



Bishop Gary E. Stevenson

Presiding Bishop

Bishop Gary Evan Stevenson says he has spent much of his life observing the essential work bishops perform across the globe. His father, he said, was “the bishop of my youth, and his service deeply impacted me.”

On many occasions, Bishop Stevenson’s father would invite him along on visits to one of the more than 60 widows living in their ward. From his father, Bishop Stevenson learned lessons about Christlike service and caring for those in need. Those lessons, he said, will serve him well in his calling as the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

“The bishops of the Church are really my heroes,” he said. “Every single day they are having such an impact upon the members of the Church, particularly the children and young men and young women.”

Born in August 1955 to Evan N. and Vera Jean Stevenson, Bishop Stevenson grew up in a family that came of pioneer stock in Utah’s Cache Valley.

While a young man, he accepted a call to serve a mission to Japan. That assignment instilled in Bishop Stevenson a dual love for Asia and for sharing the gospel that has lasted a lifetime.

After returning from his mission, he enrolled at Utah State University. It was there he met (and was immediately smitten by) Lesa Jean Higley. The two married in April 1979 in the Idaho Falls Idaho Temple. The Stevensons have four sons.

Bishop Stevenson would claim a degree in business administration and later cofound and serve as president of an exercise equipment manufacturing company.

He has served in a variety of Church callings, including counselor in a stake presidency, bishop, and president of the Japan Nagoya Mission (2004–07). He was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy in 2008 and served as a counselor and president in the Asia North Area. ■



Bishop Gérald Caussé

First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

From his childhood, Bishop Gérald Jean Caussé, recently called as the First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, always found happiness in Church service. That was a good thing, he said, because in his small branch in Bordeaux, France, everyone was needed to keep the unit running. In addition to serving in Aaronic Priesthood quorums throughout his youth, he served as the Primary pianist at age 12, as a counselor in the Sunday School presidency at age 14, and as the Sunday School president at age 16.

“Serving in the Church helped me get my testimony,” he said. His father, who served several times as branch president and bishop, was particularly instrumental in Bishop Caussé having a positive experience.

“When I was a teenager, he would involve me in doing home teaching or visiting families in need,” Bishop Caussé said. “Watching him was probably the best learning experience in preparing for priesthood leadership.”

Later, Bishop Caussé served as ward clerk, elders quorum president, high priests group leader, bishop’s counselor, stake president’s counselor, stake president, Area Seventy, and most recently as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

Bishop Caussé was born in Bordeaux, France, in May 1963, to Jean and Marie-Blanche Caussé. He served in the French Air Force for a year as a young man, where he was assigned to a NATO agency.

He earned a master’s degree in business from ESSEC in 1987. He began his career in strategy consulting, where he spent six years working for a consulting firm’s Paris and London offices. He later worked for a major retail group in Europe, and just prior to his call to the First Quorum of the Seventy in 2008, he was working as the general manager and a member of the board for France’s largest food distributor.

He and Valérie Lucienne Babin were married in August 1986 in the Bern Switzerland Temple. They have five children. ■