

# Say What? | President of the High Priest Quorum | David Anderson

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

David Anderson, high priest quorum, ministry, foreign languages, leadership, spiritual growth, mentorship, retirement, travel, community service.

## SPEAKERS

Dave Anderson, Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam, Kassie Ripsam

**Kassie Ripsam** 00:28

Hello and welcome to "Say What?" Today we're interviewing Mr. David Anderson. He is the outgoing president of the High Priest Quorum. And so, let's just get started. So, we have a few getting to know you questions, and these are the questions we ask everybody. They're a little fun and kind of random.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 00:48

So, I do want to ask first, how are you good? Good?

**Dave Anderson** 00:52

It's I'm calling or calling in from Oregon. It's kind of a cold day, and we're expecting snow storm tomorrow. So,

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 01:00

Ooh, yes, we're actually kind of warm today. [K: Yeah] So we're kind of exact opposites right now.

**Dave Anderson** 01:07

We're 1000s of miles apart. It's wonderful to be able to talk.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 01:10

Yeah! So, to get started, Would you survive a zombie apocalypse?

**Dave Anderson** 01:18

Well, first of all, I have to figure out what a zombie apocalypse is, but I guess I think so. I would survive one, particularly if the zombies are the slow, stumbling kind of zombies. But if they're, if they're the super fast high jump in building climbing nightmare fuel kind then might be problematic. I'm pretty quick going to the refrigerator during a commercial break. And in Montana, where I grew up, we used to have a little gallows humor with our guests when we went up into the mountains. In bear country, grizzly bear country, we'd say, you know, "I don't have to outrun the grizzly bear. I just have to outrun you." So, I guess if I'm with fast moving zombies, I just have to run faster than the person I'm with. How about you? Are you fast runners?

**Kassie Ripsam** 02:16

She is.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 02:17**

I am. I don't have any like, training, like anything or anything like that. So, I can't beat someone on the track meet, but I I'm faster than my family. So, okay, that would work, although, if they were the fast moving walk by me kind of zombies, I think I would go insane first.

**Dave Anderson 02:34**

Yeah, well, you probably make it to the second season, at least.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 02:38**

Probably. I'd die. I'm dead. So, what part of a driver's test do you think you'd most likely fail, or at least perform poorly in?

**Dave Anderson 02:53**

Well, the one I'd be most concerned about is the right turn on red. Believe it or not, there's a major intersection by our house, and it's very confusing, because it's a as a green turn arrow, but on top of the little light stand, there's a red stop light, and my neighbor got a \$350 ticket because she turned right without stopping. And so, I don't know what I would do, because I, every time I come up on it, there's a green turn arrow with a red sign or red light. And so, I would probably stop, but it's not very intuitive. So anyway, yeah, that's where that would be my major concern.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 03:39**

Do you ever talk to inanimate objects?

**Dave Anderson 03:43**

I talk to trees all the time. [K: You talk to trees?] Yeah, I love trees, and I find them fascinating, particularly kind of old, big oak trees and things. We have lots of white oak here, and I often sit down under their limbs and I ask questions, like, if you could tell me a story about, you know, the old times, as long as it's lived, what kind of story would you tell me? And so, I kind of imagine where we are, and kind of think about the tree's history and where it's at. And so, yeah, I I like trees. So anyway, it's good kind of therapy and kind of a spiritual practice idea.

**Kassie Ripsam 04:23**

I know I actually really like trees too. I haven't, you know, tried talking to one, but I, I don't necessarily think of them as inanimate. Um, but oak trees are my, are my favorites. Live Oaks are the ones that are around other, are around our area, and they're beautiful. They're large and have twisty branches.

**Dave Anderson 04:49**

Sure, you gotta try to talk to one. See what it says to you.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 04:55**

They're also kind of really perfect to hang tire swings from.

**Dave Anderson** 04:57

Oh yeah. There you go. There you. Trees. That's like a good tire swing,

**Speaker 1** 05:02

Yeah, we had one that had branches extended right over our house. Um, that tree is the reason I like live oak trees, is because one of us, one of the branches, I don't know if it was a branch, is it from the same tree or a branch from a different tree fell. Would have landed on our house, if the tree hadn't been right above it.

**Dave Anderson** 05:27

Wow.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 05:29

And then so another random question, what is the weirdest dream you've ever had?

