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ADD THEM
To The Church
By Jarrette Aycock

A series of suggestions and methods for
getting people to unite with the church.

"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

A Companion Book to
Win Them
Save Some
And
Invite Them

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The Prince of This World
The Crimson Stream
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Tithing: Your Questions Answered

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FOREWORD

In my early evangelistic ministry I was convinced that the best way to conserve the results of my revivals was to get the converts to unite with the church.

Immediately I began to urge this in my meetings, usually starting on the last Monday night and emphasizing it briefly in every service. As a result, many people came into the church.

For a number of years, we averaged from 150 to 200 and sometimes 300 people a year who affiliated themselves with the church at the close of our campaigns.

The largest number to be received in any one meeting was 69. At one time there were more than 100 members in Cleveland First Church who had joined at the close of our revivals.

Some of the pastors with whom we have been associated and who have known our work along this line have urged us to put our methods and ideas in print; hence this book.

In the following pages we have endeavored to set forth the things we did and said, that God used, to help get people to line up with the church.

In each service we tried to say it in a different way, but always driving for the same purpose, to get people into the church.

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1
THE CHURCH

Men speak of the seven wonders of earth and preach on the seven wonders of heaven. But the Church is not among them; it is above them. The Church is the wonder of the universe.

Divine Connection

The Church is the only institution that enjoys the glory of divine origin. Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church."

It is the only institution that has the promise of divine light Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"; and again He said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Church holds the distinction of having divine leadership. Christ said, "When ... the Spirit ... is come, he will guide you into all truth."

Divine Commission

The Church stands above all other organizations in that it has a divine commission -- a mission far superior to that of any other institution.

When Christ was upon earth He healed the sick, trained and taught men's minds, and saved their souls.

On the day of His ascension from the Mount of Olives, He left this commission with His Church: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

In Mark 16:15 He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel."

Divine Promises

The Church has a fourfold, God-given promise held by no other institution on earth.

God gives assurance of divine training: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

God promises divine power, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." and again, "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

God promises His divine presence, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

God promises divine protection, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Organization

The church is an organization. Organization is essential for the greatest progress. This is true in business, politics, peace, and war: "in unity there is strength." Organization is very vital in religion.

You have heard the illustration of how flowers will grow alone in the fields and forests but they will grow stronger and more beautiful in a garden.

Men may live for God anywhere, but they will be better and finer Christians if they grow up in the fellowship of the church.

The highest type of Christian characters in the world have been members of some church. A coal of fire will keep alive and hot much longer on a bed of coals. Separated, it will soon become cold and lifeless.

Indictments

The Church has been unmercifully criticized, and the grand juries of the world have indicted her a thousand times; but in spite of all opposition, she stands today, head and shoulders above all other organizations.

After you have considered all the failures who have stood in her pulpit, all the hypocrites who have occupied her pews, all the filth unholy men have laid at her doors, all the reproach which unscrupulous and unethical men, professing Christianity, have brought upon her, she is still the grandest old ship afloat.

There isn't a lodge, or a brotherhood, or an organization, or a society, or a clique, or a clan in all the world that even compares with the Church in either goodness or beauty.

* * * * *

2

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

It is a privilege and a high honor to be a member of God's great organization. I believe it is the duty of every saved individual to affiliate himself with the church.

Every Christian needs protection against the fiery darts of the wicked, and church membership will greatly aid in this way.

Illustration

In McGuffey's reader there is a lesson on the bundle of sticks tied together that no one could break, but when separated, they broke easily. So it is if we are bound together in spiritual church fellowship, it makes us stronger and helps us stand for God.

Church membership makes Christian living easier. I could cross the continent on foot; but I can save time, energy, and make the journey with much more comfort if I use some modern means of conveyance.

As long as the ducks stay close together on the lake, the bird of prey soaring above cannot catch one. He may drop and strike, but his efforts are in vain. It is when one moves away from the flock that the eagle drops upon it and carries it away.

The Christian who unites with the church and is faithful to all the means of grace has more protection than the Christian who endeavors to live the life alone.

