

Brother Thomas M. Liberto

Personal Data *birth: 5/19/34; baptism: 10/24/54*
Ordinations *elder: 5/2/65; evangelist: 5/17/70; apostle: 10/15/95*
Leadership *California District President: 1975-79; Quorum of Seventy Vice-President & President: 1994-97; GC Second Counselor: 1998-present*
Mission Work *Mexico; Italy; Poland; Philippines*

Brother Thomas Mark Liberto was born on May 19, 1934, in Glassport, Pennsylvania. He was the first of three children born to Brother Nick and Sister Lena Liberto. His grandmother, Sister Bernadina Thomas, was the first member of his family to join The Church of Jesus Christ and was a spiritual role model to Brother Tom throughout his life.

Shortly after he was born, Apostle Charles Ashton visited the Liberto home and took baby Tom in his arms and prayed for him. After the prayer, he told Sister Lena that the Lord gave him to understand that Tom would one day be a leader in the Church. A short time later, he was taken to Church for the first time where Apostle Isaac Smith blessed him.

Parents were Charter Members of the San Diego Branch

In 1945, the family moved to San Diego, California, where they joined with a few other families to become charter members of the San Diego Branch of the Church. He attended church on a regular basis throughout his school years. One especially noteworthy development during these years was the fact that he happened to meet his future wife, Marcia Pettit, at his high school.

Enlistment in the Service of Both God and Country

Tom and Marcia became engaged in March 1953 and the following month he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He went through basic training at Parks Air Force Base, near San Francisco, California and lived in that area for 19 months. He and Sister Marcia were married in San Diego on January 30, 1954, and lived in Pleasanton, California until he was assigned to duty in Alaska. Before leaving for the frigid north, where he spent 13 months, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 24, 1954 by Brother Felix Buccellato. He and his wife were blessed with four children: Debra, Lynn, Nancy, and Thomas.

Brother Tom has been a faithful servant to the Church from the time of his baptism until the present. He was ordained an elder in 1965, and an evangelist in 1970. He has served on the Pacific Coast District Mission Board for over 30 years, and most recently had responsibility for the Church in Mexico. He served the district as chairman of the evangelists, and second counselor, first counselor, and president for two terms, from 1975 to 1979 and from 1992 to 1996. Brother Tom served on various General Church Committees over the years, including the General Church Development Committee and the President's Planning Task Force. He was active in the evangelistic outreach at Independence, Missouri.

Brother Tom retired from his natural labors in 1990. During his 38 years of civil and military service, his responsibilities increased over the years, beginning as a carpenter and cabinetmaker and ending his career as director of transportation.

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Although he retired from his natural work, his labors for the Church intensified. He served for five years as Vice-President of the General Church Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. He was instrumental in the reorganization of the General Church Mission Board and served as chairman for five years. He was elected President of the Quorum of Seventy in February 1994, an office he held until his calling as an apostle. He has visited branches and missions of the Church throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Italy, Poland, and the Philippines.

A Call to Serve in The Quorum of Twelve

Brother Tom was ordained an apostle at the General Church Conference on October 15, 1995. After the prayer, he was so overcome with the Spirit that he was unable to rise from his chair for quite some time.

There were a number of experiences received relative to his calling, one of which Brother Tom had himself. Two years prior to his calling, he was given a dream where he was summoned to meet with the Quorum of Twelve. His wife was walking with him, and, when they got to the room where they were meeting, she remained at the door while Brother Tom was ushered into the room and stood before the Twelve. He was then told that he was being called into the office of an apostle, upon which he awoke, shaken by how vivid the dream was. On the day of his calling, it happened exactly as in the dream. In addition, a few months prior to his ordination, a sister had a vision in which she saw a crown of twelve stars on Brother Tom's head as he sat on the rostrum during a church service. More recently, at the October General Church Conference of 1998, he was elected Second Counselor of the General Church.