**Dave Anderson** 05:39

It's a real difficult question, because I don't remember dreams very well. I know a lot of people do, and, but I don't remember much about my dreams. I probably would say, to answer your question, is the dream I had when I jumped out of an airplane without a parachute? [Oh, yeah.] So anyway, I'm still, I'm still falling, and I don't know what that means. Obviously, there are lots of, you know, there are some ways of kind of looking at dreams and how they meet, what they mean in one's life. But anyway, that's probably the weirdest dream is jumping out of an airplane without a parachute.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 06:16

Although I do think that 90% of my dreams are just nonsense. So, I've had some really, really strange ones, and I don't want to go into it.

**Kassie Ripsam** 06:25

right now, but they're they are mine. Mine are a little bit less strange than hers, but definitely in their own way, kind of strange like but that would take forever to talk about.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 06:40

So we want to ask you a few questions about your bio. You served in the Air Force for 30 years. I myself am considering going in that direction. What made you want to join the Air Force? How has it influenced your ministry?

**Dave Anderson** 06:57

Well, I grew up in Montana, and I wanted to attend the Air Force Academy in Colorado, one of the service academies. And I wanted the experience of the education and the whole person concept of, you know, the opportunities it unveiled regarding leadership and scholarship, academics, and the experiences of flying, soaring, jumping out of airplanes. So, I never joined the Air Force to make a career out of it. It was just one opportunity and one experience led to another, and I woke up one morning and I'd served 30 years. And, to answer the question, how has it influenced my life and

ministry, absolutely significant. It's part of who I am. I had wonderful experiences, wonderful people that I met along the way. I had a sense of call. I felt that there were a couple of times where I was going to get out, and a sense that God was calling me to stay in the service and to continue to serve in that way. So, yeah, it's helped my ministry a lot. I've met a lot of church people over the years. Learned foreign language or foreign languages in the service. I learned, spent most of my, you know, academic degrees were in the service. The service helped pay for them. So, it gave me wonderful experiences, wonderful opportunity of ministry around the world. Met wonderful people, and as I said, it's a large part of who I am.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 08:33**

You earned Sweden's Royal Order, the Polar Star and the Santos Dumont Merit Award from Brazil. How did you gain these awards?

**Dave Anderson 08:41**

Well, again, it was in the Air Force. I was in Sweden at three different times, two to three times. I was a defense and Air Force attaché. And the last time was from 2002 to 2000, no 2001 to 2004, and I was the defense and air energy as well as the Chief of Air Force for our defense cooperation. And so, I did a lot of work between the United States military and the Swedish Defense Department. A lot of cooperation, defense cooperation. And this award was, is given to people who, have, you know, demonstrated, you know, helping Sweden with, in the US Air Force, and helping solidify cooperation between the two air forces and defense ministries, as far as

**Kassie Ripsam 09:39**

The fancy name right?

**Dave Anderson 09:40**

What's that?

**Kassie Ripsam 09:42**

That's the one with the fancy sounding name, right?

**Dave Anderson 09:44**

Yeah, it's shared by, the king provides that. So I was able to meet the King.

**Kassie Ripsam 09:49**

Oh, that's why it's called that. Okay,

**Dave Anderson 09:51**

then the Santos Dumont award is Brazilian, and I was the Chief of Air Force Foreign Liaison at the Pentagon. So, I did a lot of work with Air Force attaches around the world, and I did some work with the Brazilians and the Air Force with them, and it recognizes achievement in aerospace cooperation and contribution to Brazilian Air Force aeronautics.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 10:20**

Nice.

**Kassie Ripsam 10:23**

Yeah, honestly, with all those fancy sounding but those fancy titles and fancy sounding names, did you ever get, like, embarrassed about that, or is that just, you know, something in the back that exists?

**Dave Anderson 10:36**

Well, you two are the only ones have ever asked me what those were. [laughter] So I, you know, obviously people I know, knew about them. But as far as people asking about them, you know, this, this is the first opportunity I've had to share what those were really outside of the circles in which I engaged. So, yeah, I had wonderful opportunities. It's not that I was anyone special. I just did my job, did the best I could to help cooperation between the countries, and that was kind of one of the benefits that I received.

**Kassie Ripsam 11:19**

So you travel a lot, or you have traveled a lot, and you love to go camping both, both, which two things that that we love to do as well. So what is your favorite place to go camping?