A Larger Field

To be identified with the church is to be identified with the best and highest institution of any community.

Church membership enlarges the field of Christian service. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" was the commandment of Christ. Not many can do that alone, either in person or by proxy. But in the church, no matter how small our gift, we can become missionaries to all the earth.

Uniting with the church is casting your influence on the right side and saying to others, "Let us not line up with the world but with the work God has launched. Most of God's people are church members; let us join with them in pushing the Kingdom."

To belong to a church is to be identified with its fourfold work, without which any Christian becomes weak and anemic.

Your membership identifies you with the church at study in the Sunday school.

Your membership identifies you with the church at worship in the Sunday morning hour.

Your membership identifies you with the church at work in the evening evangelistic service.

Your membership identifies you with the midweek prayer service. If we live for Christ, we need them all.

Woodrow Wilson said, "I admire the church because it creates an atmosphere in which men acquire moral stamina and spiritual strength."

* * * * *

3

THE PASTOR

There are very few places in the local church where the pastor is not the key man. This is especially true in increasing the church membership. The majority of the members in the Church of the Nazarene have been brought in by the pastor.

Receiving Members

When members unite with the church it should always be the pastor who receives them. He is the shepherd of the flock, the one who is to live with them and lead them, and he is the one to whom they should be loyal.

In the years I worked for church members as an evangelist, I never personally received a member into the church. The evangelist should never take in members. It is the pastor's place. I did what I could to line them up and get them ready, but when it came to the actual reception, I left that to him.

A pastor may readily increase his effectiveness in securing members for his church by soliciting the help of others.

Use the Evangelist

I believe it would pay the pastor to take advantage of the influence his evangelist may have during the revival campaign, and co-operate with him in getting people to unite with the church.

This can be done by urging the evangelist to speak of the value of church membership in his preliminary remarks and to urge upon the new converts as well as older Christians, both publicly and privately, that they should have a church home.

Use Members

I have found it helpful to suggest when speaking of the church, "If any of you who are now members know of someone whom you think would be a blessing to this church, speak to that one and get him in touch with the pastor." Often good results and good members have been gained by this suggestion.

Pass Them On

I feel we jeopardize the experience of Christians when they move to another town or city and we urge them to leave their membership with us.

All over the nation I have met folk who were once members of our church but when they changed their residence they did not move their membership. They sent their tithe back for a while, but having no local church home or responsibility, they became discouraged, lost interest, and lost out.

When members move, pastors should urge them to join a church in their new location. If he would send their letters, notifying the pastor of the Church of the Nazarene nearest their destination, hundreds, if not thousands, would be saved to the church and to the Kingdom.

Young People

The pastor is the key man with his young people. I asked a pastor who had a large group of Christian young people why he did not get them to unite with the church.

He replied, "We are not anxious to take in young people. We believe in letting them battle their way through high school and college; then if they stand, we take them in."

I said, "I believe the church should take in the Christian young people and help them fight their way through high school and college." Church membership alone is not salvation, but it is a wonderful arm on which our youth may lean while they fight the battles of life.

Children

Many pastors are missing the mark by not taking the children who are converted into the church. Church history is filled with incidents of boys and girls being converted and living as born-again children should.

Why not take in these boys and girls, individually or in a group, talk to them about salvation, explaining what it means to be a Christian? Tell them about the church and what it means to be a member; then receive them publicly into full fellowship. It will help to hold them during their teen-age years.

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4

THE EVANGELIST

One of the best times to interest people in church membership is during a revival. New people are coming to the services, folk are getting saved, and the tactful evangelist can do a great work in helping the pastor line them up for the church.

A revival campaign should not only be a time for winning souls, but a time for conserving the results by gathering them into the church.

During the last week of the campaign, if the evangelist will take a few minutes in each service to speak of the advantages, the need, and the duty of every Christian having a church home, it is sure to bring results.

Why Don't They?

It has bothered me that so few people unite with the church as a result of the revival campaigns on my district. On inquiry, pastors tell me that many of the evangelists will preach ten or twelve days and never mention church membership.

If only so per cent would promote joining the church in their meetings, it would mean hundreds of additions for our work.

