

Calling a New Apostle

When Jesus was on the earth, he had **twelve apostles**. He gave them the **priesthood authority** to lead his Church and preach his gospel. When Judas Isacariot died, a new apostle needed to be chosen. The apostles determined that the **new apostle** should be someone who was a personal witness of Jesus' life and ministry. Why do you think that would be important?

APOSTLE \ə-'pä-səl\ noun;
One sent forth to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ. There are 15 Apostles living on the earth today. They make up the **First Presidency** and the **Quorum of the Twelve Apostles** of the Church.

► Read from Acts 1 how the new Apostle was chosen. The apostles said:

ACTS 1—A NEW APOSTLE

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

23 And they appointed two, Joseph...and Matthias.

24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Do you know how new **apostles are chosen in our Church today**? The same way the original apostles did it! The apostles prayerfully think about and consider certain men that they think are qualified to be an apostle. They present the names to the Lord. Revelation comes to them to tell them who the new apostle should be!

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, a new apostle was called in our day. His name is **Elder Neil L. Andersen**. He was selected by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who prayed to know who the Lord wanted as his next apostle.

“The calling of an Apostle is to be a special witness of the name of Jesus Christ in all the world, particularly of his divinity and of his bodily resurrection from the dead. The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is “to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the [church] in all nations.”

—M. Russell Ballard, “The Kingdom Rolls Forth in South America,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 12

Our Newest Apostle: Neil L. Andersen

FAST FACTS:

- ✓ Elder Andersen was called as a General Authority in 1993.
- ✓ He was raised in Pocatello, Idaho.
- ✓ Elder Andersen learned to speak French on his mission to France, he later returned there as a mission president.
- ✓ He also speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese!
- ✓ Elder Andersen graduated from BYU and later from Harvard with an MBA.
- ✓ He and his wife Kathryn have four children.



New Apostle

Elder Andersen speaks **French**. Here's a scripture he shared with people on his mission. See if you can figure out what scripture it is?

“Et il arriva que moi, Néphi, je dis à mon père: J'irai et je ferai la chose que le Seigneur a commandée, car je sais que le Seigneur ne donne pas de commandements aux enfants des hommes sans leur préparer la voie pour qu'ils puissent accomplir ce qu'il leur commande.”

(Hint: Nephi said this when his father asked him to return to Jerusalem to get the plates of brass.)

◆ **PROJECT** ◆ Visit www.bookofmormondiscovery.com/apostlepresentation. Choose one of our modern day apostles and use the links to read more about his life and teachings. Then make a presentation for Family Home Evening all about your apostle. You can make it interesting by telling a story or two from his life and drawing a picture to illustrate your presentation. You can use the Family Home Evening Presentation form on the next page to organize your information.



A Modern Day Apostle: A Presentation for My Family



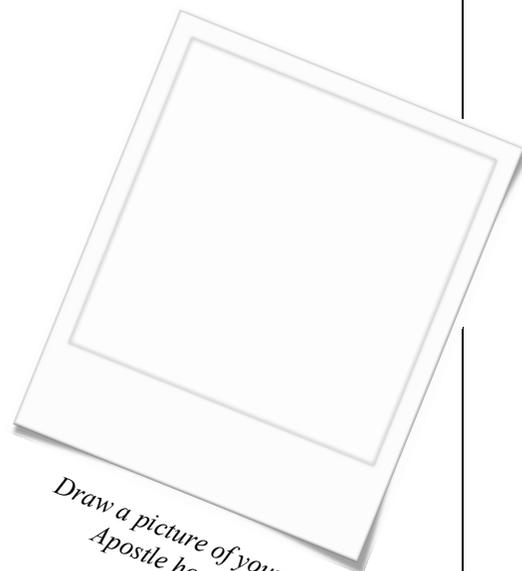
Apostle: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Ordination: _____

Interesting Facts: _____

► **NOTES:**



*Draw a picture of your
Apostle here.*

Elder Andersen as a Boy

Young Neil Andersen grew up on a small farm in Idaho. His family raised rabbits, and one of his job was to watch over them and keep them safe.

When he was seven years old, his favorite rabbit escaped from his cage. He looked carefully around the farm for it. He didn't want the dogs or cats on the farm to catch it and hurt it. Little Neil was discouraged. He couldn't find his rabbit anywhere.



Then he remembered something he had learned. God will help you if you pray and ask for help. Neil said a prayer. He asked for Heavenly Father's help in finding his rabbit. He suddenly had an idea to look under some boards nearby. He walked over quickly and peeked beneath them. There was his rabbit! Neil learned that **Heavenly Father hears our prayers** and answers them!

"We learn many things when we are young. It is important that we listen to and obey our parents. They will help us learn those things that will bring us happy and righteous lives."

—Neil L. Andersen

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ELDER ANDERSEN

ACROSS

- Young Neil Andersen helped raise _____ on his family's farm.
- Neil and Kathryn Andersen have _____ children.
- On April 4, 2009, Neil Andersen was called as an _____.

DOWN

- Elder Andersen speaks English, _____, Spanish, and Portuguese.
- Elder Andersen graduated went to college at _____.
- Elder Andersen was raised in Pocatello, _____.
- Elder Andersen was a mission president in _____.

"Many peaceful events that happened before I was twelve years old were influenced by those sustained as prophets, seers, and revelators. When I was about seven years old, I attended stake conference with my family. Afterward, we waited in a long line down the side of the chapel to shake hands with Elder Spencer W. Kimball, who was then an Apostle of the Lord. As I listened to him speak, and later, when I shook his hand, I felt something special and I knew that he was one of the Lord's appointed."

"When I was nine years old, I attended general conference in the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. After the conference, when the General Authorities left the Tabernacle, I was able to stand close to many of them. I felt the same way I had when I shook Elder Kimball's hand, and I knew that these men had been called of God!"

—Elder Neil L. Andersen

