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**INFLUENCE OF THE COUNTRY CHURCH**  
**By C. T. Corbett**

Author  
Soldier of the Cross  
(Life of J. G. Morrison)  
Bud Robinson Stories  
Our Pioneer Nazarenes

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## TO THE READER

The influence of the country church is endless in its power of spiritual usefulness to the cause of Christ. Someone has rightfully said, "Seventy-five per cent of our clergymen come from the country church."

Mindful of this fact, this booklet is a plea for the continuation of the church in the country. Since the salt of the earth is next to the earth, may there come a new challenge to evangelize our rural regions of America. As you read these stories -- I'm sure the memories of the rural church will crowd into the whispers of your recollections until the church in the country becomes one of the most hallowed spots on earth preparing people for time and eternity.

Kankakee, Illinois  
Easter, 1959  
C. T. Corbett

\* \* \* \* \*

## DEDICATION

To Dr. Hardy C. Powers  
Who suggested the theme of these pages  
While we sat in conversation  
In a North Dakota hotel.

\* \* \* \* \*

1

## THE LADY FROM WASHINGTON

Washington, the evergreen state of the Pacific Northwest, is one of the most picturesque states of all America. Here one finds the Puget Sound, snow-capped Mounts Rainier, Adams [Mt. Hood] and St. Helens, plus countless other spots of exquisite beauty. Clark county, located in the bend of the Columbia River, just north of Portland, Oregon, is noted for its farming, fruits and lumbering.

During the days of the first world war, Harry and James Elliott, pioneer holiness evangelists, entered this region engaging in revival campaigns. One of their meetings was held in the rural neighborhood near View. Among the converts was a school girl whom we will call the missionary lady. For it was in this calling that her interest was directed.

She had been reared on the farm with several brothers where hard work was a part of everyday living. She being anxious for an education, friends directed her attention to a small growing town in Idaho, where a holiness college was being hewed out among the sagebrush. Here the missionary lady applied herself with all her soul to the every task possible enabling her to work her way to graduation.

Dr. H. Orton Wiley, a godly educator, was her lodestar. He not only imparted mental knowledge but he further guided his students into the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The missionary lady became one of his best firebrand students. In the year 1919 she was ordained by Dr. R. T. Williams. Africa was the field that grew on her heart during those college days, and the Nampa Nazarenes pledged her support as she set sail in 1920.

Arriving on the dark continent she began her labors with the pioneer missionary couple of Swaziland. There the Schmelzenbachs were hewing out a kingdom of righteousness from raw heathenism. The missionary lady was sent by divine orders to succor in this holy cause. To assist, she fully employed herself with the zeal that she had found in the View (Clark county) revival and the rigors of her college training days.

The missionary found conditions unbearable. When she complained to an official he told her frankly, "If you don't like it, child of God, change it. Your Father is rich." This became the moving motto of her ministry among the redeemed band of Negro girls she was called to mother. Together they erected buildings, launched heaven-sent revivals, and made inroads of spiritual power into raw heathenism. And thus from kraal to kraal the mighty Christ became a personal Saviour. Her twenty years of holy service produced a group of staunch native workers who lead the host of Israel in Swaziland today. "God literally lived with us and found His opportunity in our extremity." She further reported, "God never failed us. When we gave into His hands all that we had, He made it enough to finish the job and left us with enough to begin another project."

Returning to America, the missionary lady has stirred churches all over the land to greater foreign mission endeavor. Then one day in 1942 she became the helpmate of a leading preacher and Gospel writer, a general superintendent. Together they traveled the world in the interests of the leading holiness church of the age. Shortly after her husband's translation to heaven, at a great missionary convention, the missionary lady was elected as international president. And rightly so. This person with a rare spirit, so refreshing to hear preach and whose pen writes with warmth, a product of the country church at View, Washington, known to thousands of native Africans, is Dulile, Louise Robinson Chapman, General President of the Nazarene Foreign Missionary Society, the lady from Washington.

\* \* \* \* \*

2

## A BANK CLERK COMES FORWARD

Historically, Texas has lived under seven flags. When the Lone-Star State was an independent republic she won a war single-handed from Mexico in 1836. Two hundred and fifty-four counties make up this great state of the prairies -- stretching almost 1,000 miles from border to border, east to west and north to south. Great sons have been sent forth from Texas to become world renowned. One more recent is Dwight D. Eisenhower, currently [in 1959] president of the United States.

Churches of all denominations stand out over the Blue Bonnet state's rolling plains. It is to the country church we draw our attention in this story. Out in Lynn county on Hiway 380, between Post and Tahoka can be found the Grassland Church of the Nazarene. It has stood there with its Gospel gleam of glorious truth for many years, never a large church but always open and carrying on for King Jesus.

