

Ezra Taft Benson Building Dedicatory Prayer
Friday, October 20, 1995

Offered by President Gordon B. Hinckley

Oh God, our Eternal Father, we bow before Thee in reverence and love. We bow before Thee as the Creator and Governor of the Universe.

This earth on which we live is of Thy design, created under Thy direction by Thy Beloved Son, the Great Jehovah. We recognize that the elements of the earth have been brought together under Thy divine processes to make of this earth a place of beauty. Thou art the great Master Creator of all which we have and know. Thy divine Son was the instrument in Thy hands, who, under Thy direction, brought about the implementation of those processes of creation which have made possible this beautiful earth and all that in it is.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude unto Thee. We know that Thou has laid upon us the responsibility to study, to learn, to work our minds and our hands to come to understand the great creative principles and processes. And now with the completion of this structure, we officially confer upon it the name of the Ezra Taft Benson Building, and we so dedicate it for the purposes for which it has been designed and constructed. We do so in the authority of the Holy Priesthood in us vested and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of our heaven and our earth. We dedicate it from the footings to the roof that it may stand strong and firm against the storms of nature and any tremblings of the earth. We dedicate the classrooms and the lecture halls that they may be places of enlightenment and learning, and that those who study therein may have their minds touched by Thy Holy Spirit to come to a knowledge of the great principles and processes of science which will be taught here. We dedicate the laboratories that the marvelous interactions of nature may be here demonstrated and tested, and that out of research that is done here there may come discoveries that will add to the blessings enjoyed by Thy children across the earth. We dedicate the study halls that these may be places of contemplation, of anxious seeking for knowledge, and of great rewards in that seeking. We dedicate the offices and all ancillary facilities, the equipment used therein, and every other piece and part of this remarkable structure and its furnishings.

We dedicate it also as a facility in which may be taught the gospel of Thy Beloved Son. Here on the Sabbath will be held sacred services. This new structure will accommodate the carrying forth of Thy work among those who are members of student wards on this beautiful campus. May Thine eternal truths be taught here with integrity, with faith, and with good example.

To this end we invoke the presence of Thy Holy Spirit within the walls of this structure, the enlightening power of the spirit of Christ, to touch the minds of those who will study, work, and worship here. May there be experienced the direction of the Holy Ghost to enlighten the minds and quicken the understanding of those who have received this precious gift as a divine bestowal.

Now we thank Thee for this great university which carries the name of Thy prophet, Brigham Young. We are thankful for those who have direction and responsibility for its affairs, the Board of Trustees, the officers of the university, the distinguished faculty of men and women of faith and learning. We thank Thee for the wonderful facilities on this campus, and for the spirit of study and learning which pervades the halls and classrooms here found. We thank Thee for those who come here to learn, this remarkable student body, for the most part comprised of

eager young men and young women. Bless them in the pursuit of their studies. Bless those who teach them and who stand as examples before them. Bless those who make policy that they may be guided to enunciate those principles which will bless the lives of Thy sons and daughters who attend here.

Now we recognize Thee as the Almighty God, the father of all of Thy sons and daughters who walk the earth in common brotherhood. We recognize Thee as the one who is above all, who is the greatest of all, and yet who loves us each one. We thank Thee, dear Father, for Thy wondrous blessings. Accept of our thanks and hear our petition we humbly pray as in dedicating this new structure we also rededicate ourselves to enlarging the tremendous opportunities which have come to us from Thee, all of which we do in the name of Thy beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.