I am sure this can be done in evangelistic meetings without becoming obnoxious to our visiting guests or without driving loyal people of other denominations from us. We do not need to knock other denominations or speak unkindly about them in order to brag on and boost our own.

Not a Hindrance

Emphasizing church membership in our revivals should in no way hinder our zeal for souls. If we speak about it in the preliminary service, it will not keep people away from the altar.

A few words from the evangelist such as, "Your coming to the altar in no way obligates you to join the Church of the Nazarene," given when he is speaking about the church or at the beginning of his invitation, will clear this matter in the minds of the people.

The influence an evangelist wields over people during a series of good revival services is tremendous, and if he will use it wisely over those who do not have a church home, he can tie them to the church and pastor.

* * * * *

5

THE CAMPAIGN

Every revival campaign should bring souls into the Kingdom and members into the church. The writer of the Acts of the Apostles said, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." First they were saved, second they were added to the Church.

The last night of a revival meeting is one of the best times to receive members. The people are there. Their interest has been increasing throughout the campaign. The young converts are on fire with zeal and enthusiasm to go all the way with God.

The pastor has made many new contacts and has a better grip on old acquaintances. The evangelist is there to help, and it is easier to get people to come in then than at any other time.

Don't Wait

Where the pastor can get the co-operation of the evangelist, It is a mistake to put off the reception of members until a later date.

The time taken to prepare for the reception of members, and time occupied in taking them in, never hurts the revival or hinders the last service, I have known it to help greatly.

There are some very definite reasons why we should "strike while the iron is hot" I have known people who would have joined at the close of the revival and I believe would have made good members; before an opportunity was given, some group who did not believe in church membership would talk them out of it, or friends prejudice them against our church.

Remember, a good fisherman always strings his fish.

Another very vital reason is this: It keeps our church believing in and anxious for revivals. We need that. When our folk fail to see definite results for the church from the campaigns, they begin to lose interest and may even oppose having an evangelist. The Church of the Nazarene was born in revivals, and when we cease to have them we will go spiritually as the old-line churches have gone.

For this reason, if no other, I think a pastor would be wise, even if he had a group ready to join, to wait until the close of the revival to receive them into the church.

I would rather take in ten members on the last night of the meeting and lose half of them than to wait ten days and not get any.

Troublemakers

Some think it is dangerous to urge new people to unite with the church or take them in too soon after they are converted. However, it has been my observation that it is not the new converts and seldom the new people who cause trouble.

Troublemakers are usually found among members of long standing who have lost the grace of God out of their hearts -- people who have become sour and critical, yet still profess to have an experience.

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6 METHODS

On the last Monday night of the meeting, I usually began talking for church membership. I did this briefly in every service, endeavoring to make it a little different each time, using the following approaches.

I believe every Christian should have a church home. On the last Sunday night of this meeting we want to see a number of people cast their lot with this church.

If you are not a member, we would like you to consider and pray about coming with us. If you are interested, speak to the pastor or his wife at the close of the service, or speak to me and I will help you get in touch with them.

We have a nice tract concerning our church we will be glad to give you; or if you prefer, we will furnish you with the Manual of our church.

Should you ask me, "What church should I join?" you might be surprised at my reply. I would answer, "Join the church of your choice." Find a church with whose doctrines and government you are in agreement, cast your lot with it, and back it for all you are worth.

Every young convert should immediately unite with the church. Start out with the determination to go all the way with God. Accept everything which is on His program. The Church among all others is one of the most important.

I was converted in a union rescue mission' and though I was told every child of God should unite with a church, I had no one to guide me in my choice. But I at once sought out a church in the city and asked the pastor if I could join.

I was already saved, but uniting with the church gave me a responsibility that helped me to stand. It gave me the feeling, I belong. I urge you, young Christian, don't put it off but cast your lot with the church.

Every child of God should be a member of some church, should have a home base, a place he can point to as his home church. When I ask a man, "What church are you a member of?" and he answers, "Not any in particular," I wonder if he stands for anything in particular; so many do not.

