



# A Tribute to President Gordon B. Hinckley

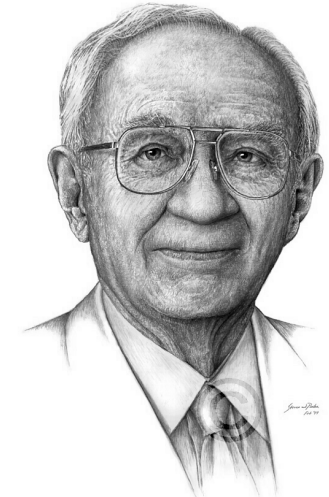
**Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish, Episcopal Diocese of Utah:** I find it difficult to imagine the world and its faith communities without him. Leading the LDS Church for decades, he has been its heart and soul to many millions—members and non-members alike. Like so many others, I have been deeply touched by his generous wisdom, kindly voice, and delicate humour.

## ***During his years as President of the Church, Gordon B. Hinckley:***

- Saw Church membership grow from just over 9 million to 13 million.
- Dedicated 63 temples, including those in Palmyra, Nauvoo, and Winter Quarters and many smaller temples, whose building he first announced in 1997.
- Made more than 90 visits to countries outside the United States...Travelled more than a million miles as President of the Church.
- Introduced to the Church and to the world, with the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” (*Liahona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102) and “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles” (*Liahona* and *Ensign*, Apr. 2000, 2–3).
- Saw six quorums of the Seventy—the Third to Eighth—added to the Church’s leadership.
- Saw general conference broadcast in over 80 languages, the *Liahona* published in 51 languages, and the Book of Mormon or selections from it translated into 106 languages and added to a large commercial publisher’s offerings.
- Oversaw construction of and dedicated the Conference Center, which more than tripled the number of people who could watch general conference in person. He also dedicated the renovated Tabernacle.
- Met numerous times with heads of state and other government leaders from presidents of the United States to the king of Tonga and the president of Ghana.
- Instructed priesthood leaders in global leadership training sessions broadcast via satellite.
- Announced establishment of the Perpetual Education Fund.
- Appeared on nationwide television in the United States and Australia several times.
- Asked Church members to read the Book of Mormon in the final months of 2005, resulting in more people reading the book than at any other time in history.

Ensign, Mar 2008, 2–13

**President George W. Bush, United States of America:** Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of our friend Gordon B. Hinckley. ... [He] demonstrated the heart of a servant and the wisdom of a leader. ... I was honoured to present him with the Medal of Freedom, our nation’s highest civil award, in recognition of his lifelong public service. ... Our thoughts and prayers are with his five children and the rest of the Hinckley family.



## **Look for the Sunlight**

“I am asking that we stop seeking out the storms and enjoy more fully the sunlight. I am suggesting that as we go through life, we ‘accentuate the positive.’ I am asking that we look a little deeper for the good. ... Look for the sunlight through the clouds”

*(“The Continuing Pursuit of Truth,” Ensign, Apr. 1986, 2–4).*

## **The Focus of Our Faith**

“Like the polar star in the heavens, regardless of what the future holds, there stands the Redeemer of the world, the Son of God, certain and sure as the anchor of our immortal lives. He is the rock of our salvation, our strength, our comfort, the very focus of our faith”

*(“We Look to Christ,” Liahona, July 2002, 101; Ensign, May 2002, 90).*

## **Feed the Sheep and Lambs**

“Every convert is a son or daughter of God. Every convert is a great and serious responsibility. It is an absolute imperative that we look after those who have become a part of us. ... I am convinced that we will lose but very, very few of those who come into the Church if we take better care of them”

*(“Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” Liahona, July 1999, 122–23; Ensign, May 1999, 108–9).*

## **Live as True Followers**

“We must live as true followers of the Christ, with charity toward all, returning good for evil, teaching by example the ways of the Lord, and accomplishing the vast service He has outlined for us”

*(“The Dawning of a Brighter Day,” Liahona and Ensign, May 2004, 84).*