

Shinto Priests Greet Elder Eyring at Historic Meiji Shrine in Japan

Katsushi Toyama, chief priest at Tokyo's historic Meiji Shrine, met with Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles during Elder Eyring's recent tour of Church areas in Asia and the Pacific islands.

Elder Eyring, along with Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Presidency of the Seventy and Elder David F. Evans, President of the Asia North Area, was invited to meet with Mr. Toyama to build bridges of understanding and goodwill.

Mr. Toyama told the visitors that there was no written book of Shinto doctrine similar to the Bible or other scriptures, but that followers manifest their relationship to God by striving for purity and righteousness in their lives.

Elder Eyring said members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints similarly strive for personal purity and righteousness in their lives. "Our prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, regularly admonishes members of our Church to make their beliefs an integral part of their daily lives," he said.

Mr. Toyama first became familiar with the Church when he was hosted in Salt Lake City in the 1970s. More recently, this relationship has been nurtured as other priests from the shrine have visited Salt

Lake City and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. In 2005, the BYU-Hawaii Concert Choir became the first Christian group to perform at the Meiji Shrine.

The meeting with Mr. Toyama took place in a small room at the shrine generally reserved for conversations with heads of state and their emissaries.

Emperor Meiji, for whom the shrine is named, ruled Japan from 1867 to 1912. He balanced a desire to retain the uniqueness of Japanese culture with a strong thrust to bring his



Elder Henry B. Eyring and his wife, Kathleen, tour the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo, Japan.

country into the industrialized world.

The first baptisms in Japan took place in 1902. Today there are more than 120,000 members of the Church in Japan. The Church also has two temples there, one in Tokyo and one in Fukuoka. ■

Temple Construction Continues Worldwide

The Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple is set to reopen following renovations, ground has been broken for the Kyiv Ukraine, Tegucigalpa Honduras, and Vancouver British Columbia Temples, and a new temple has been announced in Manaus, Brazil. There are now 124 operating temples in the world, with 12 under construction or announced.

Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced the public open

house for the newly renovated Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple.

The open house begins on Saturday, September 29, 2007, and continues through October 20, excluding Sundays.

Following the open house, two rededicatory sessions will be held on November 4, 2007, to accommodate Latter-day Saints in the area who will be served by the temple.

A cultural celebration will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

The Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple, first dedicated in

August 1983 by President Gordon B. Hinckley, will serve Latter-day Saints throughout Tonga and the Line Islands of the Pacific Ocean. Tonga now has some 52,400 members.

Kyiv Ukraine Temple

Groundbreaking services for the Kyiv Ukraine Temple took place on Saturday, June 23, 2007.

Presiding over the service was Elder Paul B. Pieper, President of the Europe East Area. Elder Alexander N. Manzhos, Europe East Area Seventy, conducted the ceremony.

The temple, the first to be built in Ukraine, was first announced in July of 1998. Since 2002, Latter-day Saints in Ukraine have had to travel 30 hours one way to attend the nearest temple. Ukraine now has more than 9,900 members in one stake and five districts.

Tegucigalpa Honduras Temple

Elder Spencer V. Jones, then President of the Central



Ground was broken for the Vancouver British Columbia Temple on August 4, 2007.