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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

THEODORE LUDWIG (Nazarene)

First Account of Two

Pioneers, veterans, faithful laborers of the gospel; yes, true soldiers of the Cross, this happy couple -- Theodore and Minnie Ludwig! Together they pioneered new organizations, held revival campaigns in schoolhouses, tents, churches, and camp meetings across the American continent. Most of their time has been spent away from home helping others find Christ.

Both members of this triumphant team were born in southern Illinois and in both cases they were blessed with godly parents of German background. True to form, they both were converted early in life and called to preach. Together they placed their lives in the Master's hands, for the promotion of the gospel of holiness,. Religious romance!

Theodore Ludwig was born on a farm near Moweaqua, Illinois, October 23, 1871. His early schooling was obtained in a nearby country school. In 1898 he graduated from Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, Missouri. He then attended one year at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois. As a lad of ten he was clearly converted in a Methodist revival then in progress at Moweaqua. With the divine call to preach upon him, Theodore took up pulpit duties, at the age of twenty-three.

Beginning in the German Methodist church, Ludwig pastored at Hannibal and Jefferson City, Missouri; and at Beardstown, Moweaqua, and Boody, Illinois. He then transferred to the English Methodist church and for two years was pastor at Newport, Nebraska. The famous Bishop Merrell officiated at Ludwig's ordination in 1902. Later, in December, 1906, in the Methodist parsonage at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, God sanctified him.

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

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Second Account

Mr. Ludwig had been beautifully converted at the tender age of ten. He had endeavored to walk in the light and his labors in the Master's vineyard had been fruitful. However, he had not yet been sanctified. We exchanged religious books, before our marriage, and among those I lent him were some that dealt with sanctification as a definite work of God's grace for the believer. We had been married only a few weeks when he became an earnest seeker for the experience.

One Saturday night, after we had spent much time during the day in reading and praying, the desire of this young preacher for holiness became so intense that he slept little. Throughout the night I could hear him groaning and praying.

Later Mr. Ludwig said that when he was ordained and the bishop had asked the question, "Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?" he had answered in the affirmative; and to the question, "Are you groaning after it?" he had answered, "Yes." "But," he said, "I did not do much 'groaning' until that Saturday night"

After that night of prayer, on Sunday morning, Mr. Ludwig got up early. He shook the ashes off the live coals in the base burner to start the fire. There before him he beheld a heap of red-hot coals and the Lord said, "If you will trust me I will stir the fire of holiness in your heart as you see these live coals before you now.

The next thing I knew my husband came rushing back into the bedroom flourishing the stove poker in one hand and the coal shovel in the other, shouting loudly, "Hallelujah it's done."

Yes, it was done. Another Methodist preacher was sanctified. The Lord had been true to His work -- as He always is -- and had sanctified that young preacher just as soon as his "all" was laid on the altar of sacrifice and his consecration was complete.

Source: "His Guiding Hand" by Minnie Ludwig

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THE END