

LATTER-DAY SAINTS & THE ENVIRONMENT



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presentation is totally his own
and has not been sanctioned
by the LDS Church.

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HOW ARE WE TO USE THIS EARTH?



“Yea, all things which come of the earth, ...are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart. And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion.”

D&C 59:18-20

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANIMALS?

“Men must become harmless towards the brute creation, and when men lose their vicious dispositions and cease to destroy the animal race, the lion and the lamb can dwell together, the suckling child can play with the serpents in safety.”

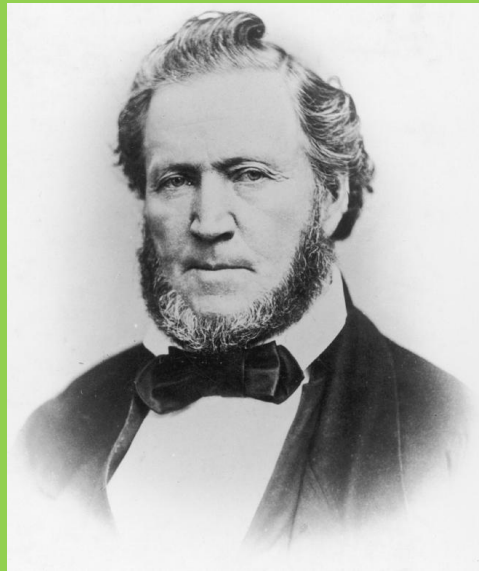
-- Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1976, p. 71)



HOW SHOULD WE REGARD OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY?

“...not one particle of all that comprises this vast creation of God is our own. Everything we have has been bestowed upon us for our action to see what we would do with it, whether we would use it for eternal life and exaltation or for eternal death and degradation.”

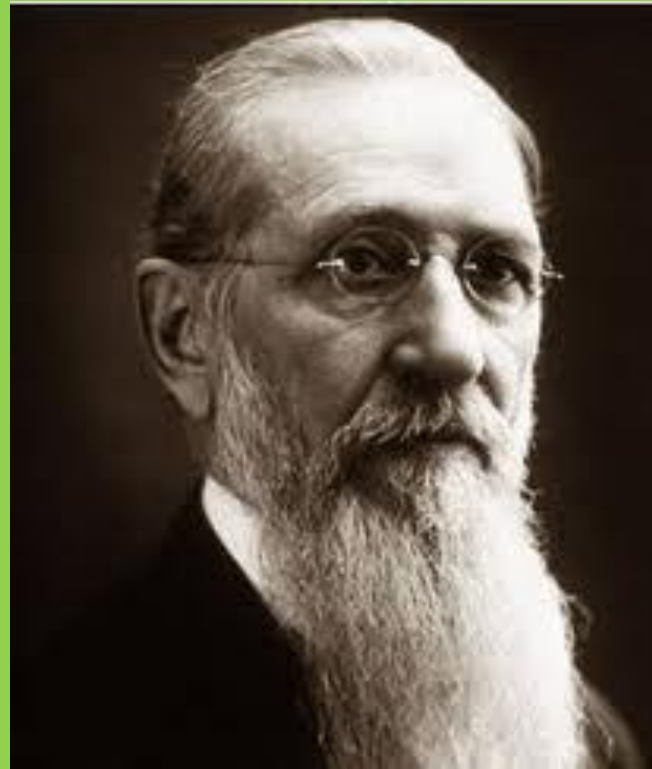
-- Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 8:67 (June 3 1860)



WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD NATURE?

**Men cannot worship the Creator and look with
careless indifference upon his creatures.... Love of
nature is akin to the love of God; the two are
inseparable.” --President Joseph F. Smith**

Cited in Aaron Kelson “The Holy Place: Why Caring for the Earth and Being Kind to Animals Matters” Spotsylvania, VA, White Pine, 1999, p. 107



WHAT HAS PRES. HINCKLEY SAID ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?