In the early 1920s Rev. Felix Graham served as pastor. He, with the members, often made trips to Tahoka to trade and to do business at the Guaranty State Bank. As customers of the bank they became acquainted with the employees -- among them a young Texan, born in the country town of Oglesby and reared just north of there in Walnut Springs. The rural minister and the bank clerk had a common ground. Both were country-bred and operated their business with rural people. The clerk had been reared in a Methodist Sunday school superintendent's home where he had been faithfully taught, as well as by a godly Sunday school teacher, the right ways of life.

The Grassland church had secured the services of an evangelistic team known as the Montandon-Richy party. The people came from far and near to hear this team preach and sing the Gospel story. The bank clerk and his "special friend" were invited. (Later she became his "helpmate.") He, like other visitors was impressed with the joyful singing, fervent preaching, and loud praying around the altar. One night they had a tremendous service, with many people at the place of prayer. The seekers arose shouting happily in their new found joy. It had a deep and lasting impression on the clerk. The fact is he never got away from it.

Some months later the clerk's parents and family moved to Alhambra, California. There they found the Church of the Nazarene and felt at home in her services. The pastor, Rev. Fred A. Smith, welcomed the Texans to his church and gave the Methodist Sunday school superintendent a copy of "Perfect Love" by J. A. Wood. The father took the holiness classic out to his tool-shed. After reading the book to page twenty-seven on his knees, he started to pray, "Oh God, if this experience of holiness is in the Bible, reveal it -- I'll walk in the light." God sanctified him then and there. As a result of his finding the "Pearl of Great Price" the whole family of six children were moved towards the Gospel.

Evangelist Fred Suffield, writer of the song, "God is still on the Throne" was preaching in the Alhambra church when the mother was reclaimed and the six children were converted. And now you wonder where the bank clerk is today . . . Rest assured his parents made their joyful way to heaven . . . For the past ten years he has been chairman of the board of directors of a concern (church) that annually does a \$40,000,000 business around the world with its "clearing house" at Kansas City, Missouri.

Yes, you have guessed it -- the bank clerk was Hardy C. Powers known the world over as Dr. Powers, Senior General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene. Would anyone have any idea how far that Grassland church has extended its ever widening influence? It's a well known fact that most of our leaders come out of the rural churches.

\* \* \* \* \*

3

### MAINTAIN THE SPIRITUAL GLOW

The "Golden Oil" and the "Gladness of God" became the glowing gleam of two New York neighbors. True, they were a generation or two apart. Nevertheless they were neighbors, being born in adjoining counties. The Golden Oil magnate became world-renowned as the founder of the Standard Oil Company -- John D. Rockefeller. And the other New Yorker, the Gladness of God

man, the product of a small community and church, became noted for his holy battle cry which he often uttered, "Maintain the Spiritual Glow."

The New Yorker's conversion came about, at the age of seventeen, through the influence of a small town Baptist church, where he occasionally attended with the rural neighbors. A divine stamp was placed on the youth, pointing his talents to one work -- the ministry.

Upon graduation from Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, the New Yorker, tall and clear-eyed, who had met a precious lass and won her to wed, entered the Baptist ministry, but not for long. Walking in Gospel light, he had seen the gleam of holiness and God sanctified him. This directed his life's work to second blessing promotion.

In the year 1922, the New Yorker cast his lot with the Church of the Nazarene and was placed in a capital city parsonage at Hartford, Connecticut. Here, talents and his genius soon placed him in the lime-light. At the age twenty-nine he was elected district superintendent. God was with him in a marked measure, as he took command of this important post.

Throughout New England and "down east" into Nova Scotia he traveled in the interest of organized holiness, pioneering new churches and making the kingdom work glow with spiritual activities. Along with these interests a Nazarene college took his attention. The college trustees elected the New Yorker chairman of the board. In this position he gave many speeches for Eastern Nazarene College.

The next election for the New Yorker was to the superintendency of his native state. He loved his work in the Empire State as he labored for the salvation of souls from the Statue of Liberty to the mighty Niagara. A campmeeting grounds was established near his home. It became a "center of fire."

A famous First Church in Chicago called the New Yorker to take over the pulpit. He followed another Easterner who had answered the heavenly roll call -- the Rev. W. G. Schurman. Great spiritual victories were enjoyed in those depression days. Then a professorship opened in a Nazarene college in Idaho for a year.

When the Nazarene General Assembly met in June, 1940, at Oklahoma City, the committee on superintendency called for the election of two new general superintendents. One of the two elected was Michigan-born while the other was the New Yorker. In this high office he traveled in kingdom promotion throughout the world. Assemblies, Preachers' conventions, campmeetings across the nation called for his services. And how he could preach! He stirred his listeners with his forceful messages as he spoke on "Outer Darkness" or the "Gladness of God". He had the holy knack of making people feel these divine truths. "Maintain the Spiritual Glow" was his constant cry.

