting or Growing Your Business with FamilySearch</td>
<td>This session will help individuals and organizations to better understand the options and opportunities available to them by partnering with FamilySearch.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Braithwaite</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS1974</td>
<td>Don't Reinvent the</td>
<td>We introduce a free open-source</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dallan Quass</td>
<td>Developer</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS2000</td>
<td>Genealogy App Wheel</td>
<td>platform for genealogy applications, for both mobile devices and the web, and show how you can easily extend this platform by writing plug-ins, such as Eclipse or WordPress, for genealogy.</td>
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<td>IS2000</td>
<td>What You Wish Your Mama Would Have Told You about FamilySearch Application Certification</td>
<td>What must I do for FamilySearch to certify my software application? Is FamilySearch application certification worth the effort? Is there a “fast lane” to certification? If these questions have entered your mind, and you wished your mama had given you the answers, this session is for you.</td>
<td>Rich Running Vaughn Hepworth Developer All Beginner</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS2180</td>
<td>Inside Look at Ancestry.com’s Innovation and Product Development</td>
<td>Join three Ancestry leaders as they host a lively discussion on</td>
<td>Chris Bradford Kendall Hulet Josh Pedrod Developer All All</td>
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what drives the company's product development process and how every aspect of its product development is geared toward the customer experience

Innovator Summit

Source: https://rootstech.org/agenda/innovator-summit?lang=eng

Introduction

Innovator Summit offers developers, business leaders, and entrepreneur's access to the latest content and resources that provide insight on family history data, services and inspiration for current and future projects.

This year's full-day event features keynote speaker Nathan Furr, PhD. Furr is a leading author and recognized expert in innovation and entrepreneurship.

His keynote address, titled “How to Apply the Innovator’s Method to Increase Your Success and Decrease Your Risk,” will zero in on the impact of learning on new market success and how to capture new opportunities, balance, execution, and flexibility, and develop innovative business models.

Nathan Furr is an assistant Professor of innovation and entrepreneurship at Brigham Young University and has a PhD from Stanford University. His new book, The Innovator’s Method (Harvard Business Review Press, September 2014) combines innovation and entrepreneurship, bringing the radical "lean start-up" approach to innovation into established organizations. His previous book, Nail It Then Scale It (NISI Institute, 2011), shows how the seeds of entrepreneurial success are sown before you build anything.

In addition to Furr, other exciting and inspiring business and technology speakers at Innovator Summit include:

- Harrison Tang, cofounder and chief executive officer of Family.me
- Mike Davis, cofounder and chief executive officer of StoryPress
- Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, director of the Great Migration Study Project at the New England Historic Genealogical Society
Schedule of Events

When: Wednesday, February 11
Where: Salt Palace Convention Center
Time:

9:00a.m. Keynote address—“How to Apply the Innovator’s Method to Increase Your Success and Decrease Your Risk”
by Nathan Furr, Ph.D.

10:30a.m. Classes* ([Download the Innovator Summit Class Schedule [PDF]])

11:45a.m. Innovator Challenge Semifinal Round and Box Lunch (provided)

1:00p.m. Classes Resume

5:15p.m. Classes End

5:15p.m. Social (featuring Innovator Summit Sponsor, Ancestry.com)

8:00p.m. Hack-a-thon event

*Additional classes are available on Thursday, February 12 and Friday, February 13. ([Download the Innovator Summit Class Schedule [PDF]])

If you are a developer, business leader, or entrepreneur, you won't want to miss this event. Go to RootsTech.org/register, and purchase an Innovator Summit pass to attend.

RootsTech Innovator Challenge

Come and participate in this year’s big, new, and improved challenge for developers and entrepreneurs, with $25,000 in prizes and a huge potential to reach your audience! This year’s Innovator Challenge will invite four finalists to the stage to show off their latest creations in front of thousands of RootsTech attendees, including renowned judges, with live-audience voting! Past winners, such as last year’s grand-prize winners, Harvey and Jane Baker of Savings Memories Forever, ([MY NOTE: See below]) have gone on to successfully capitalize on the $4 billion family history market and stake a claim for themselves. Whether you have a project in the works now or an idea you want to try, or if you are interested in participating and looking for ideas, check out the RootsTech Innovator Challenge, and get started!

[Enter the Challenge ([MY NOTE: See below])]

Home


4 finalists. 5 renowned judges. 1 large audience. $25k in prizes. Create an app to connect the past with the present.

Do you have what it takes to launch the family history industry forward into the next generation?

FamilySearch is challenging developers from around the globe to go head-to-head and create apps that solve any problem in the family history industry or another business, using family history data and services.
The top 4 finalists will be invited to demo live, onstage, in front of 2,500+ attendees at RootsTech in Salt Lake City, Utah, where a panel of renowned judges and the audience will decide the winners! Many will enter, but only one app can take home up to $15,000 in total cash prizes and a ton of publicity. Will it be yours?

Get started now by registering now and reading the requirements below. Afterwards, head to the Resources page for app ideas and data!

View full rules MY NOTE: See below

Eligibility
This challenge is open to Individuals (who have reached the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence at the time of entry); Teams of eligible individuals; and Organizations (up to 50 employees).

Requirement
Content: Your submission must solve a problem you’ve identified in the family history industry, or in another industry vertical using family history data or services. Check out the Resources page for some problem ideas!

Platforms: Your submission must include a software component such as:
- a native smartphone or tablet app (iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows Mobile)
- a web app or subscription service
- a desktop app (Windows PC, Mac Desktop)
- software running on other hardware (including, but not exclusive to, wearable technology, open source hardware, etc.)
- custom hardware which includes a software component (wearable technology, etc.)

Supplemental Material: You must submit a demo video (hosted on YouTube, Vimeo, or Youku) that walks through the main functionality of the app via screencast or video. You must also submit at least one image/screenshot of your working app.

