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

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

ORPHA, ONE RESCUED BY CHRIST

It would seem that God is going out of His way, in these last days, to lift up and save poor, lost, wrecked, and ruined lives. He has always loved the fallen, but the truly observing can hardly fail to notice that the Holy Ghost is giving special attention to the neglected and submerged classes. It would be wise as well as pious for us to give more attention to those to whom the Lord is showing special attention.

Christ was a traveling Saviour; He journeyed from city to city, from village to village and from hamlet to hamlet. When He was rejected at one place, He went to another; and He commanded His followers to do the same. He is just the same today. Educational and ecclesiastical seminaries of the world have had their opportunity and in the early part of the last century great revivals of Bible salvation broke out in many of the colleges and universities of America; and many of the churches enjoyed great outpourings of grace, but having been rejected and often insulted, the blessed Spirit seems to have gone outside of the city walls, under the hedges, through the valleys, and to the grimy lanes of life to seek the fallen, and they seem much more anxious to have Him than those Scribes and Pharisees or doctors of the law.

Orpha, the subject of this sketch, was born in Ohio. Her father was a wicked man; her mother, a godly, praying woman, went to heaven when Orpha was fifteen years old just at the time when she most needed the protection and counsel of a mother. A stepmother soon turned her father against his children and the poor girl was homeless. She worked in a shoe factory, the pay was not large and she had a hard time.

O, how my heart breaks over the thousands of friendless. girls in mills, shops, and cotton factories, struggling for food and clothes and exposed to awful temptation to sin and ruin! These girls feel keenly the need of some one to love and care for them. Thousands of women are bestowing their affections on a poodle dog or a sleepy old cat, who ought to rise up and take these girls into their homes and hearts.

Orpha's first break into sin was not until she was twenty years old and then under promise of marriage. How shall the daughters of our land be warned against the scoundrels who with good clothes and fair promises are ruining whole regiments of girls? When deserted by the one who had sworn to support her, there seemed nothing to open before her but a life of shame. She went to church, but they did not have salvation to save her; the saloon and brothel were wide open to her. A well-dressed man, a demon in human form, came to the country village and under promise of good clothes and a nice home with light work, he allured the tired girl to Cincinnati and sold her to a house of shame. Her cries and groans were unanswered; she was lost to the world and womanhood and there was nobody to care. The man was a professional procurer, and in this case received only two dollars each for the girls above their traveling expenses...

This slave-driver, the villain that he was, told Orpha afterward that he would give anything in the world if he had never brought her to this place of shame; withered, blighted, paralyzed as his soul was it still seemed awful to him to see her in that horrid bondage where her midnight cries were never answered and where there was not a ray of hope of escaping. How then, must it seem to a pure, sensitive nature? When all was lost, she went lower and lower, smoking and drinking until she was a perfect sot. From one sporting house to a lower class house and to another and another, down and down until she often wished she was dead and really felt that hell could be no worse. She secured a revolver and was just about to kill herself when someone learned of the plan and broke down the door of her room and took the gun from her just in time to save her life.

It was in this forlorn, hopeless condition that a voice spoke to her in the night and said, "Get up and pray, there is coming a change in your life." The voice was so plain and so oft repeated that she obeyed, and while she did not know how to pray or how to get salvation, from that hour she was seized with conviction and could never get rid of it; and although she was not converted, the conviction was so strong that she quit smoking and the desire for cigarettes was all taken away. She told the madam of the house that she could not smoke any more, and although she did not quit sin and, of course, was not converted, she would weep by the hour and talk about Jesus in the brothel and many times would get down and pray right among the girls and with the keeper of the house, and they would weep with her, but they did not know how to get saved. Then she would drink and drink for weeks and drown her conviction and as soon as she would sober off, she would pray and weep and preach Jesus to those in the house, until the conviction was so great that they told her she would have to leave if she did not stop it, but she could not stop and they could do nothing with her.

She was arrested eight times in the month of April, and served five weeks in the workhouse and all this time she was weeping and praying and struggling to find the light of God.

When she heard music which reminded her of her mother and her mother's warnings, she would weep and weep, and almost went wild. Again she attempted suicide, but her plans were thwarted, and she was brought to Hope Cottage, where she heard that Jesus could save her from all sin, and keep her true to God always.

As soon as she was told how, the poor, tired, heartbroken girl gave her heart to God, and He wonderfully saved her from sin, and all desire for sin. Her conversion was so wonderful that she declared that she was sanctified wholly, and would listen to nothing else, until God showed

her inbred sin, and then she sought with all her heart the second blessing, and was sanctified wholly. She feels called to do mission work among those of her own kind. Before she was saved she would not work; now she is delighted to engage in honest labor; will wash and iron all day, and give of her means to spread the Gospel. She says, "I am free from all passions and sinful desires: I am settled and established, and no one can make me doubt it. If all the sanctified people were to go back on the Lord, I know He has sanctified me, and I want to do missionary work for Him."

Source: "Miracle In The Slums" by Seth Cook Rees

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THE END