**Dave Anderson 11:33**

Wherever I'm at! It's, you know, I love camping. I love being at different places. But if you force me to choose camping locations, the best places. I'd have to choose either between Scandinavia, Norway and Sweden or Scotland. And if you forced me to choose between those, it would probably be Scotland, just because of the circumstances at the time I went, etc. It rained every day. We never wore anything less than a heavy sweater, but it was just really delightful, really delightful the weather, the I mean, the people, the countryside, locations of the camping, just a wonderful experience.

**Kassie Ripsam 12:15**

Scotland is beautiful. Yeah, I've never been but, but I've that's one of the, like, top 10 destinations for me to go, for me to go and see, because, like, the beautiful landscape and some of the and many of the ruins that are two things that I'm very interested in.

**Dave Anderson 12:33**

Well, I'd really encourage you to do it. It's really wonderful. It's beautiful. Just make sure you bring a sweater and a stocking cap and layer up and recognize you get attacked by midges, these little insects that are get into everything, and they kind of bite you, nip you, but it's still fun.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 12:50**

Yeah, we got mosquitoes here, so we're no we are no stranger to biting insects.

**Kassie Ripsam 12:58**

So like I said, we love to go camping, and we have a lot of funny stories like raccoons stealing marshmallows, and more raccoons, lots of raccoons, because one time we saw a bobcat up in the trees. So do you have any interesting or funny stories from going camping?

**Dave Anderson 13:15**

Well, I have a bear story, but that's beside the point, but I, probably the most interesting, or I guess, exciting one, was my encounter with a chipmunk. Yeah, chipmunk. We were encounter. We were camping near Mount Hood in Oregon, and there were chipmunks everywhere. I got up one early morning to start the fire for our start to grill for breakfast. And it's one of those where you kind of turn the knob and the lighter clicks and then the lights. Well, I did that, and all of a sudden I heard a skirmish, and there was a chipmunk looking up at the grill through me, we're eyeball to eyeball about that far away, maybe about six inches. It scared the dickens out of me, and it scared the chipmunk, because evidently, he'd gone there in the morning to get some scraps of food, and it was lit with a little fire going so his little tail, his little body, was probably pretty warm. But anyway, I opened up the grill really quick. The chipmunks jumped out, ran up to the tree, and anyway, I went face to face with a chipmunk, and we scared both of us, and he's probably telling people or his chipmunks and his podcast about that experience with the human. But anyway, it's good story.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 14:38**

The you graduated from four universities and hold several degrees, how do you feel your many degrees have prepared you for your positions in the church?

**Dave Anderson 14:51**

Well, it's a good question. I suppose it's not necessarily the four degrees. It's the experiences that I gained with the four degrees. You know the experience I lived overseas and studied abroad. Wonderful experience I had in Sweden and studying with other young adults, studying foreign affairs, political science, international affairs. The experience of knowing the importance of cooperation between cultures and people's importance of language, studying for my master's degree in International Public Policy, learning the importance of, as I said, international cooperation. The importance of peace is covered and accomplished in the international community. My study in Christian ministry, importance of preaching and teaching, importance of theology and spiritual formation, all very important part of the experiences that I gained were important to church employment, and living on my life as a human being. So, it's not necessarily the degrees, as much as is the experience of having the encounters with other students.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 16:15**

You have any like stories from that? From like experiences?

**Dave Anderson 16:19**

Well, I do. I have a story when I was in Sweden, studying Peace and War Conflict, and having me being in the military, being in a military pilot, and my instructors were peace activists, and how we engaged together and realized, you know, good discussion in class. And one of the students was also a political refugee from Poland, and fled Poland during the Cold War, and was very opposed to, you know, the Russian occupation of, basically, of the Warsaw Pact, and you know, his engagement in the process was all very important to helping us understand peace and war and the conflict of community, and the conflicts that humanity has engaged in over the years. So yeah, good discussion, various

opinions and thoughts, but yeah, I have wonderful experiences and stories, but too, too long and too, too many for this engagement. But yeah, wonderful, yes.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 17:33**

So, what did you most enjoy about working for the church?

**Dave Anderson 17:37**

The people.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 17:39**

The people.

**Dave Anderson 17:40**

And the best things that they gave to their communities, but how they blessed me? I traveled from, you know, all over the world, Japan to Korea to Africa to Siberia, all the places in Europe, the UK, Canada, never made it to South America, unfortunately, but all the people I met blessed me. Their willingness to be disciples, their love of Christ, their desire for community and just wonderful experience, to encounter all the different food, because I enjoy eating, and cultures and all, just a wonderful experience. People were ...

