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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

ROSELLE JOHN PLUMB (Nazarene)

In the Colorado landscape may be seen plains and mountains, valleys and glaciers. Across its lofty fifty-two peaks of over fourteen thousand feet are some of the greatest glaciers of North America, while over the prairies may be found some of the best ranch land in all the West.

To these plains, just east of Colorado Springs, came Williston and Ellen Plumb from Iowa in a caravan of covered wagons and 300 head of cattle in the year 1873. Williston Plumb was a rugged pioneering soul, having fought under General Sherman in the Civil War. Ellen Robinson with her religious turn had been trained for the profession of school teaching under that educator and fiery soul-winning evangelist, Rev. Charles G. Finney. She had met and married Mr. Plumb during her teaching days in Iowa. In Colorado they established their homestead in view of the vast Rocky Mountain range on a ranch which soon grew into sixteen hundred acres of farming and pasture land for their cattle.

On this, homestead, April 7, 1886, their sixth child was born. He was named Roselle John. For him God had a plan. "R. J." attended the nearby one-room country school, then went to Colorado Springs, for high school and business, college. In his seventeenth year he met and became interested in Miss, Bessie H. Cole. The Cole family, also from Iowa, had settled on their ranch near the Plumbs.

About this time there came into the community a United Brethren circuit rider by the name of Rev. J. N. Davis. He launched a revival campaign in the country schoolhouse. Homesteaders for miles, around attended the meetings, including the above-mentioned young couple. Among those finding God were Mr. Plumb and Miss Cole. As their romance flowered forth into marriage, the circuit-riding minister was on hand to perform the ceremony at the Cole homestead on June 19, 1907.

Two months later the Pikes Peak Holiness Camp Meeting was under way led by Rev. W. H. Lee, superintendent of the People's Mission church; and Rev. Seth C. Rees, the fiery evangelist. It was at this camp, down in the straw, while Plumb was seeking and finding the experience of

sanctification, that God very plainly spoke to young Plumb about his life's work, namely, preaching the gospel of Jesus, Christ. It was a momentous, decision indeed for a devoted couple facing the future.

That autumn the R. J. Plumbs sold out their ranch holdings and entered Western Holiness Bible College, Colorado Springs. His ministerial studies were coupled with practical training at mission work in Fort Collins, Pueblo, and Grand Junction. In proper time Rev. W. H. Lee ordained R. J. Plumb for the work of the ministry.

In August, 1910, Dr. P. F. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene in the West, came upon invitation to the Pikes Peak Camp Meeting. He received the People's Mission church into the Nazarene denomination. Brother and Sister Plumb were in that happy group. As the Colorado District Assembly convened with Dr. P. F. Bresee presiding, Brother Plumb was among those granted Nazarene elder's orders by the founder. Little did either man know at the time what God had in store for the youth and the movement into which he was to pour his life.

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

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