If you’re a finalist you’ll also need to prepare a 5-minute pitch to deliver to the judges and audience (including a demo, business model, etc.) Pro Tip: Use your submission demo video to as a draft of your finalist pitch, just don’t forget to demo your app!

Testing: You must make your app available for no charge to judges for evaluation during the judging periods.
Judges

Amy Rees Anderson
Managing Partner, REES Capital; Contributor, Forbes and The Huffington Post

A.J. Jacobs
Founder of The Global Family Reunion, New York Times bestselling author, NPR commentator and editor at large at Esquire magazine

Curt B. Witcher
MLS, FUGA, IGSF, Senior Manager of The Genealogy Center and Digital Initiatives, Allen County Public Library

Jay Verkler
Advisor and Corporate Consultant, The Verkler Group; Former CEO, FamilySearch International

Dan Mano
Vice President of Business Development, MyHeritage
Judging Criteria

Quality of Idea
Includes creativity, originality, and “wow” factor of the idea.

Implementation of Idea
Includes how well the idea was executed by the developer.

Potential Impact
Will users get excited about this? Is it applicable? Does it solve a genuine problem?

MVP Status
Preference will be given to innovations where there is a minimum viable product (MVP) and are closer to delivery for real-world use.

Relation to Family History Activities
Preference will be given to ideas that directly or indirectly relate to family history activities (including photos, stories, DNA, social media, etc.), or use family history data.

How to Enter
1. Click “Register” to sign up for important challenge communications.
2. Visit the Resources page to learn about the some potential problem areas and available data/API resources
3. Review the judging criteria.
4. Create your app!
5. Shoot your demo video and take screenshots of your functioning app.
6. Provide a way for us to access your app.
7. Get started on your draft and submit early!

Participants

Source: https://rootstech.challengepost.com/participants

My Note: 160 people are registered for this challenge. I am the 160th!

See: http://challengepost.com/BrandNiemann

Rules

Source: http://rootstech.challengepost.com/rules

RootsTech Innovator Challenge Official Rules – (the “Official Rules”)
NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY. A PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

Challenge Name: RootsTech Innovator Challenge (the “Challenge”)

Challenge Website: http://rootstech.challengepost.com (the “Challenge Website”)

1. POSTER

Poster (the “Poster”): FamilySearch International, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

The Poster is the sponsor and entity responsible for the Challenge.

2. DATES AND TIMING

Challenge Submission Period: November 13, 2014 (10:00am Eastern Time) – January 15, 2015 (5:00pm Eastern Time) (the “Challenge Submission Period”)

Online Judging Period: January 16, 2015 (10:00am Eastern Time) – January 30, 2015 (5:00pm Eastern Time) (the “Online Judging Period”)

Semi-Finalist Judging: To be held in-person at RootsTech (http://rootstech.org) on February 11, 2015

Finalist Judging and Voting:

NOTE: Semi-finalists and finalists will be required to attend RootsTech in Salt Lake City, Utah in order to be eligible to win a prize. Attendance to RootsTech is free (excluding travel) for Challenge semi-finalists and finalists. Attendance at RootsTech is not required to enter the Challenge. See Section 7 below for additional details.

Winners Announced: On or around February 13, 2015

ChallengePost, Inc. will be the official timekeeper for the Challenge Submission Period and Online Judging Period.

3. ELIGIBILITY

A. The Challenge IS open to:
   • individuals who are at least the age of majority where they reside as of the time of entry teams of eligible individuals
   • organizations (including corporations, not-for-profit corporations and other nonprofit organizations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and other legal entities) that exist and have been organized or incorporated at the time of entry, and employ no more than 50 people (“Organizations”)
   • (the above are collectively, “Makers”)

An individual may join more than one team or Organization and an individual who is part of a team or Organization may also enter the Challenge on an individual basis.
If a team or Organization is entering the Challenge, they must appoint and authorize one individual (the “Representative”) to represent, act, and enter a Submission, on their behalf. The Representative must meet the eligibility requirements above. By entering a Submission on the Site on behalf of a team or Organization, you represent and warrant that you are the Representative authorized to act on behalf of your team or Organization.

B. The Challenge IS NOT open to:

• individuals who are residents of, or Organizations domiciled in, a country, state, province or territory where the laws of the United States or applicable local law prohibits participating or receiving a prize in the Challenge (including, but not limited to, Brazil, Quebec, Italy, and Cuba, Sudan, Iran, North Korea, Syria and any other country designated by the United States Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control)

• organizations involved with the design, production, paid promotion, execution, or distribution of the Challenge, including FamilySearch International and ChallengePost, Inc. (“Promotion Entities”)

• employees of Promotion Entities, and representatives and agents** of Promotion Entities that are involved with the design, production, paid promotion, execution, or distribution of the Challenge, or with maintaining data provided for use in the Challenge, and all members of any such individual’s family or household* (FamilySearch volunteers may participate, provided they are not involved with the design, production, paid promotion, execution, or distribution of the Challenge, or with maintaining data provided for use in the Challenge)

• any other individual involved with the design, production, promotion, execution, or distribution of the Challenge, and each member of their immediate family or household*

• any Judge (defined below), or company or individual that employs a Judge

• any parent company, subsidiary, or other affiliate*** of any organization described above

• any other individual or organization whose participation in the Challenge would create, in the sole discretion of the Poster, a real or apparent conflict of interest

*The members of an individual’s immediate family include the individual’s spouse, children and stepchildren, parents and stepparents, and siblings and stepsiblings. The members of an individual's household include any other person that shares the same residence as the individual for at least three (3) months out of the year.

**Agents include individuals or organizations acting on behalf of, and at the direction of, a Promotion Entity through a contractual or other relationship.

***An affiliate is: (a) an organization that is under common control, sharing a common majority or controlling owner, or common management; or (b) an organization that owns equity in, or is partially owned by the other organization.

