

SIGNS UNIIUE TO THE DOCTRINES
OF THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

June 1962

INTRODUCTION

June 1, 1969

In the Church today there are probably more than 2,000 members who are deaf. These deaf members are scattered among the branches and wards of the Church, although larger numbers are concentrated in wards and branches in metropolitan areas. In these larger population centers such as Salt Lake, Ogden, Los Angeles, San Jose and Provo, deaf members have at times been organized into dependent and independent branches. Two chapels (Salt Lake and Los Angeles) have their own chapels.

In recent months there have been a number of developments which give evidence that the Lord is touching the hearts of members of the Church and guiding their efforts to extend the full blessings of the Gospel to deaf persons. These events include:

1. In the California Mission eight missionaries (four are deaf themselves) have been called to labor specifically with deaf investigators and members.
2. In recent months a number of church members in Southern California have met to discuss ways in which deaf members of the Church could be assisted to participate more fully in the programs of the Church. Through the efforts of this group special temple sessions for the deaf are now provided at the Los Angeles Temple. The temple services are interpreted into the language of signs for the benefit of deaf members.
3. On November 15, 1968, deaf members of the Church, interpreters for the deaf, and members of the Church interested in the welfare of the deaf, met to discuss how the Gospel could be more effectively taught to deaf investigators and members. It was recommended that teaching the Gospel could be more effective if a written "dictionary of signs" which are most frequently used in L.D.S. Church meetings could be developed.

The materials in this publication were prepared in a meeting on May 30, 1969 as an initial effort to meet the above need.

Deaf members of the Church and interpreters for the deaf who receive this publication are encouraged to discuss these recommended signs with others -- make recommendations for other ways of signing the same concept -- and to suggest signs for other terms which should be added to this dictionary.

Appreciation is expressed to the following persons for encouragement in the development of this project:

President Joseph Brandenburg of the Los Angeles Deaf Branch,
President Lloyd Perkins of the Salt Lake City Deaf Branch, Myron Pinkston,
Los Angeles Stake High Council; President Don Rasmussen of the California
Mission; Dr. Wayne McIntire, former President of the West German Mission,
and to the Missionaries for the Deaf from the California Mission.

Persons wishing to offer suggestions, recommendations or comments
are encouraged to contact:

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Aaronic	Spell the letters "A" and "C" (the first and last letter of the word).
Aaronic Priesthood	Fingerspell "A, c", and "P, h".
Anoint	1. Fingerspell "a", and use standard sign for "blessing", the letter "a" to differentiate between "anoint" and "blessing".
Apostacy	Use standard sign for "falling" and fingerspell "away".
Apostle	Sign the words "One of the 12".
Aprons	Fingerspell an "a" with both hands and draw shape of an apron.
Atonement	Fingerspell.
Authority	Fingerspell.
Auxiliary	Fingerspell the letters "Aux".
Baptism	With both hands in "a" position, with thumbs up, turn hands to the right with thumbs horizontal and return to original position.
Baptism for the dead	Standard sign for "baptism" -- standard signs "for the dead".
Bishop	Fingerspell.
Bishopric	Fingerspell.
Branch	Fingerspell.
Branch President	Fingerspell "branch" -- standard sign for "president".
Book of Mormon	Make the signs for Book of and spell the letter "M". Some prefer to sign the word "Experience" for the word "Mormon".
Celestial	Fingerspell the letters "Cel".
Chastity	Sign the letter "C" and make the sign for "Cleanliness".
Church Welfare Program	Sign "Church" -- with right hand making a "W", make the sign for "help" -- sign for "program" both hands cupped in front of you with a rocking motion.
Coats of skins	Sign "coats" and fingerspell "skins".

Council in Heaven	Sign "discussion group in heaven".
Covenant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sign the word "promise". 2. Make the sign for "promise" and raise the right arm as in taking an oath.
Consecration	Fingerspell.
Create	Sign the words "gather" and "organize".
District	Fingerspell.
Doctrine & Covenants	Spell the letters "Doc. and Cov.".
Dispensation	Sign the words "Last days".
Disciples	Sign the word "Follow-ers".
Endowment	Fingerspell.
Elohim	Make the sign for "God", with the hand forming the letter "e".
Eve	Fingerspell.
Everlasting	Sign the words "forever continuing".
Fast Offering	Spell the letters "F.O.".
Fast and Testimony Meeting	<p>Fingerspell "Fast and "Testimony" is made by signing a "T" over the heart, as in signing the word "noble".</p> <p>Sign the accepted word for meeting.</p>
Fig-leaves	Fingerspell.
Firmament	Make a fist with the left hand, and make an arc with the right hand in cupping shape over the left hand from inside to outside.
First resurrection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use accepted signs. 2. As a new sign for "resurrection", put two fingers in inverted "v" under the hand -- bring up and place in palm -- then complete the accepted sign.
Firstlings of the flock	Fingerspell.
Free agency	Sign the words "free choice".
Fruitful, multiply and replenish	Sign the words "multiply" and "fill".
General Conference	Fingerspell "General" -- make the sign for "conference" which is the same sign as for "meeting", except that the sign should be made larger and more exaggerated.

