

# OUR SAVIOR STANDS WITH US

“I reverently witness and solemnly testify of the living Christ. . . . He is Alpha and Omega (see D&C 19:1)—with us in the beginning, He is with us to the end.”

Elder Gerrit W. Gong of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Apr. 2018 general conference.



*Elder Gong enjoys one-on-one trips with his sons—here canoeing with Sam in Canada.*

## ELDER GERRIT W. GONG



*Elder Gong delighted missionaries he visited by serving them ice cream.*

**W**hen Elder Gerrit W. Gong was a young man, he really wanted to play school basketball. “I practiced and practiced,” he said. “One day the coach pointed to our 6-foot-4-inch (1.93 m) all-state center and our 6-foot-2-inch (1.88 m) all-star forward and said to me, ‘I can put you on the team, but you’ll likely never play.’ I remember how kindly he then encouraged, ‘Why not try out for soccer? You’d be good.’ My family cheered when I scored my first goal.”<sup>1</sup>

Elder Gong learned that remembering the assistance of others helps us acknowledge the Savior’s hand in our lives and helps us remember that we are never alone.

“Sometimes things go wrong even though we have done our very best,” he teaches. “Our Savior weeps with and for us. When we always remember Him [see D&C 20:77, 79], He can stand with us ‘at all times and in all things, and in all places’ [Mosiah 18:9].”<sup>2</sup>

“When you are uncertain, lonely, undecided, embarrassed, ashamed, angry, or otherwise afraid, as we may each feel at times, please remember our Savior. He is always here with us, inviting gently, powerfully, lovingly, be not afraid, only believe [see Mark 5:36].”<sup>3</sup>

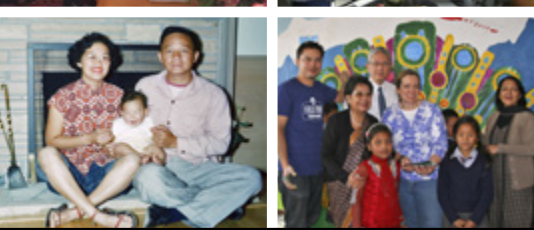
*Elder Gerrit W. Gong was sustained as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on March 31, 2018.*

### NOTES

1. Gerrit W. Gong, Apr. 2016 general conference.
2. Gerrit W. Gong, Oct. 2010 general conference.
3. Gerrit W. Gong, “Be Not Afraid, Only Believe,” (BYU-Hawaii devotional address, Sept. 24, 2013).

► For more about Elder Gong, see page 49.





**Above:** Elder Gong with his family; meeting with the Catholic Archbishop of Bangkok, Thailand; on the way to his son Matthew's international origami competition; as a young boy with his mother and father, who were both converts to the Church; with local children and his family painting a mural in Nepal, an activity the family repeated in several locations to encourage happiness and hope.



*Elder Gong has visited every continent, including Antarctica (pictured here).*

**"I TESTIFY OF GOD OUR ETERNAL FATHER AND HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST. THEY KNOW US BETTER AND LOVE US MORE THAN WE KNOW OR LOVE OURSELVES. THIS IS WHY WE CAN TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEART."**

Elder Gerrit W. Gong, "Strengthen One Another in the Lord" (Brigham Young University Women's Conference address, May 4, 2018), 6, [womensconference.byu.edu/transcripts](http://womensconference.byu.edu/transcripts).



*At the end of a long trip abroad, Elder Gong surprised his family with familiar food—they ate 17 hamburgers!*



*His wife, Susan, gives a traditional greeting in a Cambodian home.*