In overseas trips he toured and organized the church in Italy and Australia. Then during the Christmas Holiday he was suddenly called to heaven in 1948. The body of Dr. H. V. Miller rests near his birthplace at Brooktondale, New York, and the country church where he found Christ.

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4

## HE MADE THE CHOIR SING

His parents were godly people who lived on the North Dakota prairies. The mother was musical and deeply involved in foreign missionary interests. The father was the lumber dealer in Sawyer, a little town of some two hundred souls. He assisted the wheat farmers and ranchers with their building needs. As a lad their son had an interest in music. From early childhood he loved to hear the melody that came from those notes on the music staff. As he entered college, this became his major and to this end he dovetailed all his soul's desires.

When a certain Christian college with high spiritual and academic standards needed a teacher, in his field, he was called and joined the faculty as the music professor. Students from all points of the compass entered his studio to learn one of the highest of arts -- music. There he trained soloists, duets, quartets and trumpeters. These he sent to churches and their numbers were well received. Next he assembled and trained choirs of forty voices and their services were in demand.

Upon occasion the professor would lead the singing and at other times he would be at the keyboard or the ensemble and from these he would bring unusual tones of holy harmony. However, his real genius lay in his training of the choir. He would melt them, mold them, and make them sing as few in his generation ever sang. For almost thirty years he poured out every effort he possessed for their success. For twenty years they sang Handel's Messiah at the Christmas season in Danville and Kankakee, Illinois. Their singing was so well received that three performances were necessary to accommodate the crowds. At other times the professor would engage a Greyhound Bus to carry the choir from city to city. They sang in large churches to vast audiences of people who thrilled at their singing. When they rose to sing "Amazing Grace," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," or "Out of the Ivory Palaces," they made the rafters ring, while shouts of holy joy and tears of holy gratitude flowed down hundreds of faces.

Music came from young hearts filled with the redemptive power of Jesus Christ and voices were trained to sing the highest type of music on earth -- songs to the glory of God. These were the products of years of self-discipline and training, and shone in holy splendor. Then in the height of his career, age forty-nine, he was suddenly called to the choir of the skies as a result of an auto crash.

With well over one thousand people I sat at his funeral on June 17, 1957. I saw his choir come down the aisle with tear-stained faces. The ministers offered worthy words in prayer and sermon, all fitting to a wonderful layman; and then the choir of forty trained voices arose to sing. They sang for their fallen leader as they never sang before. As they lifted their voices in holy unison and sang "Ivory Palaces," it seemed they could see their director on the balcony of heaven with that little baton in his hand directing them again.

Last night I preached at the opening of the camp meeting in the tabernacle here in Sawyer, North Dakota. His old friends sat in their places. It was in this very building, that his father as a

lumberman and carpenter had built, that the music professor as a small lad came to the altar and found Jesus Christ as his Redeemer. From this grove on the prairies, under the influence of the campmeeting spirit, the little country school-house and the rural church, he got his start. I knew Dr. Walter Larsen for almost thirty years and today I deeply appreciate him, the church that taught him the right ways of life, and the camp meeting that pointed his talents to the cause of Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*

5

## A COUNTRY CHURCH IN CANADA

America, meaning both the United States and Canada, has been the land of refuge to millions of Europeans. A large share of these have "made good" in the new world. In no small measure, sons of Norway have played an important part in the glorious picture of success. Among them came a young couple by the name of Olsen.

This devout couple settled near Woodville, Wisconsin, and engaged in farming as their livelihood. Christ and the Bible held a strong place in their new home where they were blessed with four sons in America's dairyland. The urge to go west entered Farmer Olsen's blood as he heard of large tracts of land given settlers who would homestead in Saskatchewan, Canada. This providence with its neighbors, Alberta and Manitoba, was fast developing into the bread-basket of the British Empire.

Into this vast "desert of wheat" the Olsens settled with their four sons in the year 1914. Their "claim," right out on the open rolling prairies, was located near Wood Mountain Station, about half way between Moose Jaw Saskatchewan and Glasgow, Montana. There this God-fearing household held family prayers and interceded for a church of spiritual power to be established in the community.

One day a divine answer came in the form of a circuit rider. He came to open a Sunday school and holiness meetings at Wood Mountain. The rider was none other than Rev. C. A. Thompson, a Nazarene elder of Dakota and Western Canada fame. The Olsens with their plainsmen neighbors faithfully attended the holiness meetings in the small town and adhered to the teachings as outlined by the minister. Through hard labor from the wheat harvests they brought forth tithe and offerings to keep the country church alive in its pioneer stage.