The church tramp who has joined the tribe of Gad, going from one service to another, is never much of a blessing anywhere.

By all means find a church home. This church is a good one. Think about it, pray about it, and give us a chance to discuss it with you.

Not only should every Christian have a church home, but I have a conviction that if he believes in holiness he should line up with the crowd who believes and teaches it.

Folk may say, "I have the harness on." That is very fine; but you can take the best team of horses in the land, place on them the finest harness that money can buy, but they cannot pull as much as I can, unless you hitch them to something.

If I am going to wear holiness harness, I want to be hitched to a holiness wagon. I want to pull something that stands for what I believe.

You may be a member of a Nazarene church in some other town or city, but if you have moved here, you should place your membership here. You do not need to wait until you can get your letter -- you can come in now and the pastor will write and get your letter for you.

A Layman

A very outstanding layman of our church is a statistician for the U.S. Government. His position has necessitated his moving many times to various cities, and it has always been his policy to ask his pastor for his letter and the letters of his family.

He takes these with him to his new place of residence and places them in the church there. He tells his new pastor, "I don't know just how long I will be here, but while I am, I want to do my best to be a good Nazarene layman."

There are hundreds of people over the country who were once good members of the church; they have moved to new places, neglected to write for their letters, and today they are backslidden and never attend church anywhere. Join now where you live and get your letter later.

Never permit a pastor to persuade you to leave your membership in his church after you have moved away. Your obligation is where you live. Unite with the church there. If there are exceptions to this rule, they are few and far between.

If you are a member of some other denomination but you like our church with its doctrine and rules, you do not have to wait until you receive your church letter before you join; you can come in now and the pastor can write for your letter. Or if you prefer, he can just notify your former church that you have united here.

Sentimental Ties

Never allow sentimental ties to keep you from casting your lot with a holiness church.

Years ago I held a meeting in one of the most popular towns in the world -- a town so popular they named it twice, Walla Walla. We had been urging people throughout the week to be ready to unite with the church on the last Sunday night.

On Sunday morning a dear old lady said she was coming in that night. When she arrived home her old husband said, "Mother, I don't think you should join the Nazarene church."

"Why?" she asked.

"Because," he said, "I don't think you should leave our old church. We have been in it most of our lives. We have raised our children in it and I do not think you should leave it."

The old lady replied, "Father, I am not leaving my old church. My church has left me. It doesn't stand for what it used to and what I have stood for all these years. It doesn't care anything about me or my testimony. Here is the Church of the Nazarene, standing for what my church once stood for and what I still believe. They are my people, why shouldn't I join them?"

The old man thought for a moment, then said, "Mother, you are right. Our church has left us, hasn't it? I am going to join with you tonight."

That night they both united with the Church of the Nazarene, where they found wonderful fellowship with the people who believed as they did.

Friend, are you holding on to an organization which has left you and forgotten you? A group which opposes and criticizes the experience of grace you profess? Are you going to allow bonds to hold you just because you have belonged a long time?

Here is a church which believes and teaches the doctrine you have stood for and preaches the experience you have enjoyed for years. Why not unite with us and help us spread this gospel to the uttermost part of the earth?

Back the doctrine you believe. Place your name as well as your presence with the group that teaches it. It does not seem consistent for a person who believes in the Wesleyan interpretation of entire sanctification to line up with and put his money into a church that fights or opposes it. Cast your lot with a holiness church and put your influence and money back of it.

Do not be a trunk Christian. Many who were once active workers in the church now have their letters in their trunks. If the exact church of your choice is not in the place you now live, find a spiritual church that is most like the one you prefer and join it; then when the church of your choice comes to town, line up with it.

Do not stay out of the church until you find one that, in your estimation, is ideal. Should you find such a church, you might not be eligible for membership or you might find you would be the only member.

Do not stay out because some things in it do not suit you, but find the one nearest your choice and be a good member until one that suits you better comes to your neighborhood.

I have a small card here which contains a brief statement of our doctrine and excerpts from our general rules taken from the church Manual.