4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Makers must do the following to participate in the Challenge:

• Register for the Challenge on the Challenge Website by clicking the “Register” button. To complete registration, sign up to create a ChallengePost account, or log in with an existing ChallengePost account. There is no charge for creating a ChallengePost account. This will enable you to receive important updates and access the “Enter a Submission” page.

• Visit the Challenge Resources page at http://rootstech.challengepost.com/details/resources to learn about potential problem areas in the family history industry and available data and APIs

• Create a software application that solves a real world problem you've identified in the family history industry, or in another industry vertical, using family history data or services
• Complete and enter all of the required fields on the “Enter a Submission” page of the Challenge Website (each a “Submission”) during the Challenge Submission Period, and follow the requirements below.

A. Language Requirements

All Submission materials must be in English or, if not in English, the Maker must provide an English translation of the demonstration video, text description, and testing instructions as well as all other materials submitted.

B. Application Requirements

(i) What to Create: Makers must create a working software application that solves a problem they’ve identified in the family history industry, or in another industry vertical, using family history data or services (each an “Application”).

(ii) Functionality: The Application must be capable of being successfully installed and running consistently on the platform for which it is intended, and must function as depicted in the video and/or expressed in the text description.

(iii) Platforms: A submitted Application must run on at least one of the following:

- Android device (such as a smartphone, tablet, Google Glass, etc.)
- iOS device (such as a smartphone, tablet, etc.)
- Windows Phone device (such as a smartphone, tablet, etc.)
- Blackberry device
- Web or mobile web
- Windows desktop computer
- Mac desktop computer
- Kindle
- software running on other hardware (including, but not exclusive to, wearable technology, open source hardware, etc.)
- custom hardware which includes a software component (wearable technology, etc.)

(iv) New & Existing: Applications may be either newly created by the Maker, or created prior to the Challenge Submission Period.

(v) Testing: The Maker must make the Application available free of charge and without any restriction, for testing, evaluation and use by the Poster and Judges during the Challenge and until the winners are announced. If the Application includes software that runs on proprietary or third party hardware that is not widely available to the public, including software running on devices or wearable technology other than smartphones, tablets, or desktop computers, the Sponsor and/or Administrator reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to require the Maker to provide physical access to the Application hardware upon request.

You can make your Application available using one of the following methods:

a. Android Applications: Upload an .apk file on the Enter a Submission form or provide a link for downloading the Application in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

b. iOS Applications:
• If your Application is available on the iTunes App Store provide a link in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form. If you charge a fee for downloading your Application, you must provide a promo code.

• If your Application is not yet publicly available on the iTunes App Store, you must send it to the Poster via

c. Windows Phone applications: Upload an .xap file in the Enter a Submission form or provide a link for downloading your Application in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

d. Windows PC: Upload the appropriate installation files (.exe) on the Enter a Submission form or provide a link for downloading your .exe file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

e. BlackBerry: Upload the appropriate installation files on the Enter a Submission form or provide a link for downloading your installation file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

f. Mac OS: Upload the appropriate installation files on the Enter a Submission form or provide a link for downloading your installation file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

g. Web/Mobile Web: Provide a link for accessing your Application on the “Testing Instructions” field on the Enter a Submission form.

(vi) Public Distribution: The Maker may make the Application available to the public via a website or online store, but is not required to do so.

(vii) Multiple Submissions: A Maker may submit more than one Submission, however, each Submission must be unique, as determined by the Poster.

(viii) SDKs, APIs, & Data: Applications may integrate SDKs, APIs and data, provided the Maker is authorized to use them.

(ix) Intellectual Property: Your Submission must: (a) be your (or your team or Organization’s) original work product; (b) be solely owned by you, your team, or your Organization with no other person or entity having any right or interest in it; and (c) not violate the intellectual property rights or other rights including but not limited to copyright, trademark, patent, contract, and/or privacy rights, of any other person or entity. A Maker may contract with a third party for technical assistance to create the Submission provided the Submission components are solely the Maker’s work product and the result of the Maker’s ideas and creativity, and the Maker owns all rights to them. A Maker may submit a Submission that includes the use of open source software or hardware, provided the Maker complies with applicable open source licenses and, as part of the Submission, creates software that enhances and builds upon the features and functionality included in the underlying open source product. By entering the Challenge you represent, warrant, and agree that your Submission meets these requirements.

(x) Financial or Preferential Support: An Application must not have been developed, or derived from an Application developed, with financial or preferential support from the Poster. Such Applications include, but are not limited to, those that received funding or investment for their development, were developed under contract, or received a commercial license, from the Poster any time prior to the end of Challenge Submission Period. The Poster, at their sole discretion, may disqualify an Application, if awarding a prize to the Application would create a real or apparent conflict of interest.

C. Text Description, Image, and Video Requirements

http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons
Updated: Sat, 19 Sep 2015 05:32:15 GMT
Powered by mindtouch

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(i) Text Description: The text description should explain the features and functionality of your Application.

(ii) Images: The image(s) should be photographs or screenshots of your working Application.

(iii) Video: The video portion of the Submission:

   a. should be less than five (5) minutes;

   b. must include footage that clearly explains the Application's features and functionality through a comprehensive demonstration;

   c. must be uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo, and a link to the video must be provided on the submission form on the Challenge Website; and

   d. must not include third party trademarks, or copyrighted music or other material unless the Maker has permission to use such material.

5. SUBMISSION RIGHTS

A. Maker Rights: Subject to the licenses described below, any applicable intellectual property rights to a Submission will remain with the Maker.

B. Poster Rights: By entering the Challenge, you grant to the Poster, ChallengePost, and any other third parties acting on the Poster’s behalf, a royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide perpetual license to display publicly and use for promotional purposes the Submission, in perpetuity. This license includes, but is not limited to, posting or linking to the Submission on Poster’s, ChallengePost’s, and partners’ websites and applications, including the Challenge Website, FamilySearch.org, and http://rootstech.org, and display and promotion of the Submission in any other media, worldwide.