Godly pastors and evangelists came with revivals and increased the Gospel gleam across the windswept prairies as the Olsen boys grew to believe in God and holiness with all their hearts. Mother Olsen became a faithful deaconess, while Father Olsen was called to his heavenly-home in mid-life, being a heart sufferer many years. The boys took hold, as they came into manhood, in harvesting the wheat from year to year. And along with it, spiritual wheat was sown and reaped too, in the souls of the sons. Two of the sons graduated from a Nazarene College in Idaho and became U. S. citizens again. Their brothers remained in Canada, making their lives count there for God and holiness.



Currently, the elder Olsens have united in heaven. The four sons have married well and have families of their own. The oldest, Rev. Abner C. Olsen (called to heaven October 2, 1958) has pastored with success and blessing in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Wisconsin, California and Oregon. The second son, Kermit Olsen, is a contractor, builder of homes in Vancouver, British Columbia, and a faithful lay-member of the district advisory board. The third son, Gorden T. Olsen, is in the commercial refrigeration business at Eugene, Oregon. Recently his firm has done a million-dollar business, while he has a record of 20 years as a Sunday school superintendent and fourteen years on the district advisory board and now a member of the General Board. The fourth son is deep in Nazarene activities while he makes his living as a plumbing contractor at New Market, Ontario, Canada. Kenneth Olsen is also a lay member of the district advisory board and now of the General Board.

Did it pay to start the country church at Wood Mountain, though inactive now? How far reaching is its ever widening influence extended, through Canada, the United States, and around the world? According to the records, country churches seem to produce grand leaders both in clergy and laymen. The salt of the earth is found next to the earth.

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6

## MIDST THE PENNSYLVANIA HILLS

Back in the '90s of the past century, 'midst the hills of western Pennsylvania lived a tall, quiet youth. In a country revival meeting near Webster, Pennsylvania the youth, nearing eighteen, gave his heart to Christ. Though very bashful he became an active Christian layman. He called on the sick and those who did not attend church. He was a butcher by trade, but his main business was serving God and winning souls from house to house.

About that time, Dr. B. Carradine expounded the scriptures on Second Blessing Holiness at Belle Vernon and the tall Pennsylvanian became a seeker for the blessing. The fire fell in his soul during a cottage prayer meeting with a few present. With his new found grace, [he] prayed zealously for others. He became a prolific reader of all types of literature, especially the Bible. And then in his thirty-third year, as he was busily engaged in personal work, another event took place.

The personal worker had prayed with a dying man. After his departure, the widow sought out the pray-er and asked him to preach the funeral. With fear and trembling he accepted, speaking on the Rider of the Pale Horse. For twenty minutes he spoke with holy unction until strong men slid downward in their seats. That hour sent the word over the countryside, the tall pitcher was a born preacher. Many said, "I want him to preach my funeral when the time comes." Through the years he has preached over 500 such messages.

In the year 1925, Evangelist John Fleming preached in a revival at Monongahela, Pennsylvania, and took in several members into the Church of the Nazarene, among them the tall Pennsylvanian. Fleming did not think the former ball player would make a Nazarene minister. "Too dry" said he. But he was given an opportunity, which proved successful.

The Monongahela church possessed a small building with \$6500 debt. They used home-made wooden benches and a \$15 worn out piano. Rev. J. Howard Sloan as superintendent asked the tall new member to take the pastorate. "We'll pray in 1000 homes a year", he told his wife as they accepted the church. With their model "A" Ford they called on the people of the "oldest town in the valley." In a short time the debt was paid and a much larger church edifice was built. Then came the ordination of the Pennsylvanian, on May 26, 1926, with Dr. R. T. Williams as the officiating general superintendent.

Beginning with twenty members and sixteen children in Sabbath school, the Monongahela church now has a membership of 232, with an average of 250 in Sunday school, while the giving to missions has averaged over \$1600 for their Thanksgiving and also their Easter offerings. Many strong laymen have been developed into useful Christian workers. Furthermore over a dozen strong ministers have come from this church, among them Rev. R. B. Acheson who currently is the superintendent of the Pittsburgh district.

To talk with the pastor, one would think he had little to do with the mighty center of Gospel fire. For in his eyes God should get all the glory... Monongahela is the only Church of the Nazarene Rev. Paul Andree has pastored. But he really has made these thirty-four years count for God and holiness.

\* \* \* \* \*

7

## THE LARGEST RURAL SABBATH SCHOOL IN AMERICA

West Virginia, the rugged land of America's Switzerland, is said to produce more bituminous coal than any other state in the union. All but six of her fifty-five counties have active coal mines. Chemicals as well as coal are the basis on which the state has built its industrial wealth. And back in those mountainous counties are souls needing spiritual miners who will dig for their redemption.

Into one of the roughest sections of Kanawha county where men would blaspheme, gamble, drink and fight, entered Rev. Claude Bailey with a gospel tent and a burning message of holy love. For six weeks he poured out his soul while the neighborhood intensely opposed him. Still God was faithful and a revival of heavenly proportions broke out. Many were redeemed in a most marvelous manner. Then on August 10, 1925, a rural Church of the Nazarene with twenty-five charter members was organized. This marks the beginning of the Davis Creek Church of the Nazarene, located five miles from Charleston, the state capitol.