I do not have a sufficient number to give to everyone; but if you are interested, if you have been thinking of joining the Church of the Nazarene and have not fully made up your mind, if you would like to know more about what we teach and what we stand for, if you will raise your hand, I will ask the pastor to go down into the audience and give you this card.

(This enables the pastor to see who takes the card and makes it easier for him to approach the prospect later. See contents of card on back page of this book.)

We are not wholly unselfish in asking you to unite with our church; we believe you will be a blessing to us. We need you and we need your influence. We feel your coming will make us stronger for God and holiness and that you being one of us will help us build this into a larger and better work.

I also believe this pastor and these people will be a blessing to you and that you will be glad you made the step.

A Physician

I was holding a campaign in a city of about twenty thousand population. A prominent physician was in the meeting, who, I understood, had been attending the church for two or three years but was not a member.

One night after service I said to him, "Doctor, I understand you attend the Church of the Nazarene all the time. Why don't you unite with us?"

He replied, "I'll tell you, Brother Aycock; they won't let me join the church."

"Why?" I asked.

"Because I am a member of the Masonic Lodge."

"Doctor, are you going to let the lodge keep you out of the church?"

He answered, "Well, you know, Brother, the Masonic Lodge is a great institution; it is founded on the Bible. Scripture after scripture is in its foundation. They stand loyally by their members in time of trouble. They look after their widows, orphans, and people in time of need."

"Doctor, I don't know anything about the lodge," I said. "I was never a member of one of any kind and I did not know they were founded on the Bible and did all that good work, but I will

take your word for it. But, Doctor, do you think they would stop doing all those good deeds if you dropped out?"

He smiled and answered, "No, I guess not; they did them before I became a member."

"Doctor," I asked, "aren't most of the people in the lodge men and women of the world?"

"Yes," he said, "I suppose the most of them are."

"You know, Doctor, there are thousands of people of the world who will carry on the good work of the lodge who are not interested in the Church, especially in the spreading of the scriptural holiness. They will give to carry on that kind of work, but they will never give a dime to a holiness church like this.

"Here is a struggling holiness church, trying to build in this town and preaching the very doctrine you believe. Admitting this society is all you say, why not let the world run it and you come and lend your name and influence to help this church work for God and holiness?"

"Help us build in this city a Church of the Nazarene to stand for the greatest thing in the world -- a full salvation that will save from all sin. Let the worldly crowd run the worldly organizations."

He stood for a moment with his head down as if thinking. Then he looked up, smiled, and said, "You know, I had never thought of it in that way. The world will run the lodge, won't they?" Then stretching out his hand he said, "Preacher, I am going to come into the church and help support it and its message of full salvation."

He came into the church and for fifteen years or more he was Sunday School superintendent and wielded a great influence for the cause of holiness before God called him home.

Friend, what you stand for may be good and the organization to which you belong may do a wonderful work, but is it pointing men to Christ? The greatest organization in the world is a spiritual church crusading for souls for Jesus. The church needs you; come in and help us.

* * * * *

7

THE PUBLIC APPEAL

I am not urging, or even suggesting, that others receive members by publicly opening the doors of the church. This is something which should be settled by the pastor, church board, or membership committee.

I am merely endeavoring to set forth, as requested by pastors with whom I have worked, the methods which I used and which God seemed to bless.

I do not believe in railroading or high-pressuring people into the church. I do not believe in throwing open the doors and saying, "Whosoever will may come."

I have never knowingly let down the bars or compromised our standards in opening the doors of the church; but I know of some very fine people, and some who have climbed high in our denomination, who never consented to unite with a church until a public appeal was made.

Seeking Approval

In publicly opening the doors of the church I have always first secured the approval of the pastor and in many instances have met the church board or membership committee and explained to them just how I would go about it. Having their approval, on the last night of the meeting I proceeded in the following way.

The Appeal

I am still very much interested in people coming into the church, and tonight we are going to give an opportunity to those who are ready.

The pastor has talked this over with the membership committee and the church board. Some of them have spoken to you also. You have thought about it, prayed about it, and it is time you did something about it.

However, we want those who come with us to know exactly what they are doing and to be sold on the Church of the Nazarene, with its rules and its doctrines.

