

Spencer W. Kimball

President of the Church, 1973–85

Because of surgery on his vocal cords, President Kimball had a quiet voice, but his life spoke loudly of good works. He inspired Church members worldwide: “Put your shoulders to the wheel, lengthen your stride, heighten your reach, increase your devotion” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 564). He was an example of action. On his desk was a plaque with the motto “Do It.”

“The Lord will not translate one’s good hopes and desires and intentions into works,” he wrote. “Each of us must do that for himself” (*The Miracle of Forgiveness* [1969], 8).

On Sabbath worship, he instructed: “We do not go to Sabbath meetings to be entertained or even solely to be instructed. We go to worship the Lord. If the service is a failure to you, you must have failed. No one can worship for you; you must do your own waiting upon the Lord” (“The Sabbath—a Delight,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 4–5).

Under his direction, temple work expanded rapidly worldwide. The Church dedicated temples in Australia, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Guatemala, Mexico, the Philippines, the United States (five locations), South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Tahiti, Tonga, Samoa, and Japan. New temples were announced for Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, South Korea, and the United States (three locations).

- 1895 Born on March 28 in Salt Lake City to Andrew Kimball and Olive Woolley Kimball
- 1903 Age 8, baptized on his birthday by his father in the hog-scalding tub that the family also used as a bathtub
- 1906 Age 11, his mother dies
- 1914–16 Ages 19–21, called to serve in the Swiss-Austrian Mission, but because of World War I he is reassigned to the central United States
- 1917 Age 22, marries Camilla Eyring on November 16; she dies in 1987
- 1943 Age 48, ordained an Apostle on October 7 by President Heber J. Grant
- 1946 Age 51, receives an assignment from President George Albert Smith to work with the American Indians
- 1964–67 Ages 69–72, supervises missionary work in South America; begins missionary work among the Indians of the Andes
- 1974 Age 79, sustained as President of the Church on April 6 (having been ordained on December 30, 1973), with N. Eldon Tanner and Marion G. Romney as counselors
- 1978 Age 83, receives a revelation to extend the priesthood to all worthy male members
- 1979 Age 84, new edition of the Bible published
- 1981 Age 86, new edition of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price published
- 1985 Age 90, dies on November 5 in Salt Lake City after nearly 12 years as President of the Church

Summary

Spencer W. Kimball, 12th President of the Church, told the members of the Church, “Lengthen your stride.” His life was an example of good works and

action. On his desk was a plaque with the motto “Do It.” Under his direction, temples were built in many areas of the world.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS