



Elder Juan A. Uceda

*Presidency of the Seventy*



Elder Patrick Kearon

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While hiking to the Machu Picchu ruins in Peru as a young missionary, Elder Juan A. Uceda slipped off the narrow trail. Desperately clinging to some branches and hanging 2,000 feet (610 m) above a river, he prayed intensely for help. Earlier that day he had prayed with his lips, he said, but “when I was about to perish, I prayed from the heart.” Just as he was about to fall, another missionary pulled him to safety.

One of the many lessons he said he learned that day was “always, always pray ‘with a sincere heart, with real intent, [exercising] faith in Christ’ (Moroni 10:4).”

Elder Uceda was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on April 3, 2010. He was serving as an Assistant Executive Director in the Missionary Department and an Area Assistant in the North America Southeast Area when he was called to the Presidency of the Seventy on August 1, 2017.

From 2010 to 2013 he served as a counselor in the South America Northwest Area Presidency, and from 2013 to 2016 he served as the President of the South America Northwest Area.

Elder Uceda was educated in Peru. He enrolled at Jose Carlos Mariátegui Institute in Lima, where he studied accounting and public relations. He also studied business administration at the Centro Andino de G.E. Institute. He is a graduate of San Luis Gonzaga University, where he was awarded a bachelor’s degree in public relations.

Elder Uceda worked in the Church Educational System as area director for Peru and Bolivia. He left Peru in 2003 to move to New Jersey, USA, to assist his father with their family business.

Since joining the Church in 1972, Elder Uceda has served in numerous callings, including full-time missionary in the Lima Peru Mission, first counselor in a stake Sunday School presidency, bishop, high councilor, counselor in a stake presidency, stake president, president of the Lima Peru North Mission (1992–95), and Area Seventy.

He married Maria Isabel Bendezu in March 1979. They are the parents of five children. ■

While serving as President of the Europe Area, Elder Patrick Kearon witnessed the journey of two million refugees from the war-torn Middle East to safety in Europe. “After looking into their eyes and hearing their stories both of the terror they had fled and of their perilous journey to find refuge, I will never be the same,” he said. “It has been inspiring to witness what Church members from around the world have generously donated to help these individuals and families who have lost so much.”

Elder Kearon, who was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on April 3, 2010, was called to the Presidency of the Seventy on August 1, 2017.

Elder Kearon was born in Carlisle, Cumberland, England, in July 1961, to Paddy and Patricia Kearon. With his father serving in the British Royal Air Force, Elder Kearon was educated in the Middle East and the United Kingdom.

While investigating the Church, he came upon a scripture in the Book of Mormon that read, “Men are, that they might have joy” (2 Nephi 2:25). “That scripture rang in my ears,” Elder Kearon says. “In those I had met, I saw how our lives can be enormously enriched by following the Savior’s counsel to be of good cheer.” He joined the Church on Christmas Eve of 1987.

He met Jennifer Carole Hulme while she was studying in England with Brigham Young University. They were married in the Oakland California Temple in 1991 and lived in England until his call in 2010. They are the parents of four children.

He has lived and worked in the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and the United States in various industries, including health care, food, transport, and automotive, and he ran his own communications consultancy. His civic and community involvement has included service on the boards of charities, a school, an enterprise agency, and a college.

Elder Kearon has served in numerous Church callings, including assistant ward clerk, ward Young Men president, counselor in a bishopric, branch president, stake president, and Area Seventy. ■