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 18:21**

I get the feeling you're a people person.

**Dave Anderson 18:25**

Well, I try to be, I hope I am, but, yeah, I love people, and I like being around people.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 18:31**

We have traveled all over America, and I can relate to the sentiment of the people being the the most wonderful thing, because we have engaged in youth ministries all over the place, and we meet, we meet people there. So, we're traveling. We find churches. We're like, there's a friendly face that I know this. I've been to SPEC and I've been to Texas, and I've been to World Conference.

**Kassie Ripsam 19:01**

... to World Conference.

**Dave Anderson 19:03**

Yeah. Oh, wonderful. That's encouraging to keep doing that travel as much as you can. You gain a lot of experiences, a lot of perspective, a lot of differences of opinion and thoughts. And it's very enlightening to have that engagement.

**Kassie Ripsam 19:16**

Yeah. So, you served as a Director of Human Resources for the church. What were some of the challenges you faced?

**Dave Anderson 19:27**

Well, I first of all, I want to say I had a wonderful we had a wonderful team in our office, wonderful boss, and just it was a wonderful four-year experience, but it was also challenging and demanding. And I would say it was during a time of financial crisis for the church and so downsizing and trying to figure out how to, you know, downsize members of our community and family, and how to ensure that those who remained had sufficient benefits and privileges and opportunities for things like health care and retirement and all of the issues that human resources deals with, how to hire people to ensure that the church and the mission continued even in the midst of downsizing. So, it was a challenging time for me, but I was blessed by people and the experiences I had.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 20:27**

So like, you said, financial crisis. Do you know that, like, the cause of said financial crisis or like, was it just kind of ... it just happened?

**Dave Anderson 20:42**

Well, I think just lots of reasons. You know, we're people. We're a church that receives the blessings of people's generosity, and people are very generous, but the donor base gets smaller and smaller. And, you know, just it's not something peculiar to our church. It was. It's all of Christianity. Churches in the US and other places in Europe, for example, are facing the same shrinking budget. So, it's a, it was an issue to do with the budget. I wouldn't say that. I couldn't blame it on any one cause other than the just the budget we needed to get smaller and smaller, and the donor base was getting smaller and smaller. People are very generous in our church, and we're very appreciative of that.

**Kassie Ripsam 21:36**

So, now I guess it's time to get into business.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 21:40**

So, we know that the priesthood offices of priest and high priest are very different, but how exactly are they different?

**Dave Anderson 21:52**

Well, I guess just very just simply stated, the high priest is a, is someone who's a minister of vision. They're to model servant ministry and leadership and help develop leaders in the world, worldwide church, the priest is a very important priesthood call. They are ministers of presence who model Jesus in households and families and congregations. So, the priest deals with the congregation, families and communities and households, dealing being a ministry of presence, of being a pastor, of sharing the modeling aspects of Jesus as friend, the high priest is someone who helps model servant leadership by helping develop leaders in the worldwide context, in the Mission Center, in the fields of the church or in the worldwide church, so they're able to help develop, encourage, facilitate, connect people together in building bridges within larger context than the than the priest does. So very significant differences in ministry, both very, very important.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 23:18**

So, so what? Cassie,



**Kassie Ripsam 23:21**

I'm trying to remember who the I'm trying to remember the priests in our congregation.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 23:26**

Oh, I can never remember.

**Kassie Ripsam 23:28**

And the high priest. Do you know the high priest?

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 23:31**

I can never remember who anybody is.

**Dave Anderson 23:35**

Well, sometimes that's the case. What's important is that the you know, they're offering the ministry they're called to and providing and sharing with the people of the community about those being ministers of presence or ministers of vision. So

**Kassie Ripsam 23:52**

Yeah, I can remember who the pastor is.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 24:01**

Go ahead. Cassie, Okay, as a High Priest, what form of ministry do you particularly enjoy?

**Dave Anderson 24:10**

I think it's evolved over some time. I think the most thing that really gives me joy is to help people find and grow their giftedness. In other words, help people and find out what really gives them joy and passion and excitement, whether it's music or teaching or whether it's just being with people and helping them find that and helping them grow that giftedness in the context of the church and in their community, that's what really gives me a joy and a particular excitement in my life, I'm beginning to feel the importance of fostering wholeness and spiritual growth, so helping people find a presence, finding God's presence in their lives, and then helping encourage them to grow and to open themselves up to that loving presence.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 25:18**

I love both of those examples you gave, see, like nurturing people basically.