C. Submission Display: The following Submission components may be displayed to the public: name, description, images, video URL, website, URL, team members (username only), the Submission category and platform, and submitter type. Other Submission materials may be viewed by the Poster, ChallengePost, and Judges for screening and evaluation.

D. Makers represent and warrant that the Poster, ChallengePost, and Challenge partners are free to use Makers’ Submission in the manner described above, as provided or as modified by ChallengePost, without obtaining permission or license from any third party and without any compensation to Makers.

6. JUDGING CRITERIA

A. Criteria: Eligible Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges selected by the Poster (the “Judges”), and scored using the following criteria (the “Judging Criteria”):

   (i) Quality of Idea: Includes creativity and originality;

   (ii) Implementation of Idea: Includes how well the idea was executed by the developer;
(iii) Potential Impact: Will users get excited about this, is it applicable, does it solve a genuine problem?

(iv) MVP Status: Includes the extent to which the Application is a minimum viable product (MVP) and closer to delivery for real-world use; and

(v) Relation to Family History Activities: Includes how well the Application directly or indirectly relates to family history activities, including photos, stories, DNA, and social media, or uses family history data.

The Judging Criteria above may not apply to every Prize. See section 7 below for the Judging Criteria that apply for each Prize. The Maker(s) that are eligible for a Prize, and whose Submissions earn the highest overall scores based on the applicable Judging Criteria, will become potential winners of that Prize.

B. Submission Review: JUDGES are not required to test the Application and may choose to judge based solely on the text description, IMAGES and video provided in the Submission.

C. Tie Breaker: For each Prize listed in Section 7 below, if two or more Submissions are tied, the tied Submission with the highest score in the first applicable criterion listed above will be considered the higher scoring Submission. In the event any ties remain, this process will be repeated, as needed, by comparing the tied Submissions’ scores on the next applicable criterion. If two or more Submissions are tied on all applicable criteria, the panel of Judges will vote on the tied Submissions.

7. SELECTION OF THE SEMI-FINALIST, FINALIST, JUDGE’S CHOICE AND POPULAR CHOICE AWARDS

A. Semi-Finalists: The Judges will select eight (8) potential winners of the Semi-Finalist Awards during the Online Judging Period using the Judging Criteria described above in Section 6. To be designated a Semi-Finalist Award winner, a potential winner will be required to send a team member (though not necessarily the “Representative” as defined above) to attend RootsTech in Salt Lake City, Utah (http://rootstech.org), February 11 -13, 2015. Attendance at RootsTech is free for Semi-Finalists, but travel costs may apply, if such costs exceed the travel reimbursement amount described below in Section 8. If a potential Semi-Finalist Award winner is not able to send a team member to RootsTech, they will not be designated a Semi-Finalist Award winner and the Poster shall select the next highest scoring Submission to replace that potential winner as a Semi-Finalist Award winner.

B. Finalists: The eight (8) Semi-Finalist Award winners will present their Applications in person to the Judges at RootsTech on February 11, 2015. Semi-Finalists will be given five (5) minutes each to demonstrate their Application and describe the business model for sustaining their Applications. Judges will evaluate each Semi-Finalist Submission again based on the Judging Criteria in Section 6. The four (4) Submissions receiving the highest scores from the Judges following the presentations will be Finalist Award winners and eligible to present again for a chance to win the Judge’s Choice and People’s Choice Awards.

C. Judge’s Choice Awards: The four (4) finalists will have the opportunity to present their Submissions again to the Judges and a live audience of RootsTech attendees on February 13, 2015. Finalists will have five (5) minutes to demonstrate their Applications and describe the business model for sustaining their Applications. The Judges will score the Finalist Submissions again based on the Judging Criteria in Section 6 and the highest scoring Submission will become the potential winner of the FirstPlace Judge’s Choice Award, the second highest scoring Submission will
become the potential winner of the Second Place Judge’s Choice Award and the third highest scoring Submission will become the potential winner of the Third Place Judge’s Choice Award.

D. People’s Choice Award: Each of the four (4) Finalists will also be eligible for the People’s Choice Award regardless of whether they win one of the Judge’s Choice Awards. Following the Finalist presentations, RootsTech attendees will be able to vote for their favorite Submissions by sending a text message via their mobile phone. The phone number(s) and texting instructions required to vote for a Finalist will be provided to RootsTech attendees viewing the Finalist presentations. The Finalist receiving the most verified votes during the voting period will become the potential winner of the People’s Choice Award.

Voting will take place during a voting period specified by the Poster on the Challenge Website and at RootsTech. The Poster has the right to extend the voting period at any time for any reason.

Verified vote counts will be determined by the Poster. If there is a tie between two or more Submissions, the People’s Choice Award will be given to the Submission with the highest score from Judges following the Finalist presentations.

Voters will be limited to one vote per mobile phone number. Makers may not directly or indirectly offer or pay any monetary or other form of consideration in exchange for a vote.

You may not use any manual or automated vote process or methods to circumvent the one-vote limit per mobile phone. Doing so will subject all of your votes to disqualification. The Poster may also disqualify a Maker, if the Maker receives multiple or irregular votes from the same user or users, receives votes in a manner that indicates manual, automated or other vote manipulation, or attempts to compensate voters.

If the voting process fails to operate properly or appears to be tampered with or tainted with errors, fraud or unfair practices, the Poster has the right to determine the People’s Choice winner by using non-suspect votes, or by any other means it deems appropriate. If no alternative means of determining the People’s Choice is available or selected, the Poster may terminate the prize without designating a winner.

The Poster is not responsible for, and is not required to count any vote which, in its judgment, is incomplete, late, misdirected, damaged, unlawful or illicit. This includes votes secured in breach of the voting rules above, as well as those lost for technical reasons, or otherwise in violation these Official Rules.