I have stood on a spit of sand in the Pacific and watched the dawn rise like thunder—a ball of gold surrounded by clouds of pink and white and purple—and thought of Jesus, the Word by whom all things were made... This earth is his creation. When we make it ugly, we offend him.” --President Gordon B. Hinckley

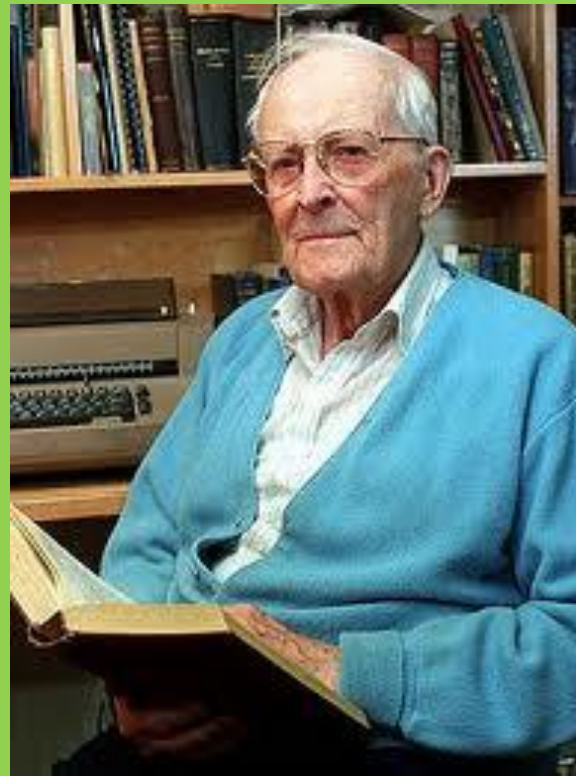
“What Shall I Do Then with Jesus...” *Ensign* May 1975, p. 4



WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE HAVE *DOMINION* OVER THE EARTH?

“Man’s dominion is a call to serve, not a license to exterminate.” --Hugh Nibley, 1978

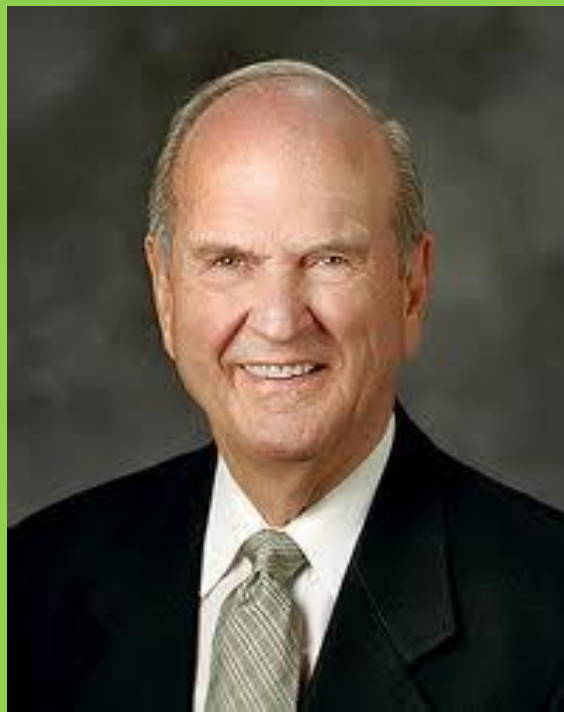
Nibley on the Timely and the Timeless, Provo UT: Religious Studies Center, BYU, 1978



DOES OUR POSTERITY IMPOSE ANY ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATION ON US?

“As beneficiaries of the divine Creation, what shall we do? We should care for the earth, be wise stewards over it, and preserve it for future generations.”

--Apostle Russell M. Nelson, General Conference, 2000



DOES THE LDS CHURCH ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM?

