

# Becoming Spiritual First Responders

By Elder Ronald A. Rasband  
*Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

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*From an April 2017 general conference address*

First promptings are pure inspiration from heaven. When they confirm or testify to us, we need to recognize them for what they are and never let them slip past. So often, it is the Spirit inspiring us to reach out to someone in need, family and friends in particular. “Thus . . . the still small voice, which whispereth through and pierceth all things” (D&C 85:6), points us to opportunities to teach the gospel, to bear testimony of the Restoration and Jesus Christ, to offer support and concern, and to rescue one of God’s precious children.

Think of it as being what is called a first responder. In most communities the first responders to a tragedy, disaster, or calamity are firefighters, police officers, paramedics. They arrive with lights flashing, and may I add, we are so incredibly grateful for them. The Lord’s way is less obvious but requires just as immediate a response. The Lord knows the needs of all His children—and He knows who is prepared to help. If we let the Lord know in our morning prayers that we are ready, He will call on us to respond. If we respond, He will call on us time and time again and we will find ourselves on what President Monson calls “the Lord’s errand.”<sup>1</sup> We will become spiritual first responders bringing help from on high.

If we pay attention to the promptings that come to us, we will grow in the spirit of revelation and receive more and more Spirit-driven insight and direction. The Lord has said, “Put your trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good” (D&C 11:12).

May we take seriously the Lord’s call to “be of good cheer, for I will lead you along” (D&C 78:18). He leads us by the Holy Ghost. May we live close to the Spirit, acting quickly upon our first promptings, knowing they come from God.

**NOTE**

1. Thomas S. Monson, “To Learn, to Do, to Be,” Oct. 2008 general conference.

Born Feb. 6, 1951, in  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**  
 He graduated from  
 Olympus High School.



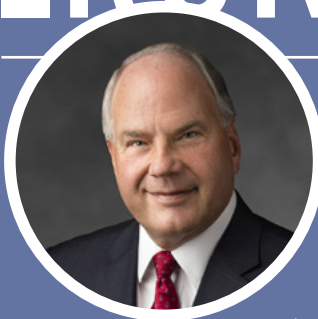
Attended the  
**University  
 of Utah.**



Called to serve in the  
 Eastern States Mission.

**1970-72**

# Elder **RONALD A. RASBAND**

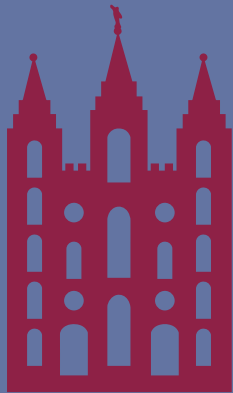


He has 5  
 children and 27  
 grandchildren.

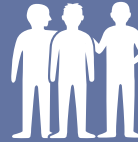


Once served as a Temple  
 Square missionary guide  
 in Salt Lake City.

Married Melanie Twitchell  
 September 4, 1973, in  
 the Salt Lake Temple.

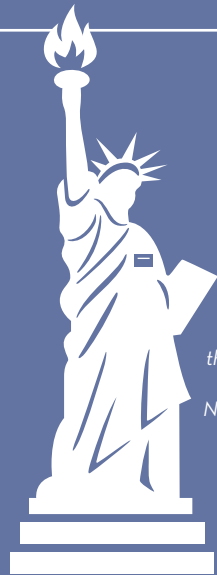


Growing up, friends  
 were an important  
 part of his life.



Promised his mom to  
 never break the  
**Word of Wisdom.**

He was really  
 into cars in high school,  
**owning 4 before  
 his mission.**



Served as  
 president of  
 the New York,  
 New York  
 North Mission  
 from 1996  
 to 1999.



As a young man he  
 worked as a **grocery  
 checker and  
 bagger.**

He worked as a sales  
 representative for Huntsman  
 Container Company and later  
 became President and  
 Chief Operating  
 Officer of Huntsman  
 Chemical Corporation.



He finished his chore  
 of mowing the lawn  
 50% of the time.

The other 50% of the  
 time, he convinced  
 his friends to do it  
 for him.



He had zero time for  
 sports in high school  
 because he always  
 had a job.



As a 12-year-old, he  
 found a job driving a  
 tractor that picked up  
 driving-range golf balls.



While in Boy Scouts,  
 he led his troop on  
 a mile-long swim  
 across a lake.



He was called to  
 be an Apostle in  
**October 2015.**