

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

TOKYO JAPAN SOUTH (ENGLISH) STAKE

February 12, 2021

Fellow saints,

On the evening of January 10th, our new Stake Center, as part of the Tokyo Temple Annex, was dedicated by President Wada of the Area Presidency. Tokyo 1st Ward and Tokyo 2nd Ward started meeting in the new building earlier on this same day. Unbelievably blessed we are to have this sacred edifice available. Generations of future members of our Stake will give thanks to worship and serve in this building. Those who have had the opportunity to visit the new Stake Center will quickly note that it sits directly, and fittingly, in the shadow of the Tokyo Japan Temple.

On August 9, 1975 during a Japan Area Conference, President Spencer W. Kimball announced the building of the Tokyo Japan Temple. It was to be the first temple in Japan and more broadly, in all of Asia. Five years later, October 1980, Spencer W. Kimball returned to Japan to dedicate the Tokyo Japan Temple. The importance of this building as a landmark event in the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not an overstatement. Asia, home to the largest population of our Father in Heaven's children, at long last had a building with the words (聖きを主にささぐ) *Holiness to the Lord* etched on the exterior; a dedicated and sacred space where ordinances of salvation and exaltation would be recognized by Him.

The Tokyo Japan Temple has been under renovation since September 29, 2017. While we do not know the date of its rededication, it is our expectation that this will likely occur in 2021. Repeatedly in scripture, we are admonished to continuously prepare.

We lovingly urge all members to double efforts to prepare for the rededication of the Tokyo Japan Temple. Our Stake Council has come up with a simple phrase: **Temple Worthy, Temple Ready**. These words suggest the importance of individual preparation for the Tokyo Japan Temple rededication. Please ponder sincerely about how you can more closely align your life with being Temple Worthy, Temple Ready. Ensuring that your temple recommend is updated (standard or limited use), striving to qualify for temple ordinances by reviewing the standards of entry noted in the temple recommend questions, focusing effort on family history to prepare ancestor names for vicarious temple ordinances, reenergizing missionary efforts to preach the gospel, and encouraging those under your stewardship to also prepare for the temple rededication are all signs that we -- as a Temple Worthy, Temple Ready people -- are preparing for the sacred occasion of a temple dedication. We promise that if you ask the Lord: *How should I prepare for the Tokyo Japan Temple dedication?* you will receive specific inspiration on how to do so.

The words of the Savior in 3 Nephi 17:3 fit aptly with our efforts to be Temple Worthy, Temple Ready: *Therefore, go ye unto your homes, and ponder upon the things which I have said, and ask of the Father, in my name, that ye may understand, and prepare your minds for the morrow, and I come unto you again.*

We suggest some reading material that will aid your Temple Worthy, Temple Ready preparation:

- Tokyo Japan Temple dedicatory prayer
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/tokyo-japan-temple/prayer/1980-10-27>
- Elder Ronald A. Rasband's October 2020 General Conference address, *Recommended to the Lord*
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2020/10/16rasband?lang=eng>
- President Russell M. Nelson's October 2010 General Conference address, *Prepare for the Blessings of the Temple*
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2010/10/prepare-for-the-blessings-of-the-temple?lang=eng>
- US Church News Article regarding President Nelson's focus on temples during his ministry
<https://www.thechurchnews.com/leaders-and-ministry/2020-12-31/temples-president-nelsons-tenure-principles-invitations-promises-200716>

We close this letter by echoing the entreaty of the 1980 Tokyo Japan Temple dedicatory prayer: *We pray that all who enter the threshold of this, Thy house, may feel Thy power and be constrained to acknowledge that Thou hast sanctified it, that it is Thy house, a place of holiness.*

We love you and eagerly anticipate learning how you are striving to be **Temple Worthy, Temple Ready**.

With sincerity and love,



Justin G. Cook
Stake President



Jerome Weddle
1st Counselor



Ben Lewis
2nd Counselor