

"Take-a-Name" App Analysis & Usage

(June 25, 2017)

App functions

- Opening dialog allows selecting M/F/both, 5/10/20 names, Baptism/Endowment/both
- Searches Family Tree names in the background and returns names for ordinances
- Has in-app purchase

Some online reviews of app

- "This app is great it allows you to sign in with your family search account and it finds temple names for you! No work for you except to sign in!" (*typical comment*)
- "Great way to find names that are in need of temple ordinances. Should verify they are not duplicates before taking them, but nice short cut to find who might need work done."
- "What's the difference between taking a name with this app and just taking a name the temple provides? Turning our hearts to our fathers suggests sacrificing some time to know them and the circumstances of their day. Suggestion: these harvesting apps should be used as a starting point to log in to FamilySearch and find out more before hitting the print button. As a minimum review the latest changes in the person detail screen to collaborate with others. There might be a good reason ordinances haven't been reserved. If there are no sources additional work is needed."
- "As a customer consultant I'm also curious about new apps. This was shared by a member of my ward. I tried it and like others only found names I already have reserved. I'm worried about new people using this without verify any information on the people it pulls up. How do you check for duplicates or errors in vital information. Good idea but needs refinement."

Results from my Family Tree

(Note: after one hour and over ten thousand names searched)

- LHFM-2PM (sealing to a duplicate marriage due to an alternate spelling)
- MM98-TVL (baptism for a duplicate person due to alternate spelling)
- M43G-992 (baptism, etc. for a person added to one of nine duplicated marriage entries)

Observations and concerns

- None of the suggested names for ordinances had any sources attached.
- All of the persons with duplicates previously had all of their ordinances performed.
- One entry was by a close elderly relative who admits to being confused at times.
- Even if the ordinances actually needed doing, in one case it was a member who did the research and added the relative to Family Tree; hence, that person should have been given the opportunity to perform the ordinances.

more ...

Doctrinal considerations

- "You should take time to review these names, review the relationships and information for accuracy, and check for possible duplicates **prior to submitting** the names for temple work." (<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/temple-opportunity-hints/>)

- "... seek diligently to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers ..." (D&C 98:16)

Q: What kinds of things do we do when our hearts are turned?

Q: How might we seek records more diligently?

- "... you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to [search]. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind ..." (D&C 9:8-7)

Q: When searching for names to submit (or green temples), how might we take no thought?

Q: In family history, what are things we must study out?

Q: Does this take time? How does the time we spend with someone show that we value them? Might this be part of turning the hearts?

- "... you cannot [record] that which is sacred save it be given you from me." (D&C 9:9)

Q: How can we apply this to family history?

Q: In what ways can this revelatory process help us?

- "Just a few weeks ago, I was working on my family history with a consultant by my side and another helper on the phone. On the computer screen before me was a problem beyond my mortal power to solve. I saw two names, sent to me by the wonders of technology, of people who might be waiting for a temple ordinance. But the trouble was that the names were different, but there was a reason to believe they might be the same person. My task was to determine what was true.

I asked my consultants to tell me. They said, "No, you must choose." And they were completely sure I would discover the truth. The computer, with all its power and information, had left me the blessing of staring at those names on a screen, evaluating the available information, seeking other research, praying silently, and discovering what was true. As I prayed, I knew with surety what to do—just as I have in other situations when I needed to rely on heaven's help to solve a problem." (Conference Report, April 2017, Henry B. Eyring, *Gathering the Family of God*)

Q: From his testimony, what do you think President Eyring would do if he came across a green temple?

Q: What would Jesus do?