

Dedicatory Prayer of the Paintsville Branch Building

Offered by Larry V. Lunt
Mission President
Kentucky Louisville Mission

Paintsville, Kentucky
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- 1) O God, the Eternal Father, hallowed be thy name!
- 2) We come before thee in the name of thy Son, and pray that thou will pour out thy Holy Spirit upon us.
- 3) We know that thou art our Father, and we thank thee for life and being, and for the privilege of receiving our mortal probation in a day when thou hast given the fullness of thy everlasting gospel to men on earth.
- 4) Our hearts are filled with gratitude for thy plan of salvation for all men. We thank thee for the atoning sacrifice of thy Beloved Son; that he came into the world to die upon the cross for the sins of the world; that he has ransomed us from temporal and spiritual death; that by his stripes we are healed. And we covenant before thee to walk in the light of revealed truth so that the blood of Jesus Christ may cleanse us from all sin.

5) Our Father we are grateful for thy love and mercy and condescension unto us thy children in sending thine Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might have eternal life; and we rejoice and praise thee for restoring in this dispensation, through thy servant Joseph Smith, JR., the fullness of thy everlasting gospel.

6) We thank thee that thou didst appear, with thy Beloved Son, in the Spring of 1820, to usher in this final gospel dispensation and that the whole plan of Salvation, in all of its beauty and glory, is now again on the earth.

7) O our Father, we seek to be like thee; we seek to pattern our lives after the life of thy Son; we desire righteousness, for ourselves and our children and our children's children; we plead with thee to make us worthy to inherit the fullness of those blessings found only in thy holy temples - even those blessings which grow out of the continuation of the family unit forever. May there be love and harmony and peace and righteousness in our homes and in our families.

8) O Father look down upon us in mercy; hear our petitions; and grant the desires of our hearts in righteousness, as we plead with thee for the welfare of Zion. This is thy Church; thou hast established it, "the only

true and living Church upon the face of the whole earth." O may the interests of Zion prevail and triumph in all the earth. May this branch grow to be a ward and this district enjoy the blessings of a stake in Zion. We know that thou hast commanded thy people that, "there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another." May it be so in the Paintsville Branch, Martin District, and throughout the Kentucky Louisville Mission.

9) O Father, may we reach out and continue to minister to those of our brothers and sisters who are less active. May they "return and repent and come unto thou with full purpose of heart, and wilt thou heal them and may we be the means of bringing salvation unto them."

10) O God, our Father, in this day of turmoil and evil, when Satan has "power over his own dominion," and when his forces seek to destroy thy work, we are strengthened and comforted and given courage by thy decree that thy Son, "shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in their midst." And we testify before thee that we know that he does reign

in the midst of the righteous for which blessing we praise thy holy name forever.

11) We acknowledge that thou art the God of this land and that as we learn from the Book of Mormon thy Spirit came down and wrought upon Columbus and our Pilgrim fathers and that our fathers came forth out of captivity.

12) We thank thee, O our God, that thou didst ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States, "by the hands of wise men whom" thou didst raise up "unto this very purpose" and as a grand prologue for the restoration of the gospel. We thank thee for the freedoms and "rights and privileges" which are guaranteed to us in this sacred document, and pray that they may "be established forever."

13) Our souls are troubled because of the wickedness of the world and the evils that abound on every hand. Out of deep concern, we pray for the youth in the Martin Kentucky District, for the young and rising generation, for those who must now prepare themselves to bear up the kingdom in their time and season. Keep them from evil; hedge up the way so they may not fall into sin and be overcome by the world. O Lord bless our youth and us their leaders that we may guide and direct them

aright, that they will serve missions and be married in the temple and raise righteous families.

14) We know that thy kingdom shall roll onward in this area and that we have missionaries who now stand forth as witnesses of thy name and teachers of thy law. Preserve them, Father; enlighten them and pour thy Holy Spirit out upon them, as they do the great work that rests upon them.

15) O our Father pour out thy Spirit on all the face of the land and particularly the Martin District and the Kentucky Louisville Mission to prepare the minds of the Children of Men, or to prepare their hearts to receive the word which is taught to them by thy Servants the missionaries. "That they might not be hardened against the word, that they might not be unbelieving, and go on to destruction, but that they might receive the word with joy.

16) We are grateful, O our Father, that it is thy "purpose to provide for thy saints," and are mindful of the command thou has given us to care for the needy and unfortunate among us. Our hearts go out to those among us who have been overtaken by the misfortune and who are not able at all times to care for their own needs.

17) We seek thy guidance and Spirit, O Holy Father, so that thy saints may be cared for in thine own way. We desire to follow those principles thou hast given. May we administer to their relief father spiritually and temporally that we might retain a remission of our sins from day to day that we may walk guiltless before thee.

18) And now, O God, the Eternal Father, accept our praise and thanksgiving and our petition. Hear our cries; read the thoughts and intents of our hearts; and grant us all that we need. We acknowledge thy hand in all things, and desire to serve thee and keep thy commandments, that we may have place with thee in thy kingdom.

19) We are grateful for the budget and building program of thy church. We recognize that this beautiful building has been built with sacred funds and the widows mite. We now present this building to thee as a place of worship for thy Saints.

20) Wherefor, acting in the authority of that priesthood which is after the order of thy Son, and in his holy name, we dedicate this building to thee.

21) We dedicate it as a place of worship where we may learn thy Gospel and raise our voices in song and prayer and testimony. A place where

we may baptize and confirm our children and new members of the Church. A place that we may use the Priesthood to bless our children and others who may be need. A place where thy Saints may gather to renew their baptismal covenants by partaking of the sacrament to take upon us the name of thy Son that those who do so may be taught from on high by thy Spirit. A place of righteous and wholesome activities to strengthen thy Saints.

22) We humbly pray that thou wilt accept this building and pour out thy blessings upon it. Let thy Spirit and blessings attend and guide all who worship herein, that a feeling of reverence will prevail in every part of this building. May all who enter do so with respect and reverence and righteous desires. May they be built up in their faith and depart with a feeling of peace.

23) We dedicate the grounds on which this building stands and which surround it. We dedicate the chapel and all the rooms that they may be kept and properly used and that thy protecting care may be over them, and that thy Spirit may ever be present to enlighten those who enter.

24) We dedicate all the structural parts from its foundation to the roof. Protect it we pray thee, from any devastating influence, storms or destruction of any kind.

25) We dedicate the walks, the landscaping, the trees, plants, flowers and shrubbery. May they add beauty to the surroundings.

26) Protect all the mechanical parts to the end that there might be a harmonious operation of this building from day to day.

27) May all that is done herein be with an eye single to thy glory and to the building up of thy Kingdom here upon the earth.

28) And now finally we dedicate this house of worship as an abode for thy Holy Spirit and ask that thou wilt place thy ratifying seal of approval upon this dedication and upon all that we have done and shall do in this place which we now give unto thee our God.

29) O Lord God of our fathers, who liveth and reigneth over all things - blessed be thy Holy Name both now and forever.

30) We pray and call upon thee in the worthy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.