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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

## **JOHN STANFIELD**

On the 16th day of January, 1898, Rev. John Stanfield, an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, was sanctified in the meeting held by Rev. R. L. Averill and the Hudson Band in Sunset, Texas. He at once began to preach holiness as a work subsequent to regeneration. This stirred his brethren in the Cumberland Presbyterian church and they preferred charges against him in the Gregory presbytery, which convened at Bridgeport, Texas, April, 1898. After much discussion a motion prevailed to suspend him from the church for preaching the second blessing. He, like many others in that day on whom the Holy Ghost had fallen with power, gave no heed to the orders from his church, but "went everywhere preaching the Word"; and great crowds would come to hear this suspended preacher tell of his new experience, and fall into the altar and get the same blessing. The Presbyterians no longer wanted him; but he had calls more than he could fill to preach to the holiness people who had so recently gotten into the experience in the meetings held by the Hudson Band; at Sunset where he received the blessing in his own church while pastor there; at Chico, his home town; at Alvord, Crafton, Park Springs, and other places.

Seeing the need of pastoral oversight, and hearing the call to feed the sheep, he began to organize them into holiness bands, and to give them his entire time as pastor. He formed these bands into a holiness circuit with nine preaching points on it. From this grew other holiness bands in different parts of northwestern Texas. Then came the thought that there ought to be an association of these bands into one body, to keep the unity of the Spirit and to preserve clearness of doctrine. A call was made in the spring of 1899 by Rev. John Stanfield, the pastor of some of these bands, for a general meeting for this purpose in connection with the first campmeeting at Sunset, Texas. Here the first organization among the holiness people as a distinctive body was perfected, with Rev. John Stanfield, president, Rev. A. B. Jones, vice-president, Dr. J. W. Harvey, secretary.

Source: "Pioneer Days In The Holiness Movement In The Southwest" by C. B. Jernigan

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THE END