Before inviting you to come forward, I want to tell you as kindly, yet as definitely as I know how, some of those things which we stand for, and stand against.

After you have heard them, if you are a Christian, and would like to be a member of this kind of church, and will do your best to live up to its standards, you may come forward and the pastor will gladly receive you.

On the other hand, after you have heard our standards, if you do not care to unite with us, we will not fall out with you because you do not join, and please do not fall out with us because we have some standards and are trying to live up to them.

Whether you ever come our way or not, we want you to remain our friend, and continue to attend our services and be a member of our congregation.

General Rules

You have heard privately of our general rules; you have read them in our Manual or on the card which was given out. Now we would like to give them to you in brief, here in public.

We do not receive into the church those who use intoxicating liquors or tobacco or traffic therein.

We do not receive those who belong to oath-bound secret orders or fraternities. This does not mean labor unions; neither does it mean life insurance.

We do not receive into fellowship those who are divorced and remarried without scriptural grounds, namely, adultery. You know if you have such grounds. Others may think they know but you know.

We do not receive those who gossip, slander, and spread surmises injurious to the good name of others.

We do not accept into membership those who attend theaters, circuses, and like places of worldly amusement.

We ask those who come with us that they dress in Christian simplicity, as becometh men and women professing Christianity (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:3-4).

We ask those who unite with us that they be saved and know it.

We do not ask that they be sanctified, but we do insist that they be in harmony with our doctrines, not inveighing against them in any way.

What We Have to Offer

We cannot offer you the largest church. There are many which have more wealth, more members, and more commodious buildings. We take no pride in being small; but if it meant the choice of a clean work or a large one, we would rather be clean.

Speaking generally, we can offer you a church of more than 7,000 preachers, all of whom believe the old Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We do not believe it merely contains the Word of God; we believe it is the Word of God.

We can offer you a church where every minister preaches the gospel of full salvation. Some may preach it better than others; but from the general superintendents to the local preacher, every one preaches a gospel that will save all men from all sin if they will come to Christ on the terms of the gospel.

We can offer you a church where the money you give will not go for paying dues into worldly organizations or the use of filthy habits, but will go for the cause for which you gave it. Most of us do not have much to give and we like to feel it will be used for the glory of God.

The Local Church

Speaking locally, we can offer you a good pastor who will love you, share your joys and sorrows, and do all he can to be a blessing to you.

We can offer you here some men and women to be your brothers and sisters in Christ as fine as you will find anywhere on earth.

In this church we can offer you a place of service, where you can work for the glory of God while you worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

Why Unite

You should unite with the church for the sake of your influence. "Don't you think I could live a Christian outside the church?" you might ask.

I would reply, "Yes, you might; but by staying out you may by your example keep out someone else who is not as strong as you. Therefore, because of your influence you should cast your lot with the church." We should tie our children to the most spiritual organization possible. The best way to do this is to set the example by uniting with a spiritual church.

If you keep your membership in some dead, cold, formal organization, when you are gone you will have left your children tied in their thinking to that organization.

When on some special occasion like Easter or Mother's Day they go to church, the chances are they will attend the one of which you were a member. If they do, will they hear anything which will point them to Christ?

If you join a spiritual church, your children may resent it, but when you are gone you will leave them tied to a spiritual church. If they ever attend a Church of the Nazarene anywhere around the world, they will hear enough gospel in any service to lead them to the Saviour.

You young people, if you are saved, should come into the church. It will not save you, but it will do a lot to help you stand for God.

Children should unite with the church, and you boys and girls here tonight, if you are converted and your parents do not object, I know the pastor would be glad to welcome you.

There are a number in the audience who, if you would follow your hearts, would come in tonight. You plan to come, I am sure. Eventually, why not now?

Conclusion

I have given you definitely and plainly what we stand for and what we stand against. If you are a Christian and would like to be a member of this church; if you will do your best to live up to its standards, and if you find you cannot, you will quickly withdraw or permit your name to be dropped-if you will come forward, under these conditions, the pastor will be happy to receive you.

