

me a district appointment. Immediately after reading the letter I went with Brother Higdon to our accustomed place in the cornfield, to pray, and as he prayed I took the letter from my pocket and laid it down on the ground and placed my knee upon it, and as Brother Higdon prayed the angels of God seemed to hover about us and God said to me, "You shall occupy in the Quorum of Twelve with John W. Rush-ton." That has been in my mind since that time. In the year 1914 I was sent on a mission to British Columbia, Canada. Before I went to Canada I was keeping company with the young lady who is my wife now. We were engaged. I told her my life work would be in the missionary field, for sooner or later I would occupy in the Quorum of Twelve. So this message, my brothers and sisters, is no surprise to me. It is in harmony with the voice of the Spirit of God to me all during my eight years of missionary work.

Three weeks ago, on Wednesday evening the Lord gave to me a manifestation of his Spirit, and when I arose the next morning I told my companion that I would be called into the Quorum of Twelve. I believe I fully comprehend and I believe I keenly sense the burden and responsibility thus thrust upon me, and regardless of the fact that my weakness and inability rise before me as a mighty mountain, after prayerful and careful consideration I am prepared to say to you this morning I am willing to abide your decision and endeavor to acquit myself as a minister for Christ with a keen desire to stand for the right as God gives me to see the right

F. M. McDOWELL

Is it too much to ask your prayers and faith that I might be able to say that which my heart desires to say? I may have to tell a different story than the brethren that have just spoken, but in that story I shall put my whole heart, and before God I shall tell the truth. A few days ago I was approached by a brother who asked me rather abruptly, I thought, "Have you had any special evidence as to your call?" I said, "No; I have had nothing special." There was no chance for conversation and I fear that he may have misunderstood my answer. My answer shall have to be told in a longer story than in the words *yes* or *no*.

My earliest recollections are a praying, sacrificing, and God-fearing mother and a missionary father. I shall never forget the keen satisfaction I had as a boy in unbuckling the straps from my father's satchel and playing horse with that satchel, or playing it was an engine with a row of chairs to constitute the train, and I the engineer. I can see and

feel now just how it felt and just how it looked to see my father coming up over the hill from the town not far distant, carrying his heavy satchels through the snow.

At the early age of fourteen I had to leave home if I went to school at all, and had it not been for a mother who was willing to give all her life that I might have that chance, had it not been for a mother who did not hesitate to go into the field or barn or garden and toil early and late, had it not been for a mother who did not hesitate to give all she had, even food and clothing, I could not have secured this schooling. Many a time as we sat down to a meal, she said, "Children, I am not hungry. You eat. If there is anything left I may eat." We know now that she went without many a time. That mother when I was fourteen years old took me to town and walked the streets of that city until she found a place where I could have a chance to work for my room and board. She tackled the thing that could not be done and did it. Week after week I stayed there. When I went home I would say to Mother, "Read me something. I don't want to go to sleep because the time is so short that I have before I have to go back again to the disagreeable work." Week after week I went back with her blessing and her last dollar in my pocket and her prayer to back me up. For seven years I earned all my board and room in school. I tackled every job imaginable under some of the most disagreeable circumstances, and would never have finished high school had it not been for the prayers of my mother.

On four successive occasions in my life opportunities have opened to me that I did not understand. My prayer has always been that I might be directed, or to use my actual words, my prayer has been that the pathway might be opened up before me that I might move in the right direction. On four successive occasions in life thus far that exact thing has happened. Each of those cases came as distinct surprises. Yet in each instance I moved in with the prayer of faith and with the prayer of my mother ringing in my ears, and in each instance has the assurance of God come to me with all the power it can bring that I did the right thing.

My life is known to many of the young people of this church. I have no apologies to offer, because my conscience is clear. I have done that which I believed best. Long ago I answered the problem of consecration of my all to the service of this church, and when there came the time when a mother's influence was not so far-reaching, I was so fortunate as to find a companion who was willing to sacrifice with me. And in the spirit of the missionary we lived in rooms hardly fit to live in, while I completed that education.

I am as sure as I am that I stand here that every day I spent in school is in accordance to the will of God. If anything can bring assurance, I know that. I am also sure that the power which comes from training can be used for evil and the criminal who is trained can be a worse criminal for his training. However, I am also sure that God placed a talent in our souls, that he expects us to cultivate that talent and train it to the utmost, and finally that he expects us to say, Here am I, Lord, use me. Every bit of talent I have must go into the same crucible as every bit of wealth anyone else has for the good of the cause on earth.

That is all the special evidence I have had. I know that every hour I have spent in study is the will of God. I know that he wants me to use that talent in his service. If it is the will of this church to use it in the position to which I am now called, I shall use it to the best of my ability. I have gone through a crucible in the last two weeks and if you place yourself in my position I am sure you will feel it is true. With my brethren I have spent sleepless hours on the bed tossing about and thinking. Just why a voice could not have spoken to me I do not know. My experience leads me to feel justified in saying that the only thing I can say is that I will move forward and if my experience means anything there will come to me the assurance that my move is right.

I have had the assurance that the time would come when I would leave the college and spend my time in the interests of the young people and in teaching them. God has given me, I believe, without any conceit on my part the ability to teach. There is nothing that I desire to do more than to teach, and there are people in this audience in whose eyes I have seen tears as I have taught in the classroom exactly as I have in the prayer meeting. I want to teach this people. I want to be a teacher, and the first law of teaching is to be humble and to get onto the level of those you would teach. If I can follow the example of the blessed Master and help this people to understand and vision the great mission of this church; if I can have my office accessible and my ear open to the voices of every young person in this church, be they ever so small and untrained, I want that office and ear open. I want every one of them to write me a personal letter about their trials and their problems. May I have your prayers as I move in, not knowing but believing that if I do as I have done before God will bless me.

In 1914 when I went to Worcester my mother was much concerned about that move. She did not want me to go at first, but she afterwards wrote me this, "I have had a per-

sonage visit me in my room. It is his will that you should go on. The time will come when you will occupy in the highest councils of the church." That mother wrote me just this week and said that she was not at all surprised and that the vision to her had been literally fulfilled. That is her testimony. May I have your prayers of faith and confidence as I shall move in and give my best. I thank you.

The chair adjourned the session to 2 p. m.

Announcements were made. The hymn, "Onward, Christian soldiers," was sung; President E. A. Smith pronounced the benediction.

BUSINESS SESSION

Conference reconvened in business at 2 p. m., President F. M. Smith in the chair.

Hymn No. 12 was sung; Elder J. F. Garver offered prayer.

The minutes were approved.

ORDINATIONS

President F. M. Smith suggested that with the excellent spirit prevailing it was wise to proceed with the ordinations provided for.

The hymn, "Consecration," No. 70 in the Conference Song Pamphlet, was sung.

Brethren named were ordained as follows:

Elder F. M. McDowell, counselor to the President of the church; Elder D. T. Williams, apostle in the Quorum of Twelve, by President F. M. Smith and Apostle T. W. Williams; Elders F. Henry Edwards and R. S. Budd, apostles in the Quorum of Twelve, by President E. A. Smith and Apostle J. F. Curtis; Elder J. F. Garver, apostle in the Quorum of Twelve, by Apostle T. W. Williams and President F. M. Smith; Elder E. J. Gleazer, apostle in the Quorum of Twelve, by Apostle J. F. Curtis and President E. A. Smith.

Elders A. R. Manchester, John F. Martin, and A. E. Stone expressed willingness to accept ordina-