



**Elder Adilson
de Paula Parrella**

General Authority Seventy

When Elder Adilson de Paula Parrella was eight years old, the missionaries began teaching his family about the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the gospel.

“Even as a child, I had no question that Joseph Smith had in fact seen God and Jesus Christ,” said Elder Parrella, who was sustained on April 1, 2017, as a General Authority Seventy. “I never doubted that from then on.”

Elder Parrella was born in 1962 in Guarujá, Brazil, on the Atlantic coast near São Paulo, to Fioravante and Vany de Paula Parrella.

Each of his two older brothers served missions. Their examples and that of a loving bishop, Angelino Borges de Freitas, who mentored him in how to be an Aaronic Priesthood holder, sparked in him a desire to serve a full-time mission. Missionary service reinforced to him “the reality of God and His Son and that all of us are children of God.”

After serving in the Brazil Porto Alegre Mission, Elder Parrella attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and a master of business administration degree. He worked as the managing director at Kodak Polychrome Graphics and as a partner at Korn Ferry International. Most recently he was a partner at Caldwell Partners.

He married Elaine Finholdt in December 1988 in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. They are the parents of five sons.

Elder Parrella has served as branch president, bishop, high councilor, counselor in a stake presidency, Area Seventy, and president of the Brazil Belo Horizonte Mission from 2009 to 2012.

Ever since he met the missionaries, his life has been a journey to understand the feeling he experienced as an eight-year-old. Attending church, continuing to learn from the word of God, and striving to live the commandments have helped broaden his vision from the glimpse of truth he was given as a child. “This truly is the kingdom of God on the earth,” he said. ■



Elder John C. Pingree Jr.

General Authority Seventy

“My testimony has been built over time, little by little, through receiving answers to prayers, feeling the Spirit while reading scriptures, repenting, and serving the Lord,” said Elder John C. Pingree Jr., who was sustained on April 1, 2017, as a General Authority Seventy.

Born in 1966 in Salt Lake City Utah, USA, to Carmen and John C. Pingree Sr., he credits the devotion of his parents in helping to shape his life.

“The day after I was born, my father wrote me a letter,” Elder Pingree said. “He saved that letter, and later, when I left to serve a full-time mission, he mailed it to me. The letter contained several pages of his testimony and lessons he wanted me to learn during my life. As I read it, the Spirit bore witness to me that what I had been taught about the restored gospel of Jesus Christ by my parents was truth.”

Elder Pingree served in the Massachusetts Boston Mission, Spanish-speaking.

He received degrees in English and political science from the University of Utah and a master of business administration degree from Harvard Business School. He married Anne Pugsley in March 1990, and they are the parents of five children.

Much of his career focused on helping others. He was president of a medical humanitarian aid organization and a vice president at two health care companies.

He was president of the Texas Houston Mission from 2011 to 2014 and has served as an Area Seventy, stake president, bishop, elders quorum president, and institute and seminary teacher.

“The Lord says, ‘If you desire, you shall be the means of doing much good in this generation’ (D&C 11:8),” Elder Pingree said. “To me, the Lord is saying, ‘I can use you to do some good in other people’s lives, if you will let me.’ If we look for opportunities, Heavenly Father will use us to bless somebody else.” ■