Reception

When those wishing to unite have come to the front, I invite the church board, the membership committee, and the pastor's wife to line up in back of them. When the pastor has received them into the church, the board, led by the pastor's wife, gives them the hand of Christian fellowship and church fellowship.

If, through this method, we have ever gotten people into the church who have caused trouble and brought reproach on the cause of holiness, I have never known it.

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8

METHODS COMMENDED

After hearing this appeal, the late Dr. R. T. Williams, general superintendent, said to me, "Jarrette, anyone who would lie and present himself for membership after hearing your appeal would lie to a membership committee or church board."

The late General Superintendent James B. Chapman, after listening to this appeal said to a friend, "That is the sanest, safest way I have ever seen or heard anyone publicly take members into our church."

Dr. E. P. Ellyson, a former general superintendent, on the last night of a revival meeting, after hearing the writer make this appeal, remarked, "That is the sanest and best method I have heard."

Mr. E. S. Carmen, who united with the church in one of our meetings in Cleveland, Ohio, and who was for years one of the prominent laymen on our General Board, said, "I don't think I would have ever united with the Church of the Nazarene if it had not been for your public appeal; it hit me just right.

Many pastors and laymen have commended this method. After my using it in churches all over the nation, not one has ever written us to say that my method of talking folk into the church has caused heartache and trouble.

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9

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Have you ever had a pastor or church board refuse to let you use this method?

A. Yes, about one in ten.

Q. When you were an evangelist, did you ask to use this method in all your meetings?

A. No, not in all, but in most

Q. Did you ever make this appeal and no one respond?

A. I do not recall that I ever did.

Q. Did you ever have an undesirable person present himself for membership on this appeal?

A. Yes, a few.

Q. Did you take them into the church or how did you handle it?

A. When they stepped into the line I said to them in an undertone, so only they could hear, "We do not wish to embarrass you and you may stand here, but you are not being taken into the church."

Q. What about the troublemaker who may have been a member and might take advantage of this method to come back?

A. Before making the appeal I always conferred with the pastor. If there were folk of that kind in the audience, I stated in the appeal, "We cannot receive former members of this church in this way; all such will have to confer with the church board."

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10

EXPLANATION

The following material is on the card referred to earlier in the book and which I prepared for publication in 1926.

Brief Statement of Belief and Excerpts From the General Rules

BRIEF STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; we especially emphasize the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit; that man is born in sin; that he needs the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration; that after the work of regeneration, there is the further work of heart cleansing, or entire sanctification, which is effected by the Holy Ghost. And to each of these works of grace the Holy Spirit gives witness. We believe in eternal destiny with its rewards and punishments. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the second coming of Christ, the Bible doctrine of divine healing, and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

EXCERPTS FROM GENERAL RULES

It is required of all who desire to unite with the Church of the Nazarene that they shall show evidence of their salvation from sin by a godly walk; that they shall earnestly desire to be cleansed from all indwelling sin, and shall evidence this by avoiding evil of every kind, such as --

Profanity; Sabbath desecration; the use of intoxicating liquors or tobacco, or the trafficking therein; quarreling; spreading surmises injurious to the good name of others; dishonesty; indulgence of pride in dress or behavior; "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning ... of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart" (I Peter 3).

Such songs, literature, and entertainments as are not to the glory of God; the theater, the ballroom, the circus, and like places; games of chance; membership in or fellowship with oath-bound secret orders or fraternities.

We hold that persons who have been divorced by civil law, where scriptural grounds for divorce (namely, adultery) did not exist, and have subsequently remarried, are not eligible to membership in the church.

We expect those who unite with us to be in harmony with our doctrines, to attend faithfully the means of grace, and contribute to the support of the church according to the ability which God giveth.

If after reading this statement of belief, and general rules, you desire to unite with the church, kindly sign your name and address on other side and HAND TO THE PASTOR, who will confer with you.

The above card is intended to encourage and inform prospective members. In addition there is available the card folder entitled

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Application for Membership

This is to be used when persons have decided in favor of church membership. They use this card folder to make application.

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THE END