



Elder Peter F. Meurs

General Authority Seventy

When he was young, Peter Meurs and his family lived next to a neighbor who ran a “fix anything” shop for farming equipment. Peter and his best friend spent much time in the shop tinkering with farm equipment and building minibikes and go-karts. Peter later studied mechanical engineering at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

While pursuing his studies at age 18, he informed the university that he needed a two-year break to serve a mission for the Church. He was told that he could defer for only one year; deferring longer meant he would lose his place in his program. He decided not to serve.

A short time later, however, he heard President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) proclaim during general conference that every worthy young man should serve a mission (see “Planning for a Full and Abundant Life,” *Ensign*, May 1974, 87).

“It was like he was speaking to me. It just went straight through me,” Elder Meurs recalls. He decided to serve, after all. One week before he left, he received a letter from the university allowing him to defer for two years.

Peter returned to school after his mission, but his missionary service, he says, was “the best education I’ve had.” The gospel taught him that “helping people be successful is the most important leadership principle.”

After completing his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, Elder Meurs worked as project engineer for Esso Australia and was a founding partner of WorleyParsons Limited. He recently served as director of development for Fortescue Metals Group.

Following his mission, he married a woman he calls his best friend, Maxine Evelyn Thatcher, on January 2, 1979, in the Hamilton New Zealand Temple. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

Elder Meurs—born on December 21, 1956, in Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, to Frederik and Lois Jones Meurs—has served in many callings, including as elders quorum president, ward organist, ward and stake Young Men president, public affairs director, branch and district president, bishop, stake president, and Area Seventy. ■



Elder K. Brett Nattress

General Authority Seventy

Elder K. Brett Nattress and his wife, Shauna Lee Adamson Nattress, describe themselves as “imperfect people looking for perfect moments.”

They have found many such moments over the course of their lives—all are connected in some way to the Savior and the Atonement, says Elder Nattress.

Elder Nattress says he was born of goodly parents, David and Judy Sorensen Nattress, and remembers his mother reading the Book of Mormon to the family every day.

On one occasion he was home on a break from college. He was focused on upcoming finals and was not feeling right, though he didn’t feel physically ill.

“If you’re feeling well and don’t feel right,” his mother told him, “you need to go serve somebody.”

Brett threw a snow shovel in the back of the family pickup and went around shoveling the driveways of the widows in the ward. He felt much better.

“I was so focused on myself and the finals, I had forgotten that the real purpose of life is to serve others,” he says.

Elder Nattress was born on March 4, 1965, in Pocatello, Idaho, USA. The family moved to Lehi, Utah, USA, where he and his five siblings experienced life on a small family farm.

He met his future bride while they were both seniors at neighboring high schools. After he returned from serving in the California Sacramento Mission from 1984 to 1986, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple on April 24, 1987. They have seven children.

He attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and graduated from the University of Utah in 1990 with a degree in physical therapy. With his brother David, he cofounded Advanced Health Care Corp. in 2000.

Elder Nattress has served in numerous Church callings, including as ward Young Men president, bishop, stake Young Men president, stake president, and Area Seventy. At the time of his call, he was presiding over the newly formed Arizona Gilbert Mission. ■