

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1993--2002 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this CD.

* * * * *

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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

CHARLES A. GIBSON (Nazarene)

In the year 1925 the Ohio Nazarenes needed a superintendent. At that time the district consisted of 52 struggling churches with a membership of 2,222 spread over the western two-thirds of the state. General Superintendent J. W. Goodwin, having jurisdiction, selected Rev. C. A. Gibson, a hustling minister from Fresno, California.

The Gibsons, with their two sons and two daughters, located in Columbus, Ohio's capital city. Here in 1924 a district tent meeting with Bud Robinson as evangelist had been held with success. Action had been taken to purchase a camp meeting grounds on the north side of the city, and upon Brother Gibson's arrival it was completed. Today this is one of the leading holiness camp meetings in America.

For eighteen years and four months Rev. C. A. Gibson invested some of the most successful years of his life in the work of establishing the Church of the Nazarene in the Buckeye State. when he closed his work among the Ohioans in November, 1943, he had organized 165 new churches and the district membership totaled over 14,000. One year the district reported a net gain of 1,028 members,. Another year 18 new churches had been organized. And mark you, this was, achieved mostly in the depression years, when money was hard to obtain.

The question comes to the reader. How did this, Indiana-born man called Gibson do it? Ah, therein lies the genius of pioneering. Economic reactions of the first world war had settled in one of America's most highly industrialized states. Empty store buildings were available everywhere. Many of the Ohio churches began in this type of building. On one occasion Gibson sent a young minister to a certain town to establish a church. Some time later he saw the youth and asked him, "How are you getting on over there?" He answered, "O Brother Gibson, there is nothing open in that town except a store building, and who can start a church in such a place?" With this remark the superintendent went over the list of churches and found he had organized some 140 of them in store buildings. Today these congregations are well housed in sanctuaries.

Charles A. Gibson -- "Man of Challenge" -- was, born at Greensburg, Indiana, February 23, 1888. Coming from a pioneer family with a Baptist background, young Mr. Gibson felt his place in life was to be a schoolteacher, and he was preparing in this, field when the Lord interrupted the plans. As a youth of twenty summers, he and a neighbor lad were out cutting stovewood. The conversation drifted to water baptism and the lad took issue with Gibson. To prove his, point the woodcutter went into the house and began to leaf through the Bible. As he did so the Lord opened scriptural truths to young Gibson until he got down on his, knees by the kitchen chair there and alone in earnest prayer he found Christ as his Redeemer. Later under the ministry of Rev. K. Hawley Jackson in the Holiness, Christian church at Hartsville, Indiana, C. A. Gibson was sanctified.

So upon the call of the Lord the schoolteacher turned holiness evangelist, working with such worthies as N. B. Herrell and K. Hawley Jackson. About that time "Uncle Bud" Robinson came to the First Church of the Nazarene, Indianapolis, for a revival. Gibson went to hear him and was puzzled to note that a man with so much wit and humor could fill an altar with seekers, but he did. The Spirit of the Lord was on the famous Texas evangelist and this had a persuading influence in Charles Gibson's becoming a Nazarene.

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

* * * * *

THE END