8. PRIZES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Eligible Makers</th>
<th>Applicable Judging Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Finalist Award</td>
<td>Invitation and one (1) free pass to attend RootsTech and present Application in-person to the Judges</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>All Makers, however, attendance</td>
<td>i, ii, iii, iv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All semi-finalists can receive travel assistance of up to $1,500 domestic and $3,500 international. The final amount of the stipend will be determined by distance from Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, and semi-finalist demonstrated need. Once selected, semi-finalists will need to coordinate travel and accommodations with the RootsTech event team. All travel arrangements will be booked by RootsTech and reviewed with semi-finalists before final reservations will be made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Winning Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finalist Award</td>
<td>Invitation to present Application to Judges and a live audience of attendees at RootsTech</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Semi-Finalist Award winners</td>
<td>I, ii, iii, iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge’s 1st Choice</td>
<td>US$10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finalist Award winners</td>
<td>I, ii, iii, iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge’s 2nd Choice</td>
<td>US$7,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finalist Award winners</td>
<td>I, ii, iii, iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge’s 3rd Choice</td>
<td>US$3,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finalist Award winners</td>
<td>I, ii, iii, iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Choice</td>
<td>US$5,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finalist Award winners</td>
<td>Determined by live public voting conducted during Finalist presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. VERIFICATION OF POTENTIAL WINNERS

A. Verification Requirement: THE AWARD OF A PRIZE TO A POTENTIAL WINNER IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION OF THE IDENTITY, QUALIFICATIONS AND ROLE OF THE POTENTIAL WINNER IN THE CREATION OF THE SUBMISSION. The final decision to designate a winner shall be made by the Poster.

B. Required Forms: Potential Semi-Finalist Award winners will be notified using the email address associated with the ChallengePost account used to enter the Submission (the submitter is the “Representative” in the case of a team or Organization). In order to receive any Prizes, the potential Semi-Finalist Award winner (including all participating team members in the case of a team or Organization) will be required to sign and return to the Poster, affidavit(s) of eligibility (or a similar verification document) and liability/publicity release(s), and any applicable tax forms (“Required Forms”). Potential Finalist Award, Judge’s Choice and People’s Choice winners will be notified in person at RootsTech, with a follow-up notice using the email address associated with the ChallengePost account used to enter the Submission (the submitter is the “Representative” in the case of a team or Organization).

Deadline for Returning Required Forms: ten (10) business days after the Required Forms are sent.

C. Disqualification: The Poster may deem a potential winner (or participating team members) ineligible to win if:

(i) the potential winner’s Representative or any participating member does not respond to multiple emails or fails to sign and return the Required Forms by the deadline listed above, or responds and rejects the Prize;

(ii) the Prize or Prize notification is returned as undeliverable; or

(iii) the Submission or the potential winner, or any member of a potential winner’s team, Organization, is disqualified for any other reason.

In the event of a disqualification, the Poster may award the applicable Prize to an alternate potential winner.

10. PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

A. Substitutions & Changes: The Poster has the right to make a Prize substitution of equivalent or greater value. The Poster will not award a Prize if there are no eligible Submissions entered in the Challenge, or if there are no eligible Makers or Submissions for a specific Prize.

B. Prize Delivery: A monetary Prize will be mailed to the winning Maker’s address (if an individual) or the Representative’s address (if a team or Organization) after receipt of the Required Forms. Prizes will be payable to the Maker, if an individual, to the Maker’s Representative, if a team, or to the Organization, if the Maker is an Organization. It will be the responsibility of the winning Maker’s Representative to allocate the Prize among their team or Organization’s participating members, as the Representative deems appropriate.

C. Prize Delivery Timeframe: Within 45 days of the Poster’s receipt of the Required Forms

D. Taxes: Winners (and in the case of team or Organization, all participating members) are responsible for reporting and paying any/all applicable taxes related to any prize, including, without limitation, any/all applicable taxes in their jurisdiction of residence (federal, state/provincial/territorial and local). Winners may be required to provide certain
information to facilitate receipt of the award, including completing and submitting any tax or other forms necessary for compliance with applicable withholding and reporting requirements. United States residents are required to provide a completed form W-9 and residents of other countries are required to provide a completed W-8BEN form. Winners are also responsible for complying with all applicable foreign exchange and banking regulations in their respective jurisdictions and reporting the receipt of the Prize to relevant government departments/agencies, if necessary. The Poster, and/or Prize provider, reserve the right to withhold a portion of the prize amount to comply with the tax laws of the United States or other Poster jurisdiction, or those of a winner’s jurisdiction.

11. ENTRY CONDITIONS AND RELEASE

A. By entering the Challenge, you (and, if you are entering on behalf of a team or Organization, each participating members) agree(s) to the following:

(i) The relationship between you, the Maker, and the Poster and ChallengePost, is not a confidential, fiduciary, or other special relationship.

(ii) You will be bound by and comply with these Official Rules and the decisions of the Poster, ChallengePost, and/or the Challenge Judges which are binding and final in all matters relating to the Challenge.

(iii) You release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Poster, ChallengePost, Promotion Entities, and their respective parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies, the Prize suppliers and any other organizations responsible for sponsoring, fulfilling, administering, advertising or promoting the Challenge, and all of their respective past and present officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives (hereafter the “Released Parties”) from and against any and all claims, expenses, and liabilities (including reasonable attorneys’ fees), including but not limited to negligence and damages of any kind to persons and property, defamation, slander, libel, violation of right of publicity, infringement of trademark, copyright or other intellectual property rights, property damage, or death or personal injury arising out of or relating to a Maker’s entry, creation of Submission or entry of a Submission, participation in the Challenge, acceptance or use or misuse of the Prize (including any travel or activity related thereto) and/or the broadcast, transmission, performance, exploitation or use of the Submission as authorized or licensed by these Official Rules.

