Personal information about Robert Newton:

Robert and his wife, Priscilla, grew up together in Napa, California and have been married since 1971. They have four children and thirteen grandchildren.

A 1977 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Robert served as an evangelistic missionary to the Kankanaey people in the Philippines from 1977-83. He and his family lived in a remote mountain area of northern Luzon, the largest island in the Philippine archipelago. The ministry involved planting new congregations and outstations along with training men to serve as pastors, elders, and evangelists.

The Newtons returned to the States in July of 1983 in order for Robert to pursue graduate studies at the School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. While there, he assisted the Pacific Southwest District in developing a cross-cultural leadership training program. He completed his doctorate in education in 1993 at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL.

Robert served as professor of world missions at Concordia Theological Seminary from 1985 until 1998. For the 1996-97 academic year he was on sabbatical with his family serving the Gutnius Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea under the Board for Mission Services. In 1998 he accepted a call as senior pastor to First Immanuel Lutheran Church, an urban, multi-cultural congregation in San Jose, CA and continued in that ministry until being elected president of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in 2003.

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