Gift	1. "Give" -- standard sign. 2. Sign the word "expert".
Gift of the Holy Ghost	Sign the words "gift of the" -- for "Holy" make the sign for "clean", except with the hand in "h" position when making the sign. In signing the word "Ghost" make the accepted sign for "Spirit".
Gospel	Make the letter "G" and place on top of the left hand which is in closed position.
Heaven	Use accepted sign for "Heaven".
High Priest	Spell the letters "H.P."
High Council	Spell the letters "H.C."
Home Teacher	The sign is self-explanatory. Sign the words "Home" and "Teacher".
Institute of Religion	Use accepted signs.
Israel	Fingerspell the word, or spell the letter "I" with a circular motion.
Jehovah	Fingerspell.
Judgment	Use the accepted sign.
King	Use the accepted sign for "King" and look heavenward.
Latter-Day Saints	Sign the words "Last Day" and fingerspell "Saints", or fingerspell "L.D.S."
Laying on of Hands	Sign the words "Hands on head".
Living soul	Use accepted signs.
Law of Consecration	Use accepted sign for "Law", fingerspell "consecration".
Melchizedek	Spell the letters "M" and "K" (first and last letter of the word).
Mission	Both hands form an "F" in an upright position.
Missionary	1. Same as for "Mission", adding sign for "person". 2. Put an "K" over the heart -- as in signing "noble".
Michael	Fingerspell.
Mortality	Sign the words "earth life".
Multiply thy sorrow and thy conception	Sign "multiply thy sorrow in birth".

Mutual Improvement Association	Spell the letters "M.I.A."
Ordain	Sign the letter "O" before making the sign for the word "blessing".
Ordinance	Spell the letter "O" and place it in the palm of the opposite hand, as in making the sign for "Commandments".
Ordination	Make the letter "O" and then sign the word "blessing". (The "O" is used in distinguishing between the words "Ordination" and "blessing".)
Patriarchal Blessing	Sign the words "Father's Blessing".
Presiding Bishopric's Office	Spell the letters "P.B.O."
Pearl of Great Price	Spell the letters "P", "of", "G", and "P".
Prayer	Standard sign.
Pre-existence	Sign the words "life before earth life".
Priesthood	Spell the letters "P" and "H".
Priest	Fingerspell.
Priestess	Fingerspell.
Primary	Fingerspell.
Posterity	Sign the words "future children".
Power	1. Bring cupped hand over left shoulder -- bring down in arc from shoulder to forearm. 2. Sign the word "strength".
Principles	Make the letter "P" and place it in the palm of the opposite hand, as in making the sign for "Commandments".
Queen	Use accepted sign.
Quorum	Make the letter "Q" with both hands and make the sign for "group", keeping the letter "Q" on the hands while making the sign.
Restored	1. Sign the words "again established." 2. Sign the words "bringing back again".
Relief Society	Spell the letters "R.S."
Repentance	1. Sign the word "sorry". 2. Sign the word "sorry" with the hand in "r" position. 3. Sign the words "sorry - ask forgiveness". 4. Sign "sorry -- ask forgiveness -- change".

Restoration	Sign the words "bringing back again".
Revelator	Sign the word "See - er", with the eyes looking upward.
Revelation	Make the sign for "communication" and project the sign upward as to heaven.
Sacrament	1. Spell the letters "Sac". 2. Signing the words "bread and water".
Sacrifice	Use the accepted sign for "offer".
Saints	Fingerspell.
Sanctify	Sign the words "make clean".
Seal	Left and right hand form an interlocking circle as in signing the word "join", but with an expression of firmness.
Second resurrection	Use established signs.
Seer	Sign the word "Receive - er". In making this sign indicate the word "receive" by drawing the hands down from an upward position, indicating receipt from above.
Siminary	Fingerspell.
Serpent beguiled me	Sign the words "snake tempted me".
Seventy	Sign the figure "70".
Sign	Fingerspell.
Joseph Smith	Fingerspell or spell the letters "J.S.".
Brigham Young	Fingerspell or spell the letters "B.Y.".
Spirit Prison	Use established signs.
Stake Conference	Fingerspell "Stake and make the sign for "conference" as explained for "General Conference".
Stake President	Fingerspell "Stake, sign the word "President".
Standard Works of the Church	Sign the words "4 Basic Books".
Stewardship	Sign the words "keeper's responsibility".
Sunday School	Spell the letters "S.S.".

Teacher	This sign is self-explanatory. The sign for "Teacher" is made even when designating a degree in the Aaronic Priesthood.
Telestial	Spell the letters "Tel."
Temple	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring index fingers together in a peak, as in a Temple spire. 2. Sign the word for "church", except with the right hand making the letter "T".
Temple Endowments	Use established sign for "Temple", fingerspell "Endowment".
Terrestrial	Spell the letters "Ter".
Testimony	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign the word "Proof". 2. Make a "T" with the hand, place over the heart as in signing the word "noble".
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Use established signs for "Church of Jesus Christ of" -- sign the words "last day" -- fingerspell "saints".
Tithing	Make the sign for 1/10th.
Token	Fingerspell.
Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil	Use accepted signs.
Tree of Life	Use accepted signs.
United Order	Fingerspell.
Vision	With both hands make a "V" -- move fingers upward from the eyes toward Heaven.
Wash	Use accepted sign.
Welfare	Sign the words "Church help".
Zion	Sign the word for "Town" or "City".