Leaders of the new church dug coal in a nearby abandoned mine and sold the same, giving the proceeds to help pay for the "new meeting house."

Under the ministry of the second pastor, Rev. Florence Walling and her husband Jess, the work of the Lord among the rural people grew by leaps and bounds. And no wonder. This lady preacher waded creeks and climbed to homes inaccessible by car. She cared for the sick, wept

o'er the erring, and told them of "Jesus the Mighty to Save." The visiting pastor won the hearts of people in all walks of life. Their small church was soon overflowing. Members mortgaged their homes to assist in the erection of a new sanctuary.

Great sweeping revivals were the order of the day. Leading evangelists were mightily used of the Lord. Among them was Rev. John Fleming who closed his earthly ministry in 1934 at Davis Creek. The church became and has held to the "center of fire" program.

Rev. Vola Vaughn, the third pastor, did a masterful job of organizing the church's departments of finance and personnel. He led the congregation in the erection of a beautiful \$35,000 parsonage.

Rev. Dennis Wyrick served as shepherd of this noble flock for seven years. His contributions to the continual growth were many, including the launching of a radio ministry. For the past ten years the Sunday morning worship service has been broadcast into the homes and hearts of tens of thousands.

Evidences of God's great blessings upon this church are seen when one studies the following facts. Their Sunday school last year was listed as the tenth largest in average attendance in the denomination -- 534. The record attendance of 1,777 for one Sabbath was established under the ministry of Rev. Dallas Baggett, the present pastor. The missionary and youth organizations of the church are very active in the world-wide evangelism program.

Furthermore there has been a continual building expansion program to house the growing congregation, until the present property is now valued at \$150,000. The monies raised now exceed \$30,000 per annum. The membership is now above the 300 mark. Four lively new churches have been organized out of the Davis Creek Church. Little wonder this church is on the Evangelistic Honor Roll each year.

Pastor Baggett states, "I attribute the phenomenal growth of this church to the amazing spirit of personal evangelism which characterizes the laity. They have been carrying on the Crusade for Souls here for the past twenty-seven years." No wonder Ripley wrote in his column, "The Davis Creek Church of the Nazarene has the largest Sunday school of any rural church in America."

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8

## A LUMBERJACK CAME ALSO

"In my younger days I spent sixteen winters working in the lumberwoods before God found me. When Jesus came into my heart it was the most wonderful event of my life." So stated the lumberjack, who in the hey-day of his ministry pioneered sixty-three churches which became part and parcel of the Church of the Nazarene.

The "Lumberjack Evangelist" as he was often called did most of his pioneer organizational work in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and

British Columbia. He also labored in revival campaigns in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and California. For over thirty years -- with the exception of a short pastorate in South Dakota -- the lumberjack evangelist poured out his soul in the salvation of the lost, and it was literally that -- poured out -- until his heart could not take the pressure any longer and he had to retire in 1950.

The evangelist was born in a lumber-mill settlement in Michigan. He attended public schools near Duluth, Minnesota. Early in his teens he entered the logging industry, where he worked at most of the jobs known to the woods. In this rough and tumble manner of life he spent his youthful days. Upon entering the state of matrimony he made his living at farming. It was while he was thus occupied in the northeast section of South Dakota that a revival of old-time religion visited their rural community. Two Nazarene Evangelists came and renovated a dilapidated church on the edge of the farmer's land. After spending a few nights on the hard benches the evangelists came to the lumberman's farm house seeking lodging.

Upon the third night of their enjoyed hospitality one evangelist pointed his finger at the lumberjack stating, "Man, you ought to be saved." The pointed finger looked as huge as a cannon. Down on his knees fell the lumberman. While a red-hot prayer-meeting was soon in progress, he found Christ by his favorite rocking chair. Let him tell it, "Billows of glory continued to roll over my soul. For about an hour I walked in another world. Never, so long as I live, can I forget the ten minutes of confessing that brought this blessed peace to my heart on the night of June 12th, 1919."

In a short time he was sanctified and God called him to proclaim the blessed story. If he could roll logs for the companies he could reach men for Christ. The lumberjack evangelist became a rare combination of holy oratory and a walking Bible. With a good supply of Irish-wit he told Old and New Testament stories while many listened in wrapt attention. He had a preaching style all his own and how the people loved to hear him preach!

The lumberman's sharp-cutting gospel ax hewed to the vital base of men's lives. As the timberman knew where to fall his trees so he knew how to cause strong men to fall at the altar of prayer. His Gospel-powered-saw cut through huge knots and burlled sections of living that to other men looked impossible to change. But as the sawyer that he was, he plainly brought in the power of Christ that transformed knotty souls into choice building materials for the kingdom of Christ.

