

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

valley, causing it to take on a sinister significance and be called "the valley of slaughter." (2 Kings 23:5, 10; 2 Chron. 28:3; 33:6; Isa. 30:33; Jer. 7:31-34; 19:6, 11-15.) Thereafter Gehenna was further desecrated as a garbage and rubbish heap and as a place where bodies of criminals were thrown out; to help prevent pestilence, ever-burning fires were kept smoldering in this infested refuse.

Under these conditions, it was natural for the prophetic mind to use the term *gehenna* to signify the burnings, torment, anguish, and unspeakable horrors of hell. Our Lord himself made frequent use of *gehenna* to signify hell and its attendant horrors. (Matt. 5:22, 29:30; Mark 9:43-47; Luke 12:5; Jas. 3:6.) His statement, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:48), becomes even more expressive when viewed in the light of the numerous crawling things and perpetual burnings of that Gehenna of which his hearers had personal knowledge.

Genealogical Research. See ELIJAH THE PROPHET, FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS, SALVATION FOR THE DEAD, SIGNS OF THE TIMES, VICARIOUS ORDINANCES. Before vicarious ordinances of salvation and exaltation may be performed for those who have died without a knowledge of the gospel but who presumably would have received it had the opportunity come to them, they must be accurately and properly

GENERAL AUTHORITIES

identified. Hence, *genealogical research* is required.

To aid its members in intelligent and effective research, the Church maintains in Salt Lake City the world's greatest *genealogical society*. Nearly all genealogical source material of all the nations of the earth has been or is being microfilmed by this society; scores of millions of dollars are being spent; and a reservoir of hundreds of millions of names and other data about people who lived in past generations is available for study.

Genealogical Society. See GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.

General Authorities. See APOSTLES, APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION, ASSISTANTS TO THE TWELVE, FIRST COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTY, FIRST PRESIDENCY, GENERAL AUXILIARY OFFICERS, HIERARCHY, PATRIARCH TO THE CHURCH, PRESIDING BISHOP. In order of their precedence, beginning at the top, the *general authorities* of the Church include members of: The First Presidency, Council of the Twelve, the Patriarch to the Church, Assistants to the Twelve, First Council of the Seventy, and Presiding Bishop. These brethren are all delegated general *administrative* authority by the President of the Church. That is, they are called to preach the gospel, direct church conferences, choose other church officers, perform ordinations and settings apart, and handle the properties and interests of the Church generally. The labors of their ministries are not

GENERAL AUXILIARY OFFICERS

confined to stake, ward, or regional areas, but they have general jurisdiction in all parts of the Church.

Some general authorities are empowered to do one thing and some another. All are subject to the strict discipline the Lord always imposes on his saints and those who preside over them. The positions they occupy are high and exalted. But the individuals who hold these offices are humble men like their brethren in the Church. So well qualified and trained are the members of the Church that there are many brethren who could—if called, sustained, and set apart—serve effectively in nearly every important position in the Church.

Though general authorities are authorities in the sense of having power to administer church affairs, they may or may not be authorities in the sense of doctrinal knowledge, the intricacies of church procedures, or the receipt of the promptings of the Spirit. A call to an administrative position of itself adds little knowledge or power of discernment to an individual, although every person called to a position in the Church does grow in grace, knowledge, and power by magnifying the calling given him.

General Auxiliary Officers. See AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS, GENERAL AUTHORITIES, GENERAL BOARDS, HIERARCHY, PRIESTHOOD OFFICERS. Heads of the various auxiliary organizations are sustained as the general *auxiliary officers* of the Church. The Relief

GENERATION

Society, Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association, and Primary Association are each presided over by a president and two counselors, forming a general presidency; the Deseret Sunday School Union and the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association are each presided over by a general superintendent and two assistants, forming a general superintendency. These offices are filled with qualified and worthy brethren and sisters who are called, for a time and a season, to preside over and govern the affairs of their respective organizations. The keys of such presidency are conferred upon them for the periods of their calls.

General Boards. See AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCH ORGANIZATION, GENERAL AUXILIARY OFFICERS, STAKE BOARDS. Each auxiliary organization is supervised by its general officers, assisted by a *general board*. These boards, made up of specialists in the various fields of auxiliary organization work, help initiate, plan, and prepare the programs which are put into operation in the various stakes. The boards are counseling and advisory bodies. They train and encourage stake and ward workers, but do not preside over or direct the church service of these local officers.

Generation. See GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH, RECORD KEEPING, SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. Since *generation* means the act of producing or beget-