



Elder Carl B. Cook

Of the Seventy

As a young missionary in the Language Training Mission (the predecessor to the Missionary Training Center) preparing to go to Hamburg, Germany, Carl Bert Cook struggled to learn German. While he tried to grasp basic vocabulary, members of his district quickly moved on to more complex concepts.

Frustrated by his lack of progress, young Elder Cook sought divine help through a priesthood blessing and prayer. After one particularly heartfelt prayer, Elder Cook remembers receiving a specific answer: the Lord hadn't called him to master the German language but to serve with all of his heart, mind, and strength.

"I immediately thought, 'I can do that,'" says Elder Cook, recently called as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. "I can serve with all of my heart, mind, and strength.' I stood up and felt a sense of relief. All of a sudden, my measuring stick changed from how my companion and district members were doing to how the Lord felt that I was doing."

Although Elder Cook says that he didn't necessarily learn the language more quickly after that experience, he no longer felt his previous concerns because he knew that he was doing what the Lord wanted him to do. That lesson, he says, has been important in all of the callings he's held since, including bishop, counselor in a stake presidency, stake president, president of the New Zealand Auckland Mission, Area Seventy, and now in his current assignment.

Elder Cook earned a bachelor's degree in business marketing from Weber State College and a master's degree in business administration from Utah State University. He spent his career working in real estate development.

Elder Cook was born in Ogden, Utah, USA, in October 1957 to Ramona Cook Barker and the late Bert E. Cook. He married Lynette Hansen on December 14, 1979, in the Ogden Utah Temple. They are the parents of five children. ■



Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr.

Of the Seventy

Elder LeGrand Raine Curtis Jr. knows that "the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind" (D&C 64:34).

"He loves serving in the Church, and he does it with hard work and a willing attitude," says his wife, Jane Cowan Curtis, whom he married in the Salt Lake Temple on January 4, 1974. "Service is his greatest wish and desire."

Elder Curtis was born in August 1952, in Ogden, Utah, USA, to LeGrand R. and Patricia Glade Curtis. His father later became a member of the Second Quorum of the Seventy (1990–95).

Before his call to the First Quorum of the Seventy, Elder Curtis Jr. served in the Italy North Mission and as bishop, high councilor, stake president, president of the Italy Padova Mission, and Area Seventy. He was serving as a member of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah Salt Lake City Area at the time of his call to the First Quorum.

Elder Curtis graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in economics and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan. At the time of his call, he was working as an attorney and partner at a law firm. In addition to attending school and working, Elder Curtis and his wife have raised five children.

After serving as an Area Seventy from 2004 to 2011, Elder Curtis says he has appreciated the opportunity to work with the General Authorities. "I have been blessed to work with some exceptional leaders in the Church," he says. "Watching them and learning from them has been a great privilege."

Sister Curtis says Elder Curtis always has had willing hands and a willing heart. "His attitude was always, 'I will do,'" she says.

Doctrine and Covenants 64:34 ends with these words: "The willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days." Brother and Sister Curtis say they and their children and grandchildren have been exceptionally blessed for serving the Lord. ■