Elder Carl B. Cook

Presidency of the Seventy

Elder Carl B. Cook believes that the privilege of serving is one of the great blessings of membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. But, he acknowledged, accepting and magnifying callings requires faith.

Elder Cook, sustained a member of the Presidency of the Seventy on March 31, 2018, likens members of the Church—who serve together in branches and wards, quorums, and auxiliaries—to a "compound gear" on an automobile, which generates more torque.

A compound gear, along with four-wheel drive, "allows you to gear down, power up, and move," he said in the October 2016 general conference. "Just as gears combine to provide greater power in compound, we have greater power when we join together. As we unite to serve one another, we accomplish much more together than we could on our own. It is thrilling to be engaged and unified as we serve and assist in the Lord's work."

Elder Cook was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on April 2, 2011. Prior to his new assignment, Elder Cook served at Church headquarters, where he assisted with the oversight of the North America West Area, among other responsibilities. Previously, he served as President of the Africa Southeast Area.

Elder Cook has encouraged Latter-day Saints to remember that callings in the Church come from God through His appointed servants.

"Blessings come as we persevere in our callings and responsibilities and hang on with all the faith we have."

Elder Cook received a bachelor of arts degree from Weber State College in Utah and a master of business administration from Utah State University. Before being called to the Seventy, he worked in commercial real estate development.

Elder Cook's callings include serving as a full-time missionary in Hamburg, Germany, and as a bishop, stake president, Area Seventy, and president of the New Zealand Auckland Mission.

He was born in Ogden, Utah, USA, on October 15, 1957. He married Lynette Hansen in December 1979. They are the parents of five children. ■

Elder Robert C. Gay

Presidency of the Seventy

While serving as a mission president in Ghana, Elder Robert C. Gay received an impression one day to stop and help a crying boy. Initially, he ignored that impression but later sent a Church member to find and bring the boy to him.

Elder Gay, sustained a member of the Presidency of the Seventy on March 31, 2018, learned that the boy sold dried fish for his caretaker. That day the boy had lost his earnings through a hole in his pocket.

"If he returned without the money, he would be called a liar, most likely beaten, and then cast out onto the street," Elder Gay said. "We calmed his fear, replaced his loss, and took him home to his caretaker."

As he explained in the October 2012 general conference, that experience taught Elder Gay two great truths: "First, I knew as never before that God is mindful of each of us and will never forsake us; and second, I knew that we must always hearken to the voice of the Spirit within us and go 'straightway' wherever it takes us, regardless of our fears or any inconvenience."

Elder Gay was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on March 31, 2012. At the time of his call to the Presidency of the Seventy, he was serving as President of the Asia North Area. He previously served at Church headquarters as chairman of the Self-Reliance Services/Perpetual Education Fund Committee, with responsibilities for worldwide self-reliance services.

Before his call to the Seventy, he was the chief executive officer of an investment firm he cofounded. He also cofounded and served as a director on several global humanitarian organizations and worked in investment banking on Wall Street, as a management consultant, and as an economics instructor at Harvard University.

Elder Gay received a bachelor of arts degree in economics with an emphasis in statistics from the University of Utah and a PhD in business economics from Harvard University.

Elder Gay has served as a full-time missionary in Spain, high priests group leader, ward Young Men president, high councilor, counselor in a bishopric, and Area Seventy.

He was born in Los Angeles, California, USA, on September 1, 1951. He married Lynette Nielsen in April 1974. They are the parents of seven children. ■