



The Nelson family portrait in 1935 includes, seated from left, Enid, Russell and Robert Nelson; standing from left are Marion, Marjory and Edna Nelson.



Aug. 31, 1945

Married Dantzel White in the Salt Lake Temple.



1945-1947

Served in the United States Navy Reserve.



1951-1953

Served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean War.

Sept. 9, 1924

Born to Marion C. and Edna Anderson Nelson in Salt Lake City.

1935

Graduated from East High School in Salt Lake City as the valedictorian. At age 16, he was the youngest member of his class.

1941

1945

Received bachelor's degree from the University of Utah.

August 1947

Graduated first in his class with his M.D. degree from the University of Utah. He went on to serve residencies at University of Minnesota Hospitals and Massachusetts General Hospital.

July 1948

The Nelsons' first child, Marsha, was born. They would have eight more daughters and one son over the next several years.

1954

Awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

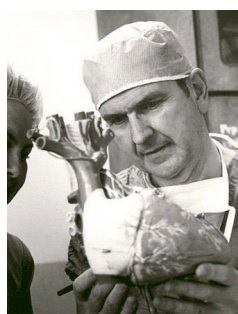
1955-1965

Served as a Temple Square missionary, helping visitors from 4 to 5 p.m. each Thursday.



1968-1984

Served as director of the thoracic surgical residency program at the University of Utah.



March 1972

The Nelsons' 10th child, Russell Marion Nelson Jr., is born.

Feb. 6, 1977

Ordained his father, Marion Nelson, an elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood. The following month, Marion and Edna Nelson and their children were sealed in the Provo Utah Temple.



1955

Accepted faculty position at the University of Utah's medical school as assistant professor of surgery.

Nov. 9, 1955

Performed the first open-heart surgery in Utah at age 31.

1964-1971

1964-1971 – Served as president of the Salt Lake Bonneville Stake.

1970

Received honorary Doctor of Science degree from Brigham Young University.

1971-1979

Served as general president of the Sunday School organization.

April 12, 1972

Performed lifesaving open-heart surgery for President Spencer W. Kimball, who lived 13 more years and went on to serve as 12th President of the Church.

1979-1984

Served as regional representative for the Church.

September 1980

Accepted role as visiting professor of surgery at the Shandong Medical College in Jinan, China, and developed relationships with Chinese doctors.

April 7, 1984

Ordained an Apostle and set apart as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles at age 59.

1985-1990

Assigned to oversee the Church's affairs in Europe and Africa, with special assignment to open nations in Eastern Europe under communist rule for the preaching of the gospel.



1994

Received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Snow College.

May 18, 1997

Dedicated the São Paulo Brazil Missionary Training Center, one of the Church's first two international MTCs.



April 6, 2006

Married Wendy L. Watson in the Salt Lake Temple.

Oct. 6, 2012

Served as chairman of the Missionary Executive Council when President Thomas S. Monson announced a minimum-age change for missionaries. As an Apostle, he also served as chairman of the Temple and Family History Executive Council and the Priesthood and Family Executive Council.

Sept. 19, 2015

Dedicated the renovated Priesthood Restoration Site in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

March 4, 1985

Performed his last open-heart operation, on famous Chinese opera star Fang Rongxiang.

April 19, 1987

Dedicated Hungary for the preaching of the gospel.

1989

Received honorary Doctor of Medical Science degree from Utah State University.

Feb. 13, 1990

Dedicated Bulgaria for the preaching of the gospel.

Jan. 29, 1995

The Nelsons' sixth daughter, Emily, died of cancer at age 37, leaving behind a husband and five children.

Feb. 12, 2005

Dantzel Nelson died after nearly 60 years of marriage.

September 2010

Dedicated six countries on the Balkan Peninsula for the preaching of the gospel: Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia.

2015-2018

Served as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.



April 12–23, 2018

Embarked on global ministry with stops in London, England; Jerusalem; Nairobi, Kenya; Harare, Zimbabwe; Bengaluru, India; Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong, China; and Laie, Hawaii.



Aug. 16, 2018

Issued statement about the correct name of the Church, initiating changes to the names of Church communication channels.

Oct. 19–28, 2018

South American ministry to Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile culminated with dedication of the Concepcion Chile Temple.

Jan. 14, 2018

Ordained and set apart as 17th President of the Church after the death of President Thomas S. Monson.

March 31–April 1, 2018

Sustained in a solemn assembly during general conference; announced that ministering replaces home and visiting teaching and Melchizedek Priesthood quorums are combined.

May 17, 2018

Released joint statement with national leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

June 3, 2018

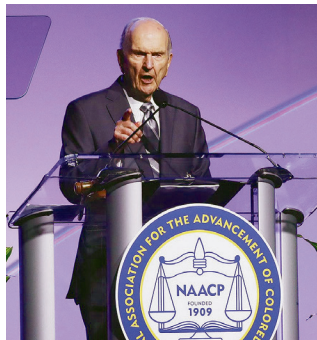
Spoke during a worldwide devotional for youth in the Conference Center and invited them to join the Lord's youth battalion.

Oct. 6, 2018

Announced home-centered, Church-supported approach to gospel learning with "Come, Follow Me" and adjusted Sunday meeting schedule, both during general conference.

July 21, 2019

Spoke at the NAACP national convention in Detroit, Michigan.



Nov. 15–22, 2019

Traveled to four countries in Southeast Asia: Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia.



March 10, 2019

Dedicated Rome Italy Temple, with every member of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in attendance.

Oct. 2, 2019

Announced women, youth and children may now serve as witnesses of sealing and baptismal ordinances.

Nov. 20, 2020

Invited all to #GiveThanks in worldwide message on healing power of gratitude.

May 17–24, 2019

Pacific ministry featured stops in Hawaii, Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Tahiti.

Aug. 24–Sept. 1, 2019

Traveled to five countries in Central and South America: Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil.

Sept. 9, 2019

Honored as "a heart healer" during his 95th birthday celebration in the Conference Center.

Oct. 5–6, 2019

Announced discontinuation of ward Young Men presidencies, other organizational changes for youth and revised temple recommend questions during general conference.

April 4–5, 2020

Introduced new Church symbol during general conference; led Hosanna Shout after issuing "The Restoration of the Fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: A Bicentennial Proclamation to the World."

April 3, 2022

Reached 100 total temples he had announced since becoming Prophet, with the 17 locations he released at the conclusion of general conference.



Aug. 14, 2022

Rededicated the Washington D.C. Temple.



June 14, 2021

Announced educational and humanitarian initiatives with the NAACP.

Aug. 30, 2023

Donated his medical journals to the University of Utah.

April 14, 2022

Became the oldest President of the Church.

May 15, 2022

Spoke during worldwide devotional for young adults in the Conference Center about three fundamental truths to prepare them for eternity.

Aug. 8, 2022

Became the Church's longest-living Apostle in this latter-day dispensation.

Aug. 27, 2022

Dedicated site of future Ephraim Utah Temple at groundbreaking services.

Oct. 8, 2022

Dedicated site of future Heber Valley Utah Temple at groundbreaking services.

April 13, 2023

Received Ghandi-King-Mandela Peace Prize from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

June 22, 2023

Announced new edition of "Preach My Gospel" at 2023 Seminar for New Mission Leaders.