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HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN
(A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts)
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

CARROLL P. LANPHER (Nazarene)

October, 1907, stands out as an historical date in Nazarene circles. It is the occasion of the union, giving the church national strength. The Church of the Nazarene in the West (California, Oregon, and Washington) had been in touch with the Pentecostal Church of America on the East Coast (New England, New York, and Pennsylvania) relevant to the union of the two bodies. They met in Chicago.

Fifty years have now passed since that memorable occasion. Who could be found among those present who was an eyewitness of that gracious gathering? Rev. C. P. Lanpher was the answer. He was one of the youngest present. Though now past eighty, he would like to make a statement.

We met in the Church of the Nazarene, 64th and Eggleston Streets, Chicago, Illinois. It was once a vacant church, discovered by Brother Jack Berry when his, horse stopped in front of it. Rev. C. E. Cornell, a prince among preachers, was the pastor. It was no time at all until the brethren were as one in fellowship and spirit.

"The East and the West melted together that notable October day in 1907. Dr. Bresee's fiery preaching and great leadership quickly took with those assembled in that holy gathering. Truly the Lord put His seal on the union. Dr. Bresee and Rev. H. F. Reynolds were easily elected as general superintendents and the name of the church was called Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. In 1919 it was changed back to Church of the Nazarene.

"Dr. Bresee would preach from the text, 'The path of the just is as the shining light,' (Prov. 4:18) until he tore all the colors out of the rainbow. He was an outstanding pulpiteer, people would grab the seats in front of them, they would be so wrapped in holy interest ... as he spoke one and one half hours ... and time wasn't long when Bresee took his flights among the stars ... he was brilliance on fire."

Carroll P. Lanpher points out West Berkshire, Vermont, as the place of his birth, June 11, 1876. His parents were old-time Methodists and raised their children in that faith -- rock-ribbed New Englanders to the core. A schoolteacher and a Sabbath school teacher brought conviction to young Carroll's heart as he sat in their classes.

While he was attending high school at Swanton, Vermont, an event took place that involved young Lanpher's salvation. He had been keeping company with Miss Lois Lampson, whom he hoped to marry. Together they attended the Methodist church, where Rev. Elmer Reynolds, a fiery man like his brother, H. F. Reynolds, was pastor. Miss Lampson was clear in her experience of sanctification. It was while Carroll was taking her home that she stopped and said, "Carroll, we can never be married. I am a Christian and you are not."

"Pray for me," was his cry as he fell on his, knees.

"Pray for yourself," she told him. And this, he did with all his soul, until he found the Redeemer in the parlor of his sweetheart.

For over two years timidity and pride held him back. But one day at Silver Lake Camp Meeting, near Brandon, Vermont, he cried, "I must be satisfied or die."

In a morning service he stepped out in the aisle and began to shout like an old-time Methodist. The frost melted, the skies opened, and God's, blessing fell like a meteor in his soul. Lanpher was sanctified at last.

Source: "Our Pioneer Nazarenes" by C. T. Corbett

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THE END