



Elder Taylor G. Godoy

General Authority Seventy

Several years into his profession, Elder Taylor G. Godoy found himself at a crossroads.

He was working as a dentist, establishing a practice, and anticipating a future in academics teaching dental surgery. But a beloved and trusted priesthood leader invited him to work for Seminaries and Institutes.

Leaving a burgeoning career was an interesting choice for the young dentist, who was sustained on April 1, 2017, as a General Authority Seventy. Many of his colleagues wondered how he could walk away from the profession.

“But I knew it was the right choice,” he said. Such faithful certainty defines the Church convert. Helping others discover and come to love the gospel has proven to be a life-defining opportunity and blessing.

During his Church education career, Elder Godoy worked as an institute teacher, coordinator, director, and country director. Most recently, he was the South America Northwest Seminaries and Institutes area director.

Taylor Guillermo Godoy Atanacio was born in Lima, Peru, in 1968, to Taylor Godoy and Adalzahinda Atanacio. His father died when he was a young boy, and his beloved stepfather, Elias Rebaza, raised him. Elder Godoy joined the Church when he was 17.

After serving in the Peru Lima North Mission, he returned to his hometown of Arequipa. There he developed a friendship with a young woman named Carol Pacheco. The fellow converts were married on May 31, 1994, in the Lima Peru Temple. They are the parents of two children.

Elder Godoy earned a bachelor’s degree in dentistry from the Catholic University of Santa Maria in 1993 and a master’s degree in administration from the Technical University of Madrid in 2006.

He has served as bishop, high councilor, stake president, area public affairs director, and Area Seventy. ■



Elder Joni L. Koch

General Authority Seventy

Elder Joni Luiz Koch is a second-generation member of the Church from Brazil. His parents, Luiz and Etelca Gascho Koch, visited a variety of local churches in the early years of their marriage to find spiritual truth.

Hours after his mother had offered a heartfelt prayer and promised to follow God, missionaries arrived at his parents’ door. In less than six months, they were baptized.

Born in 1962, Elder Koch grew up in Joinville, Santa Catarina, Brazil. The influence of Church leaders, such as a dedicated Primary teacher, a fatherly bishop, and a valiant stake president, helped him commit to live the gospel.

After completing a full-time mission in the Brazil São Paulo North Mission, Elder Koch studied statistics at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA. “On a trip back to Brazil, I visited the ward of a friend, where I met my future wife,” said Elder Koch. “She walked up to me and asked me if I was married.” After an eight-month, long-distance courtship—and only 15 actual days together—he married Liliame Michele Ludwig on April 26, 1988, in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. They have two children.

After graduating from BYU and earning an executive master of business administration degree, Elder Koch worked in international logistics. Over the span of 25 years, he worked for a variety of companies until called to serve full-time for the Church.

Elder Koch has served as bishop, stake president, and Area Seventy. He was serving as president of the Mozambique Maputo Mission at the time of his call as a General Authority Seventy.

“My testimony was built gradually over time through spiritual experiences received through gospel living,” said Elder Koch. “The Book of Mormon is one of the main elements in the strength of my testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Church, and the Prophet Joseph Smith.” ■