"Prudent stewardship and wise use of resources are principles that Church leaders have emphasized throughout the history of the Church. The Church encourages its members to join with their fellow citizens in supporting worthy programs that will make their communities better places to live and raise their families."

--Church Spokesman Scott Trotter explaining why the Church turned off lights at Temple Square in honor of Earth Hour. *Deseret News*, 29 March 2009.



WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S EXAMPLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP?

The Sierra Club and the US Green Building Council in 2008 recognized the LDS Church for its environmentally-friendly City Creek Project, a massive makeover of downtown Salt Lake City.



In 2010, LDS Church leaders announced five energy-neutral, solar-powered chapels, with the first one in Farmington, Utah



27 April 2010, LDS Newsroom

If the internet is available, click on the link below for an official Church video about the new solar-powered chapels:

<http://newsroom.lds.org/article/solar-powered-construction-design-gets-green-light-from-church-leaders>

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH BUILDING PROGRAM HAVE TO DO WITH OUR BEHAVIOR?

Discussing the Church's new energy-efficient buildings, Presiding Bishop H. David Burton said, "Not only are we trying to do it institutionally, we hope that our members will use responsible, conservative kinds of activities as they conduct their own personal lives."

---Church News 1 May 2010



DOES THE CHURCH SPECIFY WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

The Church teaches principles favoring conservation and sustainability; environmentalism is not incompatible with Mormon belief; nonetheless, Church leaders do not dictate what specific political actions should be taken in order to fulfill the mandate to be good stewards.

--Elder Vaughan J. Featherstone *Salt Lake Tribune* 26 April 2000, p. B2. Cited by George Handley, "Environmental Ethics of Mormon Belief" *BYU Studies* 40 no. 2, 2001.



To sum up:

- **Latter-day Saints have an obligation to take care of our environment,**
 - **Church leaders are setting an excellent example,**
 - **They expect us to set our own priorities.**
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- **What should we be doing better?**

