

# SHOTBOX and the Gathering of Israel

This General Conference, we listened to our living prophet, President Nelson, teach us about the Lord's work in these latter-days and how to let Him prevail in our lives.

"As an essential prelude to the Second Coming of the Lord, the gathering of Israel is the most important work in the world," President Nelson said. "And we have been charged to assist the Lord with this pivotal work."

Gathering Israel, we understand, comes through missionary, Temple, and family history work - to gather on both sides of the veil.

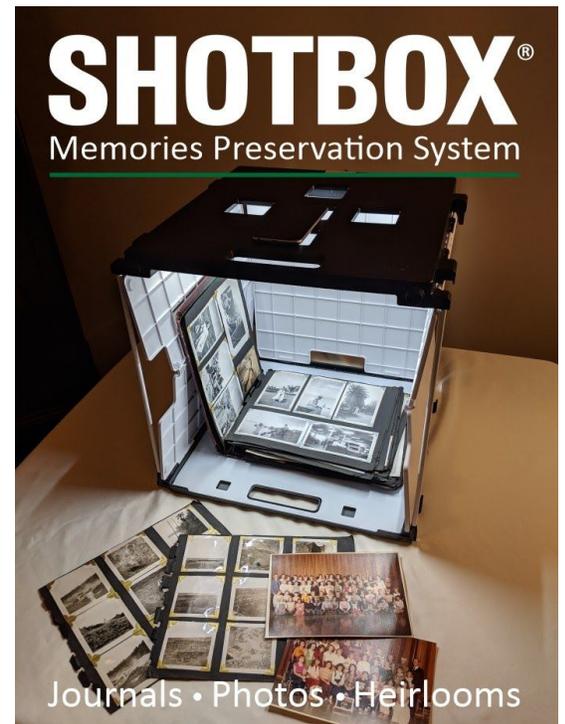
I interviewed SHOTBOX creator, Aaron Johnson who expressed how President Nelson's words had impressed upon him even more strongly the reason to digitize our homes:

## SHOTBOX's purpose in the Gathering



When doing family history, you make digital backups to go online or to put into familysearch.org such as records, documents pertaining to an individual's history and photographs. This is quite the technical and time-consuming process with scanners and computers that have to be connected. But SHOTBOX is designed to make this process easier, smarter and more fun by using the camera on your preferred device. For example, I use my iPhone 7s.

"All the history, all the heritage that's in the nooks and crannies of our homes, we need to get a record of," says Aaron. "We start getting the ball rolling, obviously for ourselves but also for those we pass it down to - our children and grandchildren."



## Is it enough just to take a name to the Temple?

The gathering of Israel has been a common theme in the talks that President Nelson has given over the last few years and the obvious reason is because it leads to Temple work - the ultimate work of this church and God's plan.

However, Aaron points out that it's not just about getting the information to the Temple, it's about the journey that the individual has while getting there. Knowing your ancestors makes doing their Temple ordinances more meaningful for you and maybe even for them.

SHOTBOX can digitize documents and photographs, but it can do so much more as well. 3-Dimensional objects, such as heirlooms can also be photographed. In digitizing such objects, you are creating a record of your ancestors' and your stories to be shared with the entire family. Hence Aaron's tagline: "Every home, every history, every one." It's about every family member.

"There is as much of Israel in the materials of our ancestors as there are right now with the living, perhaps more. The Gathering includes all the stories and information, the histories of each individual family," Aaron says.

### The Memories Preservation System

Shotbox is the physical tool that leads to the overall goal, which is preserving that digitized information and sharing it with family. Aaron says that services and products will be released in order to achieve that goal. Or if the company does not provide those products, they will partner with those who do.

### "The Someday Syndrome"

As for right now, the most important aspect is getting started. This tends to get put off, especially when there is a lot that needs to be digitized. Aaron calls it "the Someday Syndrome." We plan on getting around to it, but when? With SHOTBOX, months of work are reduced to weeks. Aaron's mother's journal that took 5 hours to scan, took one hour to digitize in a SHOTBOX.



The “Someday Syndrome” is very often associated with family history. People tend to get turned off by the terms ‘family history’ and ‘genealogy’ due to their implications of research and data. But just like indexing was introduced to the youth as a new way that they could contribute, digitizing the home and collecting those family stories using SHOTBOX is another. Similarly, scrapbooking, journaling, taking photos...these are all ways to do family history.

“Everybody should be into family history, whether it’s called family history or not,” Aaron concludes. A change in perspective and priorities will help you focus more on the gathering of Israel and how to do your part in letting God prevail in your life.