**Dave Anderson 25:23**

Yeah. I mean, basically helping them live out their lives and grow their giftedness. That's kind of what gives me joy is to help that process. Because everyone's gifted, everyone has wonderful gifts to give, and just need to find what those are and what their passion is like this passion is for you. You enjoy this, and Blake's doing that, he's helping you. So wonderful. Thank you for doing what you're doing.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 25:48**

Praise music is one of the, one of the ones that I particularly love finding and doing. Praise music.

**Dave Anderson 25:59**

What kind of what kind of music?

**Kassie Ripsam 26:00**

Yeah. Praise music. Praise, praise music. Yeah,

**Dave Anderson 26:03**

Good. Well, wonderful. Well, I encourage you to to do that and to engage in it and to bless the community.

**Kassie Ripsam 26:12**

Yeah, um, you also served as a Mission Center president. Which mission centers or Mission Center did you preside over?

**Dave Anderson 26:22**

Well, I started out being, I retired from the Air Force, and then I was president and Mission Center/Financial officer for the Chesapeake Bay, Mission Center, which covered Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, a little bit of West Virginia. And then I went to Europe. I was Mission Center president for Western Europe, which covered many of the countries in Europe. And then I became the Mission Center president for Eastern Europe, which was primarily Ukraine and Russia. And then I served as a apostolic assistant pain helped with ministry in the United Kingdom. [MA: You've been all over the place.] Yeah. Really had wonderful opportunities, wonderful stories, wonderful people I met, wonderful food,

**Kassie Ripsam 27:11**

With all this moving around, remind me, where were you born and where did you grow up. I

**Dave Anderson 27:15**

grew up in Cut Bank, Montana. It's a little town just about 20 miles south of the Canadian border, about 3500 people time on a farm, rural community, and our closest priesthood members to the church were 120 miles away. And we're a little congregation, a little mission there, little group of saints. So had wonderful, wonderful counselors and youth camps and reunions. We didn't have SPEC back then, but I had wonderful experiences at youth camps and reunions and wonderful people that blessed me.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 27:55**

Very far north, very cold, very different from where we are now. Yeah. So what was your favorite part of being a Mission Center president?

**Dave Anderson 28:06**

Again, the people met wonderful people from all over, you know, could speak to them in many because they were, you know, spoke Russian speakers, native Russian speakers. But we communicated through the Spirit. We had translators. We had a kinship, a acknowledgment that we were sisters and

brothers in Christ. I enjoyed working with pastors and helping encourage them to become pastors. I was kind of a pastor's pastor, so I helped with that and enjoyed helping them find fruitfulness in their work, and could give them encouragement. I enjoyed the travel and seeing different places and people.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 28:51**

Do you speak different languages?

**Dave Anderson 28:53**

Well, I was taught and learned Swedish use Swedish in Sweden. Went through language school. I learned Spanish at the Academy, and then learned French in Rome, Italy for year and a half. But if you ask me, if I speak fluently, I speak fluently in English, I hope. Swedish some and French and Spanish, I've kind of lost a little bit of, quite a bit of it, but yes, I have been, had exposure to various foreign languages.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 29:29**

Yes, as a homeschooler for four languages, Duolingo is probably my best friend right now.

**Dave Anderson 29:36**

Yeah, yeah. Well, it's always good to go with, you know, travel too and get an experience. Oh yeah, wonderful.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 29:45**

So you're also the outgoing president of the High Priest Quorum. What do you hope retirement holds for you?

**Dave Anderson 29:51**

Well, I'm actually retired now. I retired five years ago. So, question I've kind of, let me rethink that, what do I hope once I leave this office? I guess I'm reminded of the statement. One of my favorite statements I've heard recently is, 'you can't tell me what to do. You're not my grandchild.' I love that. I kind of look forward to just spending time with my teenage grandkids, helping them and their lives and help them flourish. My youngest grandchild, at the moment, is about two years old, so I enjoy spending time with her. So that's what I hope, to spend more time with family and grandkids. But also, I teach at the seminary. I'm a facilitator with the spiritual formation companion program, and I teach Christian theology, so I have to do more of that, so I hope to kind of explore where my differentness lies in different ways.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 29:56**

So, what were some of your responsibilities in this role?

