



Bishop W. Christopher Waddell

Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

As a college athlete, Christopher Waddell received a volleyball scholarship at San Diego State University in California, USA. But he learned to be grateful for a bishop who asked him about other things when he was at home during breaks.

“He didn’t say, ‘How’s volleyball going?’ but ‘How are you doing? Are you saying your prayers, staying strong, staying active in the Church?’ I really appreciated those questions [about] . . . the things that were most important,” Bishop Waddell recalls.

Focusing on what’s most important has helped Bishop Waddell to live up to two family mottos, “Return with honor” and “Trust in the Lord.” That trust enabled him to put volleyball on hold to serve a mission. After he returned from his mission, it enabled him to continue a long-distance romance with a young woman at another university. Later, after they were married, trusting the Lord enabled them to listen to the Spirit when making decisions about moving.

“You do things the Lord’s way,” he says, “and things will work out fine.”

Trust in the Lord will continue to bless Bishop Waddell, who has served as a General Authority Seventy since April 2011, as he now becomes the Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric.

Wayne Christopher Waddell was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1959. He married Carol Stansel in July 1984 in the Los Angeles California Temple. They are the parents of four children and have three grandchildren. He has been a counselor in the South America Northwest Area Presidency and will stay in Peru for a short time.

Bishop Waddell received a bachelor’s degree in 1984 from San Diego State University. He also did postgraduate work in the Executive MBA program at BYU. Beginning in 1984 he worked with Merrill Lynch, where he became first vice president of investments.

Bishop Waddell has served as an Area Seventy, president of the Spain Barcelona Mission (where he previously served as a young full-time missionary), stake president, counselor in a mission presidency, bishop, and as counselor in a bishopric. ■



Brian K. Ashton

Second Counselor in the Sunday School General Presidency

Brother Brian K. Ashton was called to serve in the Sunday School general presidency just as he was completing his service as president of the Texas Houston South Mission. The calling was announced in June, and he was sustained during the October 2015 general conference.

Brother Tad R. Callister continues as general president, and Brother Devin G. Durrant, who had served as second counselor since April 2014, became the first counselor.

The vacancy in the presidency was occasioned by John S. Tanner’s appointment to serve as president of Brigham Young University–Hawaii.

Brian Kent Ashton was born in Provo, Utah, USA, in 1969 to Kent and Vicki Brown Ashton. He is the oldest of nine children. He remembers his parents as being consistent teachers of the gospel at home.

Brother Ashton served a full-time mission in the Peru Lima South Mission. His decision to serve was influenced by a good friend who felt prompted to tell him he needed to serve a mission. As his friend expressed his feelings, Brian felt the Spirit’s confirmation. On his mission he was struggling with some significant health challenges when he was called to serve as president of a large branch. During this time, he prayed fervently and continually to Heavenly Father for help. “I learned to rely on Him, and He came through for me,” he said. “Learning to trust Him has made all the difference.”

After his mission he attended Brigham Young University, where he met his future wife, Melinda Earl. Before they were married, however, she served in the Spain Malaga Mission while Brother Ashton worked in the midwestern United States. After her mission they were married in the St. George Utah Temple. They have seven children.

Brother Ashton received a master of business administration degree from Harvard University, while Sister Ashton attended medical school. Brother Ashton is an entrepreneur and has started several companies.

Brother Ashton has previously served as a bishop, high counselor, elders quorum president, and Gospel Doctrine teacher. ■