

## GLOBAL

## Facts you might not know about the Church's 106 current General Authority Seventies

By Rachel Sterzer Gibson | 1 May 2021, 3:30 PM MDT

### Birthplaces



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a global faith. That fact is something [President Russell M. Nelson](#) knows first hand.

Within his lifetime the Church has grown from roughly 600,000 members in 1,600 congregations in 1924 to more than 16.5 million in close to 31,000 congregations throughout the world.

### Read more: Looking at the year President Nelson was born vs. the year he became prophet

It's something he declared shortly after he was sustained as President of the Church, and then he emphasized by [traveling 115,000 miles to 35 nations on six continents](#) in just under two years. The veteran Church leader visited 133 countries as an Apostle and dedicated 31 of those nations for the preaching of the gospel prior to becoming Prophet.

That fact was recently reiterated during the Sunday morning session of the [April 2021 general conference](#) where a Church leader from [every populated continent spoke to members](#) listening from more than 70 countries.

"Truly, the blessings of the gospel are for every race, language, and people. The Church of Jesus Christ is a *global* church. Jesus Christ is our leader," President Nelson declared in his Sunday morning remarks.

---

In addition to featuring messages from Church leaders from every continent, April's general conference also included the call of [eight new General Authority Seventies](#) from the United States, South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The Church currently has 106 General Authority Seventies serving throughout the world. Here are a few facts about this increasingly diverse set of Church leaders.

- Almost exactly half are from the United States.
- 52 of them come from 30 different countries/territories outside the U.S.
- 18 are from South America
- 7 are from Asia
- 7 are from Europe
- 6 are from Africa

- 6 are from Oceania
- 4 are from Mexico
- 3 are from Central America/Caribbean
- 1 is from Canada
- Buenos Aires, Argentina, native [Elder Angel Abrea](#) will be remembered in Latter-day Saint history as the first General Authority from Latin America. Since his call in April 1981 when there were roughly a few hundred thousand members in South America, the Church now has 18 native South Americans serving as General Authority Seventies and 4.1 million members.
- Recognized as the Church's first black General Authority, the late [Elder Helvécio Martins](#) served as a General Authority Seventy from 1990-1995.

[Elder Joseph Sitati](#), a native of Kenya, was the first Black African General Authority called in 2009. Today, there are six General Authority Seventies from Africa: [Elder Edward Dube](#) from Zimbabwe; [Elder Adeyinka A. Ojedirán](#) from Nigeria; [Elder Christoffel Golden](#) from South Africa; and [Elder Thierry K. Mutombo](#) and [Elder Alfred Kyungu](#) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- [Elder Hugo Martinez](#), a native of Puerto Rico, became the first General Authority from the Caribbean.
- [Elder Han In Sang](#), who was instrumental in translating the Book of Mormon into the Korean language, became the first General Authority from Korea.

## GLOBAL

# \$8.25 million Church donation to help refugees in Sudan

The combined donation to World Food Programme and UNHCR is in response to urgent humanitarian crisis

By Mary Richards | Sept 20, 2023 10 a.m. EDT



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is donating \$8.25 million to two organizations in response to the urgent humanitarian crisis unfolding in Sudan.

The money will help feed and provide core relief items to hundreds of thousands of refugees in the region, reported a news release from [the Church's Middle East Newsroom](#).

A \$4.25 million donation to the [World Food Programme](#) will supply rations such as cereals, oil, legumes, supplemental bars and ready-to-eat meals to those living in refugee camps in Sudan and in the bordering countries of South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia and Egypt.

And a \$4 million donation to the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) will provide shelter and core relief items such as blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and solar lamps.

In April 2023, violent conflicts that began in Khartoum, Sudan, forced families to leave their homes and villages. More than 4.8 million people have been displaced since then — including 2 million children, explained the news release.

There is an urgent need for shelter, health care, food and water in the region.

“We are grateful to have the resources to support several quality organizations in their efforts to address the crisis in Sudan despite the high risks to their personal safety and the countless challenges,” said Church humanitarian specialist Steve Dobb, who coordinated the donation. “It is heartbreaking to see the suffering of our brothers and sisters there, and we pray that the conflict will be resolved soon.”

In September 2022, the Church [donated \\$32 million to the World Food Programme](#) — the Church's largest one-time contribution to a humanitarian organization to date.

In all of 2022, the Church expended more than \$1 billion to care for those in need around the world through projects in 190 countries and territories.

Then, just last month, the Church announced a combined \$44 million to promote childhood nutrition in 30 countries. And \$10 million went to UNICEF to help mothers and children.

Such aid is given without regard to race, religious affiliation or nationality, and is based on the principles of self-reliance, community support, personal responsibility and sustainability.

Church humanitarian efforts are made possible by the generous donations of Latter-day Saints and friends of the faith worldwide. This project was funded through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and LDS Charities Australia.

#### RELATED STORIES

---

**2022 report: Church expenditures total more than \$1 billion for those in need**

---

**Church donates a combined \$44 million to promote childhood nutrition**

---

**Church donates \$10 million to UNICEF to help mothers and children**

---

**Inside Church Headquarters: A glimpse into the Church's welfare and humanitarian efforts**

---