

Jon Ross Kimo Esplin (Kimo)

I have always gone by my middle name 'Kimo' - which is a common name in Hawaii, where I was born. The little north shore Oahu town of Laie celebrated when Bishop Ross Esplin finally got a boy after 7 daughters. Dad was an English literature professor who taught at The Church College of Hawaii and then later at BYU in Provo - where I spent most of my growing up years.

Soon after my mission to Kobe, Japan - I was involved in two separate auto accidents that took the life of my parents. At the encouragement of my sisters, I went on a semester abroad to Jerusalem the following semester - where I met my wife Kaye. To finance my degree in Accounting at BYU I taught full time Seminary - 5 classes of seniors a day for 4 years. After graduating from BYU we moved to Chicago where we lived for 7 years working in Investment Banking, with a break to get an MBA from Northwestern University. After 7 years in Chicago, I returned to Salt Lake to work for one of my clients - Jon Huntsman, at Huntsman Corporation. We enjoyed a brief assignment living in Brussels, Belgium.

Kaye and I have 8 children - 4 boys and then 4 girls, and have been blessed to raise them in the Willow Creek 1st and 7th wards. There is nothing more important in our lives than family and the church. It seems we mark time by moving from one family tradition to the next and treasure the time we have together.

We were surprised (to say the least) to be called as Stake President. There are so many that would have been fantastic - we are humbled to the bone, and so grateful for the kindness of the Stake members. As I mentioned in my Stake Conference remarks, while I didn't have a premonition of a call, the names of Kevin Ludlow and Joe Staples came to me quickly and clearly when asked by Elder Grow for the names of my counselors. I took that as an assurance that in spite of my inadequacies, our Heavenly Father would bless us.