Yes, the lumberjack became God's woodsman in bringing out choice timber, lost in the deep woods of sin, Then too, as the axman was skilled in trimming timber for the sawmill, so the evangelist guided souls to the pastor for church membership.

Today, thousands of people serve the Master because Rev. Ernest Coryell, of Meridian, Idaho, the Lumberjack Evangelist of the Northwest, came their way. And it all came about because of the country-church revival near Wilmot, South Dakota.

[See the autobiography of Earnest Coryell in the HDM Digital Library as: hdm0081.tex]

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## A HOOSIER COUPLE IN MONTANA

A certain Indiana couple were employed as school teachers near Terre Haute. They had known each other since childhood and their mutual interests had developed into a romance. Together they set sail on the sea of matrimony on Christmas Day, 1897.

After the wedding, the bridegroom took up railroading with enthusiasm. But the westward movement was in full swing and the pioneer spirit, which was so characteristic of his spiritual work in later life, seized him until he moved with his wife and two children to a North Dakota claim, locating thirty-five miles south of Minot. There, in 1905, they became homesteaders. By 1907, the town of Douglas began to spring into existence.

A minister of the Gospel came and a revival swept the community. Among the converts was this Hoosier couple. A southern gentleman by the name of Dr. Beverly Carradine was the next revivalist to arrive. Now when Dr. Carradine settled down to holiness preaching, one had to move forward as a Christian or lose out. The Hoosiers moved forward and were sanctified.

With this holy anointing, the young husband became active as class leader, Sabbath school superintendent, song leader and local preacher. As a family, they journeyed to Jamestown, where they enjoyed the Layman's Holiness campmeeting, hearing such worthies preach as J. G. Morrison, Bud Robinson, C. W. Ruth and H. C. Morrison. Also they heard Dr. R. T. Williams, Dr. H. F. Reynolds and others at the Nazarene campmeeting at Sawyer. The singing, praying and preaching, along with the most wonderful spirit, fully captivated the homesteaders.

One day while the Hoosier was operating a separator for a wheat threshing crew, word came that his son, Jackie, had suddenly passed away. With this shock he uttered, "Lord this is enough, I'll preach your word, full time."

Montana, one of the largest states in America, came into the picture. This vast region needed holiness leaders. As a call came from Homestead, Montana, the homesteaders in North Dakota talked far into the night about leaving their homestead for one the Lord had selected.

Upon arrival in the new location, the Indiana school teachers, who had taught [the 3-Rs] reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, now began to teach [another 3-Rs] repentance, restitution and righteousness. They took turn about in pulpit appearances. She was a possessor of the quiet teaching spirit while he was of the storming evangelistic type. Did they have converts? Of course, many of them. Mrs. Lydia Price came with her children, among them two sons who answered the call to the ministry. Today, one son, Dr. Ross Price is a godly professor at Pasadena College.

With holy zeal, akin to apostolic fervor the Hoosiers pioneered the Nazarene cause in Homestead, Froid, Sidney, Elmdale, Laural, Kalispell and on to Helena, the capital city of Montana. For over thirty years they inspired and blessed the people of their parishes. In three locations they erected church buildings, while in other centers they led the work on to an organization.

If the air had any spiritual chill it was soon thawed when the Hoosier led the singing. His shouts of victory and enthusiastic singing soon brought the glory down. His leading often made a happy and joyful atmosphere to bring a Gospel message to needy hearts.

When the Hoosier, Rev. L. G. Nees, was nearing the end in October, 1954, he told his minister son, Dr. L. Guy Nees, "If I could live five more years, I'd pioneer some more." A life of such usefulness, clearly points back to those holy awakenings at the country church in Douglas, North Dakota.

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10

## THE SUNNYSIDE CHURCH IN WYOMING

Wonderful Wyoming has some of the most wide-open spaces in the wild and woolly west. This great state with its high plateaus has a small population, yet it has ranches of vast proportions and some of the most scenic wonders of the nation.

Yellowstone National Park with its Old Faithful Geyser, the Jackson Hole region with its lofty Teton Mountain Peaks are a few of the tourist attractions in Wyoming's northwest section. Cheyenne, the state's capital, is in the other extreme end of the land o' sagebrush. Between these wide points one finds Fremont county located almost in the heart of the cowboy's paradise. Yes, and near Paradise Valley is the Sunnyside Church of the Nazarene.

This rural church came into being in the 1930's. Some messenger of the mighty God visited this spot and a holiness revival swept many into the kingdom. The church was organized with fifty-eight charter members, many of them homesteaders from Nebraska.

