



Elder Takashi Wada

General Authority Seventy

On a cold November day, a question from an American missionary asking for directions to the local postal office caught Takashi Wada off guard.

The 15-year-old had been warned by his father to avoid Mormons, who had been visiting with people on the streets of Nagano, Japan, just three minutes from their home. But Takashi was impressed with the American elder's Japanese.

A few days later, another missionary stopped Takashi. He had not been in Japan long. In broken Japanese, he tried to share the story of Joseph Smith.

Takashi did not understand everything, "but I felt that I should listen," he recalled.

The missionaries taught him the steps to prayer and the lessons. He attended Church meetings and was touched by the testimonies of local members. Feeling constrained by the expectations of his Buddhist family, Takashi kept telling the missionaries, "I can't join the Church, but I would like to learn more."

Two years later, before Takashi left to study in the United States at age 17, his parents consented, and he joined the Church.

Elder Wada, who was born on February 5, 1965, to Kenzo and Kazuko Wada, received a bachelor of arts degree in linguistics in 1990 and a master's degree in business administration in 1996, both from Brigham Young University.

He served a mission in the Utah Salt Lake City North Mission and married Naomi Ueno on June 18, 1994, in the Tokyo Japan Temple. The couple has two sons.

Elder Wada's career included several positions with multinational corporations in the United States and Japan, as well as the position of director for temporal affairs for the Church in the North America West, North America Northwest, and Asia North Areas.

Elder Wada is a former bishop, high councilor, and seminary teacher. He served as president of the Japan Tokyo South Mission from 2013 to 2016. He was sustained as a General Authority Seventy on March 31, 2018. ■



Bonnie H. Cordon

Young Women General President

A much-loved scripture of Sister Bonnie H. Cordon is found in Doctrine and Covenants 123:17: "Let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed."

For her this verse encapsulates lessons she has learned throughout her life. "We can do hard things, but we can also do them joyfully," said Sister Cordon, who was sustained on March 31, 2018, as the new Young Women General President.

That knowledge was instilled in her during a "fairy-tale childhood" laboring on a small farm in southeast Idaho and then again as she struggled to learn a new language as a missionary in Portugal. It was also a message she repeated often to missionaries while she served with her husband as he presided over the Brazil Curitiba Mission. And it is one she now plans to share with young women around the world.

Today's young women, she said, are being asked to step up and move the work of the Lord forward. "And we can do it," she added.

Bonnie Hillam Cordon was born on March 11, 1964, to Harold and Carol Rasmussen Hillam in Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA. After her mission she received her bachelor's degree in education at Brigham Young University, where she met Derek Lane Cordon. They were married on April 25, 1986, in the Salt Lake Temple. They have four children and four grandsons.

Her lifetime of Church service has included time as a nursery leader and seminary teacher. Before her call two years ago to serve as a counselor in the Primary General Presidency, Sister Cordon loved serving as a stake Young Women president. Even after being released from that calling, "I have never stopped praying for the young women," she said.

A message she is eager to share with young women throughout the world is that she loves them and, more important, that God loves them. ■