

me to him and saying, "Albert, if you ever have to choose between me and the Church, choose the Church." Thankfully, I never had to make such a choice. As my own sons reached that same age, I gave them the same charge.

I promised President Hinckley on Thursday afternoon, and now tonight I would like to do so again to the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, and these other Brethren that I desire to dedicate my all and serve to whatever extent I am asked.

Importance of priesthood ordinances

Four years ago I began service in the Mesa Arizona Temple as a sealer. During these years, I have had an opportunity to

gain a greater appreciation, understanding, and testimony of the exalting ordinances of the priesthood. That service, on the heels of a delightful three-year mission experience in New York City, has taught me the importance of the priesthood and its ordinances and the eternal nature thereof.

I bear you my witness that I know that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ, that this is the Church of Jesus Christ. My current wife, my bride of fifteen months, has promised that with Rosemary, my first wife, pulling for me on the other side of the veil, and with her pulling for me on this side, I will succeed. I know that with the help of the Lord I will succeed. To him I promise to give my all, in the holy name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Elder Lloyd P. George

Prepare to be chosen

On a number of occasions, President Harold B. Lee stated that there is no need for a new organization to take care of the needs of the Saints. All we need to do is to have the priesthood of the Lord go to work.

Brethren of the priesthood, we have a great responsibility. We have a great task. We have all been called. But have we been chosen? If we don't feel that way, we probably have not been chosen. The Lord has been explicit in his direction for us in preparing ourselves. In Revelation he says:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (3:19-20).

That is the direction, my priesthood brethren.

A conversion story

Two of our missionaries knocked on a door one day. It was opened by a man in

his seventies. He said, "No, I don't think I am interested, but let me ask my sister and my mother. They may want to talk to you." He was in his seventies, his sister was in her eighties, and their mother was ninety-nine.

The missionaries taught them, and a baptismal date was set. Mother became so excited and happy that she ended up in the hospital. So another baptismal date was set. Now, this is the important thing. In the testimony meeting after Mother was baptized, she said, "I have been waiting eighty years for this. When I was twenty years old, the missionaries taught me, but they did not invite me to enter the waters of baptism. How happy I am for this day." She had reached her one-hundredth birthday when she was baptized.

I am so humbled and so grateful for the calling that has come to me and for the love and the respect that I feel from all of the chosen Apostles and prophets of our Heavenly Father. I feel a great spirit of brotherhood and love for each of these Brethren seated here on the stand this day. I support and sustain this great prophet and those associated with him and pray humbly that the Lord will direct

me and bless me with those things that are needful and necessary that I might magnify my calling in the priesthood.

May we all have the desire to accomplish this so there will be no one that will

be able to say, as is recorded in Psalms, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul" (142:4). In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Elder Gerald E. Melchin

When you receive a call from the Office of the First Presidency or one of the Counselors in the First Presidency, your whole life rolls over. I can't think of words to express the thoughts that have been in my mind and in my heart since I visited with President Monson on Friday. As I thought about addressing you tonight, I felt so humbled and yet so honored, so privileged to be able to bear my witness of the Savior to the priesthood of the Church throughout the world. What an honor that is.

Expression of gratitude

I owe the Lord so much because he has blessed me so much. I pray that I can sustain the Brethren in the calls that may be given me, that I might perform in a way that I might partially repay the Lord for those choice blessings. He has seen to it that I have had the blessings that are most important in life. I have had a choice companion with whom I've had a special association of love. She has sustained me throughout all of my activities, as I have tried to sustain her. I think right now her mind is as muddled as mine as we try to make the adjustments that will be coming into our lives. I have been blessed with a family of whom I am proud and who are serving the Lord. I don't know what else you can ask of our Father in Heaven that is of so much worth. I know, too, that they will have to make some changes, as we will not be living as close together as we have been, but I know that they will sustain me in the call and will make the adjustments that are necessary.

I think of two missionaries who came to my grandfather in the 1920s in

Kitchener, Ontario. There were no LDS people in the city. They'd been discouraged, and as they passed his door, they heard a song playing that had been played at their farewell. They approached the door to listen, and he saw them. They introduced the gospel to his heart. He joined the Church, and so all of my life I've been blessed to know that the gospel is true and that we have a prophet who guides and directs us.

Prophets' works are of heaven

I think of the words of the Master to the multitude about the prophetic calling of John the Baptist. He said: "What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? . . . A man clothed in soft raiment?" (Matthew 11:7-8). Then he declared that John was a prophet "and more than a prophet," for "all the prophets and the law prophesied until John" (Matthew 11:9, 13).

On another occasion he asked the scribes and Pharisees who had been questioning him, "The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?" (Mark 11:30). Of course, the works of John, as of all prophets, were of heaven.

As I have read the scriptures, I have watched all of the prophets who have affected my life, and I have seen that they have fulfilled the role that the Master described. I have been privileged to have President Benson in my home as one of us. I have knelt with him as we have called, by prophecy, a stake president. I have felt his divine call as he leads and directs this church through the spirit of revelation. And I bear that testimony in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.