Situated in the sage brush, Sunnyside is a rural church of the first magnitude. It is built of rustic log structure with a lake on one side and the mighty Rocky Mountains in plain view. The fact is, the continental divide is within sight of the church. Then in the distance one can see the highest mountain in Wyoming -- Gannett Peak -- standing with its silvery head in the clouds some 13,785 feet. The sight of the church is so picturesque it has caused many travelers to stop their car and reach for a camera to obtain a special shot.

Among the membership of some one hundred is a tall Norwegian, who with his wife hails from Sweetwater, Nebraska. Upon being converted this couple cast their lot with the Sunnyside Nazarenes. Soon he was elected Sunday school superintendent and to this post he has held faithfully ever since. If the snow gets too deep he will ride his pony to church. To date he enjoys a perfect Sabbath school attendance for fifteen years. Obviously, the pastor can count on him being there on time with his rural neighbors. Several good pastors and many evangelists have come and gone but the tall Nebraskan is on hand to loyally support the cause of holiness. Thus for years he has rallied ranchers for some twenty miles around and they love being his Sunday school scholars.

Two sons and two daughters have come to bless the merchant's home. All four with many other young people from Sunnyside have attended the Nazarene College in Idaho. The youngest

daughter is a member, (at this writing) of the Vocalairs Girls' Quartette and travels for the college. The entire family supports the whole program of the church in tithe, time and talent. Mother directs the choir and plays the church piano. District-wise, father serves on the advisory board. Also he serves the college on the development council... Everyone for miles around knows this couple as Oc and Naomi. But officially they are Oscar and Naomi Lund, a good lay family from the Sunnyside Church in Wonderful Wyoming.

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11

## SUNRISE AWAKENING

A small lad stood in amazement as he watched the sunrise one bright morning near the little town of Brethren, Michigan. The lightened heavens looked more pink and red than he had ever observed before. The sky seemed to burst forth with fire. "This is it," he said to himself, "The Lord is coming in the sky and I'm not ready to meet Him."

Often the lad had sat with other members of his family through revival services, as his father preached in home mission campaigns in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Conviction seized the boy's heart as he watched his father place a sign up in the Amboy, Indiana meeting. The sign read, "Jesus is coming, are you ready?" Thus the preaching and the sign with the sunrise awakening all added up to one thing. He must be converted and live the life of a Christian. With that resolution he set his goal to be whatever God wanted him to be. Shortly after this event the eight year old lad's mother passed on to the more excellent glory.

In those days, Rev. E. J. Fleming was principal of a small holiness school located at Des Arc, Missouri. Here the above mentioned youth enrolled, was converted, and enjoyed his first taste of Christian education. To finish the academy and enter college, the youth journeyed to Olivet, Illinois. Here he met the president of the college, Dr. E. F. Walker, who he remembers to have preached for two weeks in chapel on the word "Cleanseth." Rev. W. G. Schurman served the college as evangelist when the youth renewed his Christian experience, receiving the experience of heart holiness a year later under the preaching of the evangelist, Rev. A. L. Whitcomb.

In the year 1923, the young man took his place on the faculty of the college he had formerly attended as a student. As a teacher he has devoted his life in the English Department... He was dean of the college twenty-two years. And we must not forget that back in the 1920's he won the heart of a Texas lass. They were wed on the campus where they had both taught. Three girls came to bless their home, now grown young ladies in their own right.

How many hundreds, yea thousands, of students have passed through the classes of this professor in thirty-six years we may never know. But these students have gone throughout the nations of the world in many fields of active Christian service. Thank God for our holiness schools and their faculties...

This layman has served his local church many years as secretary of the church board... Praise God for the sunrise awakening that gripped the heart of Dr. C. S. McClain, currently registrar of Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Illinois.

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12

## WAY OUT WEST IN KANSAS

Wheat, wheat, a desert of wheat! That's what catches the eye in western Kansas and it has been a desert of wheat for a long time. Back when the nations were in the midst of world war one, an evangelist by the name of R. S. Ball entered and opened a schoolhouse revival campaign among the wheat ranchers near Johnson, Kansas.

The Lord honored His noble servant and gave a sweep of spiritual victory which led many into the Gospel way of life. District Superintendent H. M. Chambers came in February of 1916 and organized the Bethel Church of the Nazarene with twenty-one members and an enrollment of fifty in the Sunday school. Later in September, as he gave his report, he stated Bethel was one of the eleven churches he had organized that assembly year.

Within six months the Bethel church moved into their own building, so gladly built by the energetic members led by Pastor G. H. Webb. Upon the arrival of the next pastor, Rev. Vernon Hodges, a parsonage was built near the church. Wheat raisers came from far and near to enjoy the gospel proclaimed each Lord's Day both by holy-writ and fire baptized tongue.

The church membership never has been large at Bethel due to the scanty population in the rural area which it serves. But these wheatmen have not only harvested the golden grain for their livelihood, but they have brought in wheat for the Master. This wheat (tithes and offerings) has kept gospel workers financed locally, on the district level and in world-wide evangelism.

