



Elder Mathias Held

General Authority Seventy

Elder Mathias Held and his wife, Irene, could aptly be called personifications of a global Church. Both are Colombians of German ancestry. Jobs and schooling have taken them from their South American homeland to Canada, Germany, Guatemala, Brazil, and, finally, back to Colombia. In each country, they've adjusted to new languages and cultures.

"But the Church was exactly the same wherever we went," said Elder Held, who was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on March 31, 2018.

That spiritual "sameness" anchored the couple while they raised three children and grew in the gospel.

The Helds were childhood classmates at a German-language school in their hometown of Bogotá, Colombia. They were sealed on June 13, 1989, in the Frankfurt Germany Temple, after Mathias earned a mechanical engineering degree in Bogotá and a master's degree in business administration in Canada.

Work opportunities later took the young couple to Hanover, Germany, where Sister Held received a powerful impression that their lives were about to change.

"I told Mathias I had a feeling that we would get a message from heaven," she said. That heavenly message arrived on a rainy afternoon in 1987 with a knock at the front door. Standing outside were Mormon missionaries speaking German with American accents.

For the next 10 months, the Helds studied with the missionaries and made friends in the local LDS congregation. After much prayer, they received spiritual confirmation of the gospel's truthfulness and were baptized in 1988.

Elder Held worked for more than 25 years for the auto manufacturer Daimler-Benz, with his management duties taking him around the world. The Helds have relied upon the Lord at each stop.

"It does not matter what trials you are going through," he said. "If you are communicating with heaven, you will be all right."

Born on June 5, 1960, to Michael and Elisabeth Held, Elder Held has served as a counselor in a stake presidency, a counselor in a bishopric, and an Area Seventy in the South America Northwest Area. ■



Elder David P. Homer

General Authority Seventy

One of Elder David P. Homer's earliest recollections pertaining to the gospel is of being assigned at age 14 as a home teaching partner to a member of his ward who "took an unusual approach to home teaching," said Elder Homer. "It wasn't about getting in the home and visiting people; it was about ministering to their needs."

As a companionship, they would pray for and talk about their assigned families, not as an adult to a youth but as peers in priesthood service. "I learned that the Spirit comes with and is associated with service," said Elder Homer.

That lesson has stayed with him throughout his life and subsequent service in the Church, whether serving as an Area Seventy, nursery leader, or bulletin board specialist—a calling he fulfilled while he and his wife lived in Melbourne, Australia.

David Paul Homer was born on April 25, 1961, in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, to Frederick and Phyllis LeNila Homer. After his mission in Hong Kong from 1980 to 1982, he met Nancy Dransfield, a graduate of Brigham Young University, at an institute fireside in Salt Lake City, where she was working and attending classes at the University of Utah. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on July 31, 1984. They have reared five daughters and a son.

Elder Homer received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Utah and a master's degree in business administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

During his 30-year career as an executive with General Mills, he and his wife lived in Miami, Florida, USA; Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA; Burlington, Ontario, Canada; and Saint-Sulpice, Vaud, Switzerland.

Elder Homer has served as a stake president, bishop, elders quorum president, and ward executive secretary. As an Area Seventy he began his service in Canada and continued it in Europe, where he served the past four years before being sustained as a General Authority Seventy on March 31, 2018. ■