



Elder S. Mark Palmer

General Authority Seventy

In 1992, time was a precious and limited commodity for Elder S. Mark Palmer and his wife, Jacqueline.

Elder Palmer was serving on the stake high council at the time. He was also working hard to build his professional career. Sister Palmer's time was stretched just as thin. The Palmers were raising six children in their Austin, Texas, USA, home—including a six-month-old baby boy.

When their stake president invited them to serve as workers at the Dallas Texas Temple, they didn't know how they could handle one more duty. But they accepted the call—and then prayerfully asked for the Lord's help.

Making a monthly bus trip to serve all day in the temple required sacrifice and careful planning. "But it blessed our lives enormously," says Elder Palmer.

Serving in the temple, he adds, prepared him spiritually for future priesthood callings. It also made him a better husband and father—and he found balance in his busy life.

"Going to the temple often helps you reset your priorities and be reminded of the covenants you have made," he says.

Stanley Mark Palmer was born on February 11, 1956, in Te Puke, New Zealand, to Kenneth and Jill Palmer. His family joined the Church when he was a young boy. He served a full-time mission in the New Zealand Wellington Mission.

After earning an undergraduate degree at the University of Auckland, he enrolled in the master of business administration program at Brigham Young University. While living in Provo, Utah, USA, he met a returned missionary named Jacqueline Wood on a blind date. They were married on December 18, 1981, in the Salt Lake Temple. The Palmers have six children and nine grandchildren.

Elder Palmer is the founder and president of SMP Ventures, a real estate development company. He has served as bishop, stake president, president of the Washington Spokane Mission (2009–12), interim president of the Australia Sydney South Mission (2014), and Area Seventy. ■



Elder Gary B. Sabin

General Authority Seventy

Three Christmas trees stand out in the memory of Elder Gary B. Sabin.

The first was a beautiful Christmas tree of his youth. When Gary scaled the tree trying to reach a candy cane, the entire tree crashed to the ground.

The second was an evergreen branch he found as a missionary while serving in Belgium and the Netherlands from 1973 to 1975. Elder Sabin and his companion took the branch home to their apartment and propped it up around the Christmas cards they had received from home.

The third was a tree made of Christmas lights strung on the IV stand next to his daughter's hospital bed. One of three Sabin children to suffer from cystic fibrosis, his daughter had received a double-lung transplant one year after the death of her brother from the same disease.

"We have learned a lot more from our children than they have learned from us," says Elder Sabin.

As a General Authority he will remember the Christmas trees and the lessons he learned from them. Each tree highlights portions of his journey—from a young boy wanting a candy cane to a missionary teaching the plan of salvation to a father who relied on the plan and the Savior's love to sustain his family through mortal trials.

Gary Byron Sabin was born in Provo, Utah, USA, on April 7, 1954, to Marvin E. and Sylvia W. Sabin. He married Valerie Purdy in August 1976. They are the parents of five children; a sixth child was stillborn.

After graduating from Brigham Young University in Provo, Elder Sabin earned a master's degree in management from Stanford University.

Elder Sabin has served in numerous Church callings, including as bishop, stake president, and Area Seventy. He has worked as a founder, chairman, and CEO of several companies, including Excel Realty Trust, Price Legacy, Excel Realty Holdings, and Excel Trust.

In 1993, Elder and Sister Sabin formed Sabin Children's Foundation, an organization dedicated to addressing the medical needs of children. ■