**Dave Anderson 30:09**

Well, my primary responsibility was to be a mentor and to help provide ministry and support to the high priests within the quorum. So, I would travel and do that. One of my major responsibilities was to kind of chair and be president of the High Priest Quorum during World Conference, when we met in session as a quorum and kind of lead us through the various businesses of the church. I also was a member of

the, as the President of High Priest Quorum, a member of the World Church Leadership Council, and so I would go to Independence for a couple of times a year, or meet in on Zoom and serve on that council and support of the First Presidency and other members of the quorums and councils to provide, you know, guide the church in its ministry and administration.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 32:02**

So like you were kind of, kind of like the guidance in this.

**Dave Anderson 32:09**

Yeah, I didn't have any really administrative authority as a Mission Center, as a president High Priest Quorum. It was more of just mentor and help guide and teach what a high priest did, and kind of help them provide ministry in the context in which they served. So, it was more of a guide, I guess, or counselor or but I didn't have any administrative authority as the President of the High Priest Quorum, more of a mentor teacher.

**Kassie Ripsam 32:38**

What is something you are not going to miss about being the President of the high priest. I mean,

**Dave Anderson 32:47**

That's a good question. I enjoyed every part of the role, but I think I acknowledge it's time for me to do something different. It's, you know, you know, kind of that when that happens, it's time for others to offer their talents and service and ministries of the church. So I'm not going to miss anything, really, because it's time for me to go.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 33:10**

It goes with enjoying your job, though.

**Dave Anderson 33:12**

So. Right? And I'm going to miss being with the people, and I'm going to miss engaging, but I'm going to be with people in other ways. So, it's just a, you know, life is full of transitions and opportunities and new beginnings and ends and things. And I think you all both know that, that you just kind of stay flexible and look for the next opportunity to do ministry and service and to be with the people.

**Kassie Ripsam 33:37**

Yeah, as for what his retirement looks like, Salem,

**Dave Anderson 33:41**

yeah, travel and have a little traveling cabin. I call it the little RV, and spend a lot of time with, you know, as much as I can with grandkids. And

**Kassie Ripsam 33:51**

That sounds lovely.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 33:53**

Never thought of calling it, never thought of calling it, that a traveling cabin,

**Dave Anderson 33:58**

Yeah. I call it my roving cabin. We call it, yeah, anyway, we like it.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 34:03**

Did you feel that this role was perfect for you when you first moved into it?

**Dave Anderson 34:08**

I wouldn't call it kind of like perfect. I would call it I was I sensed a call to share ministry that way.

**Kassie Ripsam 34:18**

But yeah, like, Were you scared? Were you hesitant? Do you feel? Did you feel like doubtful or unworthy, but, or were you confident in where you were?

**Dave Anderson 34:28**

Well, I, you know, I'm, I'm one who is always somewhat, you know, I wonder. I guess I was confident in some ways and hesitant in other ways. You know, can I do this job? Well, can I provide the ministry that people need? Are there ways I can improve on my ministry? So I asked all of those important questions. I do kind of, I guess, doubted, but I was also sense to confidence that that's where I was called at that moment. At that time,

**Kassie Ripsam 35:01**

the very healthy kind of hesitancy, a very diplomatic answer,

**Dave Anderson 35:07**

I think that we're all that way. Are we not? Didn't you feel that way too? [Yeah, yeah.] And I think, I think that's healthy.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 35:20**

You're right here. Yes, I am.

**Kassie Ripsam 35:22**

What have you learned about yourself and your time as president of the high priest quorum?

**Dave Anderson 35:29**

Well, I could say I learned myself that I'm a hot mess. I guess I was reminded many times during my experience, just to relax and be myself in the role, and not try to be someone else in the role, I was reminded to enjoy the moment of every moment, every breath, every experience, reminded to be attentive to how God was in my life, how I was blessed by others, and then constantly reminded that not only to relax and be myself, enjoy the moment, be attentive to God in my life, but just do the best I

could with what I had to work with, and that was sufficient. So that was what I learned constantly and reminded as I served in that capacity, as well as in other capacities too.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 36:29**

Do you have any advice for the new president of high preschool?

