

Book Introduction

Sister Wade,

Compiling this book, *Memories and Miracles*, has been a profound blessing for all of us. As we gathered these stories over the past few months, we found ourselves reliving moments that continue to strengthen us today.

Some might ask why we look so far into the past. Our answer is simple: The past shaped who we are. Fifty years ago, we were different people when we first walked into the Haaga chapel in Helsinki. We were young, eager, and perhaps a bit overwhelmed.

Thank you for being such a vital part of our lives. You have a beautiful family, and we have seen how your lifelong devotion to them has flourished.

We hope this book conveys the deep love we hold for you. We cherish the time we spent with you and President Wade in Finland, and we treasure the friendship we've shared over the last five decades.

Our lives were all redirected by a single moment. For you, it was 53 years ago, meeting with President Harold B. Lee to receive your call. You couldn't have known then that your life would soon be filled with 300 young missionaries—or that you would fall so deeply in love with the people of Finland. We, too, received our calls from a prophet. They were unexpected, they were life-changing, and like you, we left our hearts in that beautiful land.

As we read the stories submitted for this book, many of us realized something for the first time. So many missionaries wrote about "planting seeds."

When we were 19, many of us expected a specific journey: knocking on a door, teaching a family, and walking into the waters of a Finnish river for a baptism. But for most of us, that wasn't the story.

We've learned that Heavenly Father needed us for specific chapters of a much longer story:

- **The Knockers:** Some were called simply to knock on a door so it could be opened.
- **The Teachers:** Others were there to give that vital First Discussion.
- **The Prayerful:** Some were there just to offer a prayer or a kind word.
- **The Harvesters:** And some were there for the baptism itself—but they may have never seen the door where the journey began.

Back then, we were just kids trying our best. Now, at 70, we finally see the full picture: We were all needed. Each role was essential. And you, Sister Wade, were needed to lead us, love us, and do all the things only you could do.

We are still learning how Heavenly Father works, and we are still discovering how He works through each of us. He needs everyone.

Please enjoy *Memories and Miracles*. It is a gift from our hearts to yours—the best of what we have to give. Glory to God in the Highest. We worked together, we witnessed miracles together, and we are so eternally grateful that you were chosen to walk that path with us.

We love you, Sister Wade

Your Missionaries