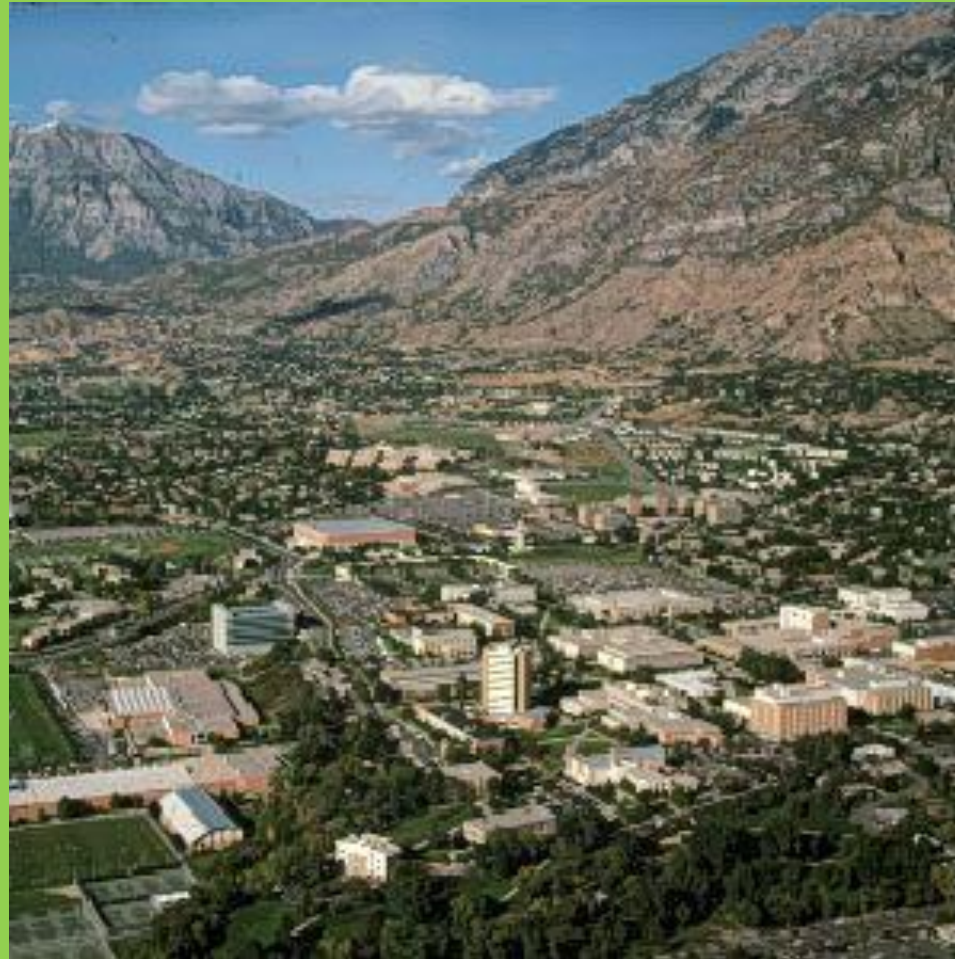
DISCUSSION

**If you wish to focus on
air quality, some
information on that
follows.**

**The subsequent material is NOT official
LDS Church policy but is based on
reliable research and best practice.**

**Because everyone has
to breathe, one of the
most critical areas to
work on is
air quality.**

- **On many days, we have excellent air quality in Utah County, but . . .**



**for 49 days each
year our air is very
unhealthy.**



The American Lung Association gives Utah County an F in air quality, because we have

- **Particle pollution for 29 days per year at “red” or “orange” level,**
- **Ozone pollution for 20 days per year at “orange” level.**

On some of these days our air quality is the among the worst in the USA.

21 Dec 2009: An inversion layer blankets Provo. Breathing this air is like smoking several cigarettes daily and shortens your life. EVERYONE IS AT RISK, but...



Pregnant mothers, children, the elderly, and asthma sufferers are particularly at risk. In each ward, several members suffer from asthma.

Asthma has become a Utah epidemic, with over 200,000 sufferers statewide.



**What can we do to
reduce Provo's air
pollution?**

**Cars are the main source
of Utah County air
pollution.**



**For the handicapped,
cars may be essential.
However, the rest of us
could perhaps. . .**

1. WALK A LITTLE MORE (maybe even to church),



2. BIKE A LITTLE MORE,



3. USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHEN WE CAN,



4. CARPOOL MORE,



5. LET KIDS WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL WHERE POSSIBLE,



**6. IF POSSIBLE, MOVE
CLOSER TO WORK TO
REDUCE THAT AWFUL
COMMUTE,**



7. REDUCE VEHICLE IDLING.



WHY REDUCE IDLING?

It's dangerous: Idling creates pockets of highly concentrated pollution outside and INSIDE idling vehicles.



It's expensive: truck and bus companies now enjoy huge savings by strictly limiting idling.

THREE MYTHS ABOUT IDLING

#1: The engine should be warmed up before driving. Reality: It's usually not needed.

#2: Idling is good for your engine.

Reality: It's bad, because fuel is not completely burned at idling speed.

#3: Restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine and uses more gas than if you leave it running. Reality: More than 10 seconds of idling uses more gas than restarting your engine

HOW TO REDUCE IDLING:

- 1. Warm up your car the absolute minimum before driving it.**
- 2. Turn off your engine instead of idling more than 10 seconds;**
- 3. Avoid drive-up lines: park & walk in.**



**REDUCING OUR VEHICLE
USE WILL REDUCE AIR
POLLUTION.**



**LET'S DO WHAT WE
CAN TO HELP
EVERYONE BREATHE
A LITTLE EASIER. . .**

**...AND DO THE RIGHT THINGS IN
OUR STEWARDSHIP OF THIS
BEAUTIFUL, FRAGILE EARTH THAT
THE LORD CREATED FOR US.**