B. Without limiting the foregoing, the Released Parties shall have no liability in connection with:

(i) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by the Poster or ChallengePost’s electronic or printing error, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Challenge;

(ii) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines, internet connectivity or electronic transmission errors, or network hardware or software or failure of the Challenge Website;

(iii) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Challenge;

(iv) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Challenge or the processing of Submissions; or
(v) any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from the Maker’s participation in the Challenge or receipt or use or misuse of any Prize.

The Released Parties are not responsible for incomplete, late, misdirected, damaged, lost, illegible, or incomprehensible Submissions or for address or email address changes of the Makers. Proof of sending or submitting will not be deemed to be proof of receipt by the Poster or ChallengePost.

If for any reason any Maker’s Submission is determined to have not been received or been erroneously deleted, lost, or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, the Maker’s sole remedy is to request the opportunity to resubmit its Submission. Such request must be made promptly after the Maker knows or should have known there was a problem, and will be determined at the sole discretion of the Poster.

12. PUBLICITY

By participating in the Challenge you consent to the use of personal information about you, if you are a winner, by the Poster, ChallengePost, and third parties acting on their behalf. Such personal information includes, but is not limited to, your name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, comments and hometown and country of residence. It may be used in any existing or newly created media, worldwide without further payment or consideration or right of review, unless prohibited by law. Authorized use includes advertising and promotional purposes.

The duration of your consent is for a period of three years following the conclusion of the Challenge. This consent applies, as applicable, to all members a Maker’s team or Organization that participated in the winning Submission.

13. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. Poster and ChallengePost reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Challenge, or any part of it, in the event of a technical failure, fraud, or any other factor or event that was not anticipated or is not within their control.

B. Poster and ChallengePost reserve the right in their sole discretion to disqualify any individual or Maker they find to be actually or presenting the appearance of tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Challenge or to be acting in violation of these Official Rules or in a manner that is inappropriate, unsportsmanlike, not in the best interests of this Challenge, or a violation of any applicable law or regulation.

C. Any attempt by any person to undermine the proper conduct of the Challenge may be a violation of criminal and civil law. Should Poster or ChallengePost suspect that such an attempt has been made or is threatened, they reserve the right to take appropriate action including but not limited to requiring a Maker to cooperate with an investigation and referral to criminal and civil law enforcement authorities.

D. If there is any discrepancy or inconsistency between the terms and conditions of the Official Rules and disclosures or other statements contained in any Challenge materials, including but not limited to the Challenge Submission form, Challenge Website, advertising (including but not limited to television, print, radio or online ads), the terms and conditions of the Official Rules shall prevail.
E. The terms and conditions of the Official Rules are subject to change at any time, including the rights or obligations of the Maker, the Poster and the ChallengePost. In the event of any such change, the Poster and ChallengePost will post the terms and conditions of the amended Official Rules on the Challenge Website. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any amendment will become effective at the time specified in the posting of the amended Official Rules or, if no time is specified, the time of posting.

F. If at any time prior to the deadline, a Maker or prospective Maker believes that any Official Rule is or may be unclear or ambiguous, they must submit a written request for clarification.

G. The Poster or ChallengePost’s failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. Should any provision of these Official Rules be or become illegal or unenforceable in any jurisdiction whose laws or regulations may apply to a Maker, such illegality or unenforceability shall leave the remainder of these Official Rules, including the Rule affected, to the fullest extent permitted by law, unaffected and valid. The illegal or unenforceable provision shall be replaced by a valid and enforceable provision that comes closest and best reflects the Poster’s intention in a legal and enforceable manner with respect to the invalid or unenforceable provision.

H. Excluding Submissions, all intellectual property related to this Challenge, including but not limited to copyrighted material, trademarks, trade-names, logos, designs, promotional materials, web pages, source codes, drawings, illustrations, slogans and representations are owned or used under license by the Poster and/or ChallengePost. All rights are reserved. Unauthorized copying or use of any copyrighted material or intellectual property without the express written consent of its owners is strictly prohibited. Any use in a Submission of Poster or ChallengePost intellectual property shall be solely to the extent provided for in these Official Rules.

14. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

By entering, all Makers (including, in the case of a team or Organization, all participating members) agree to be bound by the Official Rules and hereby release the Released Parties from any and all liability in connection with the Prizes or Maker’s participation in the Challenge. Provided, however, that any liability limitation regarding gross negligence or intentional acts, or events of death or body injury shall not be applicable in jurisdictions where such limitation is not legal.

15. DISPUTES

A. Makers agree that, to the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Challenge, or any Prizes awarded, other than those concerning the administration of the Challenge or the determination of winners, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action;

(ii) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Challenge or any Prizes awarded, shall be resolved exclusively by the United States District Court of Utah or the appropriate Utah State Court and Makers consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of such courts; and

(iii) under no circumstances will Makers be entitled to, and Makers hereby waives all rights to claim, any punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased.
SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

B. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of the Makers and the Poster in connection with the Challenge, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Utah, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of the State of Utah or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Utah.

16. ADDITIONAL TERMS THAT ARE PART OF THE OFFICIAL RULES

Please review the ChallengePost Terms of Service at http://challengepost.com/terms for additional rules that apply to your participation in the Challenge and more generally your use of the Challenge Website. Such Terms of Service are incorporated by reference into these Official Rules. If there is a conflict between the Terms of Service and these Official Rules, the latter terms shall control with respect to this Challenge only.

Participation in the Challenge constitutes Maker’s full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules. By entering, a Maker agrees that all decisions related to the Challenge that are made pursuant to these Official Rules are final and binding, and that all such decisions are at the sole discretion of the Poster and/or ChallengePost.

ChallengePost collects personal information from you when you enter the Challenge. The information collected is subject to the privacy policy located here: http://ChallengePost.com/privacy.