Furthermore young people from this rural church found their way to holiness colleges and were loyally supported by the home base. The fact remains that the Bethel church has been one of the best supporters of their church college in the educational zone, wheatmen for gospel promotion in every sense of the word.

There out on the prairies of western Kansas, from time to time, young people were converted and sanctified. They felt the call to useful Christian service. Among the laymen we find Nellie Herrick Hodges, wife of Mr. R. R. Hodges, assistant to the General Church Secretary; Zelma Herrick who today is a bookkeeper at Nazarene Headquarters; Dr. Alvin R. Aller who currently is a professor and head of the Department of Science, Northwest Nazarene College.

Spiritual harvesters, as soul-winners, were sent forth with the bread of eternal life from the Bethel church to the great harvest fields. Among these we find Ralph Herrick, now pastor of San Angelo, Texas, Northside church. Four sons came from the Morgan family to enter the ministry. They are Floyd who now pastors in Seattle, Washington. Oral A. was called to heaven while he pastored in St. Louis, Missouri. G. Chester has pastored and evangelized many years and is



currently pastor at Logansport, Indiana. Arthur C. also has pastored and evangelized over the nation and is now the aggressive superintendent of the Northwest Indiana District.

Ila Pierce from Bethel married Rev. Vernon Shetler, pastor Roanoke, Virginia, Eastgate church. Then we have Mack and Ethel Anderson. This worthy couple evangelized many years and at present are doing a great work as superintendent and wife of the great Georgia District. These and many more came from the Bethel country church, way out west in Kansas, the Wheat State, Preaching the bread of life in the heart of the nation.

Churches like these and many more in the rural areas have a record of untold usefulness in building the Kingdom of Christ, world-wide in its scope.

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13

### AND FLORIDA, TOO

Florida, with its ever inviting vast coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, is a land of a thousand charms. This land of beauty of the semi-tropics flourishes with its many flowers and citrus fruits, and varieties of pines, palms, and banyan trees. Long hanging moss drapes the branches of live oak trees.

In this state with its wonderful climate Dr. R. T. Williams presided at his last assembly after being general superintendent for thirty years. The Nazarenes at Lakeland in October, 1945 listened to this pulpiteer as he preached his last message on earth from the subject, "Lifting Up Christ."

The next year a vacancy occurred in the office of the district superintendency. Dr. H. V. Miller as general superintendent made the appointment. The new D. S. of the Florida district took up his duties August 14, 1946. At that period the Nazarenes in Florida numbered 2184 members, among the forty-two churches, with an average Sabbath school attendance of 3003.

Millions of tourists visit the peninsula-state yearly. Many enjoy the land of sunshine and decide to reside there. With the increase of population there has been added a steady increase of responsibility to get the Gospel to these peoples of all types and nationalities. True, some northern saints have settled in a few locations and they have been seed-corn in the starting of a new church. In some instances other centers of fire must be started from scratch.

In the year 1952, the Florida D. S. devised a plan of district church extension. Dubbing it the Revolving Fund, he challenged his people. As a beginner a good brother gave \$20,000 and from this amount the fund has grown to \$110,000. This fund supplies the means to launch a home mission endeavor in a new location before the church is organized. Over three dozen churches have been brought into being by this method, and the sponsoring advisory board feels the method is very successful though it is in its embryo stages.

On one occasion, lots were purchased on December 17th. By the 28th a builder arrived to erect a building. On March 10th the building was ready and a revival meeting opened. March 17th a church was organized with seventeen charter members. Furthermore on this date the baby church handed the organizing D. S. a check for \$5,200, the entire amount invested to be returned into the Revolving Fund. This is a sample of Home Missions in action.

As a forethought for new churches, twelve buildings were planned with churches to be organized in these same buildings for the Golden Anniversary year of 1958. With the completion of the year, fourteen churches have been organized, which means that Florida leads the denomination in new churches for that year, bringing their present total to ninety-six churches and over 6000 members.

The D. S. of Florida is a man of action. He believes (1) in child conversion, (2) in Christian children joining the church, (3) in water baptism during the revival for the converts, (4) in a shouting religion, (5) in Second Blessing Holiness, and (6) in a God-called ministry.

At the age of nine, a freckled-faced, red-headed, barefooted boy wearing knee-trousers and a little blouse, (the fifth son of a cotton farmer who sold his cotton for four cents a pound) wandered into a revival in a country church on the plains of Texas and was converted. Arising from the altar, all present gave him a royal welcome. A kind lady said, "Son you have given your heart to Jesus; now give Him your life." And Rev. John L. Knight, the D. S. of Florida has followed that exhortation. Thank God for the country church at Burkett, Texas, where Dr. Knight, as a boy, found Jesus.

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THE END