



Elder Matthew L. Carpenter

General Authority Seventy

Elder Matthew L. Carpenter remembers the first time he recognized feeling the Holy Ghost. He was a young boy, about seven years old, sitting in junior Primary. A light was coming into the room, and he had a feeling of warmth he had not recognized before.

“I felt stirrings in my heart—and not because I was warm,” he said. “I knew God is real; I felt it.”

When he was 11 years old, he attended a session of general conference in the Salt Lake Tabernacle with his father. It was the first time he was in the same room as a prophet, President Joseph Fielding Smith.

“When I saw him,” he said, “the Spirit bore witness to me that he was the prophet.”

These simple spiritual confirmations at a young age helped him look to the Spirit as a guiding influence throughout his life.

“My testimony has not been one singular angelic experience,” said the General Authority Seventy, who was sustained on March 31, 2018, “but it has developed and evolved over time.”

Matthew Leslie Carpenter was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, on October 21, 1959, to Leone Erektion and Robert Allred Carpenter. He is the youngest of the couple’s eight children, and he grew up in a household with five older sisters.

In his last month of high school, he met Michelle “Shelly” Brown. They started to date but put their courtship on hold while he served in the Swiss Geneva Mission from 1979 to 1981. After his return, the couple married in the Salt Lake Temple on July 9, 1982. They are the parents of five children.

Elder Carpenter earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from Brigham Young University and a master of business administration degree from Harvard Business School. Most recently he was the managing director of the Foundation Specialty Financing Fund.

Elder Carpenter has served as a bishop, counselor in a bishopric, stake Young Men president, high councilor, stake president, and Area Seventy. ■



Elder Jack N. Gerard

General Authority Seventy

As a boy, Elder Jack N. Gerard woke every day around 5:00 a.m. to help care for the family’s dairy cows. Growing up in a small farming community near Mud Lake, Idaho, USA, taught him not only to work hard and take responsibility but also to recognize the worth of all individuals as children of God.

“Everyone had a role to play and everyone was here for a purpose, regardless of status or stature in life,” said Elder Gerard, who was sustained on March 31, 2018, as a General Authority Seventy. That lesson has been a gift throughout his life.

His career, which has included prominent leadership roles for several entities—such as the National Mining Association, the America Chemistry Council, and, recently, the American Petroleum Institute—has provided him with opportunities to associate with people from all walks of life.

Elder Gerard was born in 1957 to James and Cecil Gasser Gerard. After serving in the Sydney Australia Mission, Elder Gerard attended the University of Idaho, where he received an internship and then a full-time position on the staff of an Idaho congressman.

While working in Washington, D.C., he met Claudette Neff, who was working as a staff assistant to a Utah senator. “She radiated the light of the gospel,” Elder Gerard said of their meeting. The two were married on April 4, 1984, in the Salt Lake Temple. They have eight children and four grandchildren.

Elder Gerard received both a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a juris doctor degree from George Washington University.

Elder Gerard has served as a bishop, stake president, Area Seventy, Gospel Doctrine teacher, and Sunday School president.

Elder Gerard said he and his wife share a desire to do the Lord’s will. “As weak mortals, we are committed to whatever the Lord would have us do, and we are humbled and honored . . . to consecrate our time and efforts to the work of the Lord.” ■