17. CONTACT

If you have any questions or comment, or wish to send us any notice regarding this Challenge, please email us at Support@ChallengePost.com.

Submissions

Source: http://rootstech.challengepost.com/submissions

MY NOTE: Only 5 as of January 8th

Updates

Source: http://rootstech.challengepost.com/updates

MY NOTE: 10 Updates as of January 8th

5 Types of Apps to Consider

The RootsTech Innovator Challenge provides a great opportunity to put your development skills and creativity together to create something cool, to get some great recognition, and to hopefully win some cash too. If you are new to the family history technology space, you may be looking for app ideas and we would like to help.
Here are five types of apps to consider:

1. **Data preservation apps**

   Technology has made it so easy to record and share so many of our life’s details electronically. Millions of pictures and videos are being taken from mobile phones every day. We send much more email to our friends and family than we send letters through the postal service. We post fun experiences to social networks so that family and friends can share in the details of our lives. This is a great convenience, but do we care about how long our data is preserved? How will our great great grandchildren discover these digital memories? Hard drives fail, optical storage (CDs and DVDs) degrades over time, and technologies become obsolete (floppy disks).

   Is there a way to preserve our digital lives in a way that ensures future generations to learn about our lives?

2. **Visualization apps**

   We often think of lineage-linked genealogical data as a “family tree.” Even though family relationships are often displayed in the form of a tree, the relationships actually resemble a graph. There are lots of cool ways to visualize family history data. A visualization of family history data can:

   - Help researchers identify work to be done in their family tree (graph)
   - Aggregate interesting details of your ancestors’ lives
   - Create a beautiful piece of art that could be hung on a wall of your home.

   We have only begun to scratch the surface with data visualization and family history.

3. **Research assistant apps**

   Genealogy best practices advocate the use of a research log for keeping track of your objectives, search activities, findings, etc. A research log can provide a foundation for solving really difficult genealogical problems. However, many users don’t use research logs because they require tedious recording of activities performed. Further, it can be difficult to remember to capture all of the online searches and variations that have been attempted to find an ancestor. You may consider creating a research log that works for the genealogist, rather than making the genealogist work for the research log.

4. **Geo-spatial apps**

   Every event of our lives takes place somewhere on this planet that we call earth. Modern smartphones have built-in GPS hardware that enables geo-spatial apps to interact with physical space. Popular activities like Geocaching take advantage of these sensors in fun ways. This same technology could have lots of uses in new family history apps.

   I recently visited my childhood neighborhood and memories came flooding back of events that occurred in the places where I stood. There is something about physically standing in a place where past events happened. It creates a personal, human connection to the past.
Geo-spatial technology may offer a great opportunity to create something meaningful in the family history space.

5. 3D apps

Some of the most successfully funded projects on Kickstarter have been 3D-related technologies. 3D printers, 3D scanners, and virtual reality technologies have captured the imagination of early technology adopters and have lots of potential to transform the way we interact with the world.

What could be done with these new 3D technologies in the family history space? Could replicas of family heirlooms be created? Could you preserve 3D representations of people’s possessions or even their faces? Could virtual reality technology be used to better navigate and manipulate complex genealogical data?

Hopefully this gives you some ideas for your RootsTech Innovator Challenge entry. We’re excited to see what you do!

Discussions

Source: [http://rootstech.challengepost.com/forum_topics](http://rootstech.challengepost.com/forum_topics)

MY NOTE: 18 as of January 8th

Resources

Source: [http://rootstech.challengepost.com/details/resources](http://rootstech.challengepost.com/details/resources)

What should my app do?

Your app must solve a problem you’ve identified in the family history industry, or in another industry vertical using family history data or services. For some examples, have a look at a couple of winners from prior years:

- [SavingMemoriesForever](http://www.savingmemoriesforever.com)
  - Winner of the 2014 challenge (Capture and preserve memories of family members)

- [Treelines.com](http://www.treelines.com)
  - Winner of the 2013 challenge (Turn your family tree into stories)

APIs, Data, and Tools

You’ve got your idea, now you just need to fuel it with family history data and APIs! FamilySearch offers developers a great resource:

- [FamilySearch Developer Center](https://www.familysearch.org/developers/) — A place for developers to get started with access to a billion family history records through FamilySearch APIs.
Not sure what problem to solve? Here's a few suggestions to get your motor running…

• **Engage the youth**: Despite a growing number of mobile and ‘millennial generation’ users, generally family history doesn’t generally appeal to the younger population. Your app could find a better way to use mobile and social media to get younger generations involved.

• **Make it easy to start**: There are many resources available for genealogy experts, but what about beginners? Your app could help people just getting started find the guidance and tools they need. Think of it as the ‘ABC’s of Family History.’

• **Data Validation**: There is a lot of family tree data out there, some even claim to have hundreds of generations mapped out. But how does one validate the accuracy of that data, or that good sources and citations exist? There is a lot of potential and opportunity for technology to help in this area.

More Questions?

For questions about the RootsTech Innovator Challenge, email Support@ChallengePost.com, or post them to the Discussion Board.

FAQ


**General Questions**

How do I follow the challenge and get updates?

When you register for the challenge, you'll automatically be signed up to receive updates regarding the challenge. Follow us on Twitter at @ChallengePost.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the challenge?

Email Support@ChallengePost.com or post a question to the discussion board.

**Submission Requirements**

What do I need to use to build my app?

Although there is no specific API, SDK, dataset, or tool required for the challenge, your submitted app must solve a problem you've identified in the family history industry, or in another industry vertical using family history data or services. Additionally, it must include a software component such as:

• a native smartphone or tablet app (iOS, Android, Blackberry, Windows Mobile)
• a web app or subscription service
• a desktop app (Windows PC, Mac Desktop)
• software running on other hardware (including, but not exclusive to, wearable technology, open source hardware, etc.)
• custom hardware which includes a software component (wearable technology, etc.)

