

voos I received the evidence that satisfied me that this was the time when I should be called on to accept this responsibility.

So far as I am concerned I would have preferred that it should come later. The first feeling I had was one of repulsion. I did not want to accept the responsibility, because it seemed to me that many of the precious things of youth would have to be given up. I thought I could serve just as well possibly as a seventy as I could in this connection, but as I thought of it there came the increased conviction that it was the will of God that I accept now.

I am willing to accept this responsibility. I recognize that the call to the priesthood is the biggest call that can come to me. I said years ago that all I had and all I hoped to be was at the service of God and of this church. I could make no further consecration than that. I have given all that I have to give. If you wish and if God wishes that this I have given and that which I want to give shall be used here, I am glad it shall be so done.

#### E. J. GLEAZER

In a marvelous way I have been made to understand that from my cradle practically to the present time the Almighty has been directing my life. Through the leadings of his Spirit I came in contact with this marvelous work and a wonder, the only representative of my family at that particular time. At the age of twenty-one I was called upon to devote my entire time to the missionary work. I had a clear evidence from God at that particular time that it was his call and not a call from man. I had been just recently married and I weighed the matter pro and con. I decided that there was but one course to pursue, and that was to heed the voice of Jehovah. The Lord promised me at that time that he would be with me and bless me. I realized my inability to do the work that I was requested to do, and I stand before you to-day to say that God Almighty blessed me and assisted me in that work. When called to the office of seventy I also counted the cost, but that same Spirit which had been with me in sunshine and under the clouds was still with me and I decided to go forward.

When this call came I cannot say that it was a great surprise to me. I was surprised that it came so soon. I sense keenly my youth and my lack of preparation to carry on the momentous tasks that are before me. I feel to-day that as I have been touched by his Spirit I am willing to go forward at the request of this people. All I ask is that I might have your prayers that I may be able to do this work,

that I may be able to consecrate myself entirely to the task that is before me.

### R. S. BUDD

When I was only a lad three years of age Brother R. T. Walters, now occupying as a seventy, was doing missionary work in our locality, staying with my parents. I remember him stating to my parents that he expected some day I would take up missionary work and become a minister for Christ. Small as I was, that made an impression upon my mind, and all through my boyhood days I had a desire to be a minister for Christ. Many times I have in my play gathered my younger brothers and sisters about me, and some of the older ones, and have stood before them and asked them to listen as I preached to them.

When I was eight years of age, the day that I became eight years of age, I was baptized into the church by Brother F. C. Keck, now deceased. In the afternoon, at a prayer service after my confirmation, I prayed earnestly to God that he might give me a testimony of this great work, and he did. He gave me the testimony that the work was true and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. That testimony has never left me to this day. The morning after my baptism on Sunday my father sent me early in the morning just at the break of day that I might bring the horses from the pasture; we were living on the farm. And as I passed along an old stone wall near a great large stone where I had played many times before with my brothers and sisters, the Spirit of God rested upon me and I knelt in my boyish way and poured out my soul to God and there I promised my God that if he would bless me and protect me that when I grew to be a man I would go forth into the world and represent his cause. God has always been true to me. It is true I have had my trials and sometimes I have failed in my promises to him, but he has always remained with me.

While only a young man I was ordained to the office of priest and occupied as priest of the branch in my home town. In the month of July in the year 1913 Brother Amos T. Higdon, who was laboring in the Clinton District as a missionary, invited me to go with him and hold a meeting in Butler, Missouri. I did. Brother Higdon, a very humble man at that time and I know him to be the same yet, gave me some very timely counsel, and every morning we would take a walk to a cornfield and there we would offer prayer. In July, I believe it was the twenty-first day of July, without request from me, Brother John W. Rushton, then missionary in charge in that part of the world, sent me a letter giving to