**Dave Anderson 36:37**

Well, as you may know, Jenn Killpack has been identified as the new president and my successor, if approved by the World Conference, and she's been one of my counselors during my service, and she's done a great job, and I know she'll do a great job. So, to answer the question, I really don't have advice for her, because I know she'll do a good job, but I guess if I was to say anything, it would be what I learned about myself, importance of relaxing, being attentive to God's presence. Be yourself, enjoy the moment and do the best with what you have to work with in the circumstances of her life, and that is sufficient. [Yeah]

**Kassie Ripsam 37:22**

So, if she's listening. He totally believes in you. You're gonna do great!

**Dave Anderson 37:27**

Yep. She'll be great. And I'm always here for I'm I am. I think one of the important parts of leadership and discipleship is to be engaged in the lives of others and to be committed to their successes as disciples.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam 37:46**

So what advice would you give a young person hoping to pursue a life of ministry within the church?

**Dave Anderson 37:52**

It's a really good question. Can I rethink that our I'd like to kind of look at it differently. The question differently, what advice would I give to any of your listeners and to young people out there in their discipleship? It's the same thing that I remind myself and Jenn, be attentive to God in your life. Nurture that importance to relax and breathe deeply. Be yourself, enjoy the moment every breath, and do the best you can. But I'd add some couple other things that I would add to all your readers and to everyone that I come across this, and I try to tell myself this is, just soak it up, whether whatever circumstances you are, wherever you find yourself, just soak up all of the rich promises that you have, all of the education, all the experiences. Take every door you can be curious and be exploratory. Develop relationships. So be a sponge is one, and the other one is be a flower and blossom wherever you're planning. So, life circumstances are not always easy. You end up in places that you didn't plan, but what you do is you just be a flower and you blossom wherever you're at. So, if you're interviewers on podcast, just blossom where you are and do the best you can and be attentive to God's Spirit in your life. And the other thing is, not only be a sponge and be a flower, and blossom is when, not if, but when you're given the dull end of a stick. Kind of the kind of given lemonade lemons you make lemonade. Kind of experience when you have the given the dull end of a stick, you just sharpen it. Do the best with what you have. So just know be happy, be gracious and be helpful to all those around you. Yeah.

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 40:00

Kind of a go with the flow kind of answer

**Dave Anderson** 40:02

Go with the flow, but also be above the flow. You move. You don't go against the flow, but you help others in their flow. Yeah, yeah. Good. Good synopsis.

**Kassie Ripsam** 40:16

So, Okay, last question, if you could have coffee or tea, whichever you prefer, with anyone alive or dead. Who would it be?

**Dave Anderson** 40:27

Well, it's a good question. It would be coffee for me. I like coffee. And if my wife ever listens to this, I would say the best person I have coffee with is my wife early in the morning, when we get up before the day starts. But I know that's not the purpose of the question. If it was in Christian history, I'd love to talk to Apostle Paul. You know, he was a writer, traveler, kind of a pastor on the fly, theologian. I'd love to sit down and have coffee with him. If it's American history, I'd love to have coffee with Meriwether Lewis of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition. Yeah. Love to, yeah, he's, you know, really got a lot of stories about him, which we don't have time to go into. But I'd love to have coffee with Meriwether Lewis, if he was the Community of Christ, I'd love to have coffee with Marietta Walker. She was known, or known as the kind of the mother of Graceland University. She had kind of a tough life, but she was a woman committed to higher education and community service, and she was a trailblazer in her day. So, I'd like to just have coffee with Marietta Walker, and if it was my family history, I'd like to go have coffee with my great grandma, Seymour, when I was at your age, a teenager, she was 90. I was when I was your age, she was 90 some, and I never really sat down to have coffee with her. I sat with her at church. We sang songs. I was kind of enjoyed her presence, but I really never sat down and talked about her dreams, and she was lived on the Great Plains of Montana, lost her husband, raised three kids out there on the prairie, on a little farm. So, I'd really like to sit down to my with my great grandma, Seymour, all four foot 11 of her.

**Kassie Ripsam** 42:18

I think that's all we have today. So thank you for being here for being here, and ...

**Dave Anderson** 42:23

Thank you!

**Mary Anne Bennett-Ripsam** 42:25

Our pleasure.

**Dave Anderson** 42:27

I hope this conversation is useful to you and your readers. I'm very thankful and have immense gratitude for my experiences in the church and all the people that blessed me over the years, from teenagers to older adults, to ministers,

**Kassie Ripsam** 42:42

Okay. Thank you, listeners for listening in and don't forget to put on your full armor of God and Walk in peace.

**David Anderson** 42:50

Amen.