What APIs or datasets can I include in my app?

You may use whatever APIs and SDKs you choose, as long as you are authorized to use and distribute them. For a list of family history resources you may be interested in, please check out the Resources page.

Why do I have to upload a video?

A video helps ensure that all users can view and experience your app. The video will also be helpful to the panel of judges. You may create a screencast or use a handheld video camera to make your video, or choose any other method that captures the app’s value and user interface.

Remember, if you’re chosen as a finalist you’ll also need to prepare a 5-minute pitch to deliver to the judges and audience (including a demo, business model, etc.) **Pro Tip: Use your submission demo video to as a draft of your finalist pitch, just don’t forget to demo your app!**

What should I put in my video?

Aside from your actual app, your submission video is one of the most important parts of your entry. In fact, it’s often one of the first, and sometimes only, things that judges and voters view. Make a great first impression by following these tips on what to include in your video:

• Include a step-by-step demo. Demonstrate your app’s key features by showing them functioning on an appropriate device. While audio isn’t required, narration or text bubbles can help judges and voters understand your app.
• Keep it simple. Per the official rules, your video shouldn’t be longer than five minutes. In the words of Leonardo da Vinci, “Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.”
• Don’t wait until the last minute to upload your video. Keep in mind that the time it takes to upload/process a video on YouTube or Vimeo varies greatly depending on the format of your original video, the file size, upload traffic and Internet connection speed, and could take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours or more.

Don’t know much about making videos? Check out these [helpful screencasting tools](http://semanticommunity.info/My_Stories_and_Lessons).

Does my app need to be publicly available or, if an app, submitted to an online store?

Your app is not required to be available on an online store or website. However, you must provide free access to your app for judging.

Testing Process
How can I provide the judges with access to test my app?

You must provide a way for us to test your app at no cost.

- Apps which include hardware and wearable technology:

- If the submission runs on or includes proprietary hardware or hardware (including wearable technology) that is not widely available to the public, the Sponsor and/or Administrator reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to require the submitter to provide access to the physical hardware app, or device required to test the app, upon request.

- Software only apps: For software apps running on widely available devices or hardware, please allow us to test using one of the following methods.

- Android apps: Upload an .apk file in the submission form or provide a link for us to download your app in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- iOS apps: If your app is available on the app store please provide a link in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form. If you charge for your app, please also provide a promo code.

- If your app is not yet publicly available, send it to us via TestFlight. Enter our email address and UDID to share a build with us for testing. Our TestFlight account email is: X.

- Our UDIDs are: X

- Windows Phone app: Upload an .xap file in the submission form or provide a link for us to download your app in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- Web/Mobile Web: Provide a link for us to access your app on the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- BlackBerry: Upload the appropriate installation files in the submission form or provide a link for us to download your installation file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- Kindle: Upload the appropriate installation files on the submission form or provide a link for downloading your installation file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- Mac OS: Upload the appropriate installation files in the submission form or provide a link for downloading your installation file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

- Windows PC: Upload the appropriate installation files (.exe) in the submission form or provide a link for us to download your .exe file in the “Testing Instructions” field on the submission form.

Eligibility & IP

Who is eligible to enter the competition?

The challenge is open to individuals, and teams of individuals, who have reached the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence at the time of entry. The challenge is also open to legally registered corporations or organizations that employ fewer than 50 people at the time of entry.

Please review the Official Rules for complete eligibility requirements.

We are an organization. Can we enter?

Organizations with 50 or fewer employees (who are not government entities) may enter and compete for cash prizes.
Do the apps have to be newly created for this competition, or can they be preexisting apps?

Both new and preexisting apps are eligible for this competition.

Can more than one person work on an app and receive credit for it? And if the app wins a prize, how will the prize money be split among the creators?

Yes, teams are encouraged. If a team of individuals or an organization is selected as an award winner, the full prize amount will be sent to the submitter. It will be up to the winning team or organization to reallocate the prize money between the team members, as they deem it appropriate.

Can my app win more than one prize?

Yes. All submissions entered by eligible individuals, teams of individuals, and non-government organizations with 50 or fewer employees can compete for both the Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice Awards.

Can I enter more than one app?

Yes. There is no limit to how many times an eligible person, team, or organization may enter. An individual may also participate on behalf of more than one team, corporation, or nonprofit organization. However, if you submit two or more apps that are identical or substantially similar, the Sponsor and ChallengePost reserve the right to disqualify all the submissions or require you to choose one submission to enter into the competition.

Do I retain intellectual property ownership?

Yes. By submitting an app to the challenge, you do not transfer any intellectual property rights to the Sponsor or ChallengePost. The Sponsor and ChallengePost will have the right to feature all app entered in the competition for promotional purposes. See the Official Rules for details.

What will you do with my submission?

The Sponsor and ChallengePost will have the right to publicly display your submission on the challenge website, their websites (RootsTech.org and FamilySearch.org), email newsletters, blogs, and social media. They will also be allowed to publicize your name on the challenge website in connection with the submission and the challenge during the competition and for 36 months after its conclusion. For more information on publicity rights, please see the Official Rules.

Public Voting

How does public voting work?

Public voting will take place on February 13, 2015 at RootsTech Conference.
The four Finalists will also be eligible for the People’s Choice Award. Following the Finalist presentations, RootsTech attendees will be able to vote for their favorite Submissions by sending a text message via their mobile phone. The phone number(s) and texting instructions required to vote for a Finalist will be provided to RootsTech attendees viewing the Finalist presentations. The Finalist receiving the most verified votes during the voting period will become the potential winner of the People’s Choice Award.

Voters will be limited to one vote per mobile phone number. Submitters may not directly or indirectly offer or pay any monetary or other form of consideration in exchange for a vote. Please see Official Rules for full details.