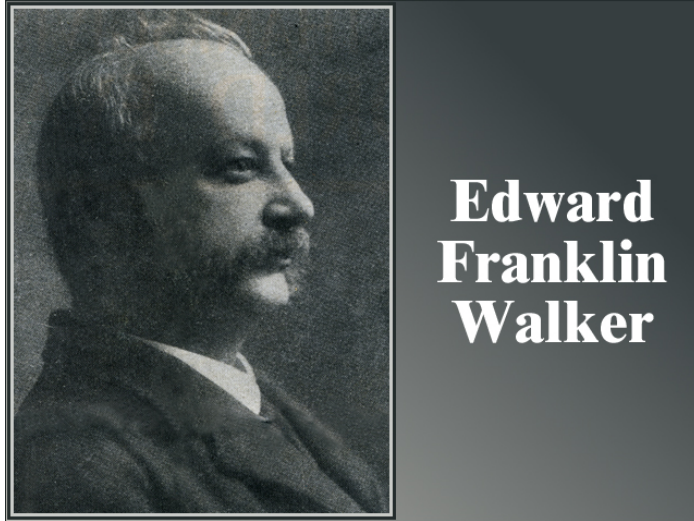


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**EDWARD F. WALKER, FOURTH GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
Of The Church Of The Nazarene
From Nazarene Roots in a 1993 Herald of Holiness
By Stan Ingersol, Denominational Archivist**



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**EDWARD F. WALKER, FOURTH GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
Of The Church Of The Nazarene**

Methodist preacher John L. Brasher, who knew evangelists by the hundreds, said Edward F. Walker was "the greatest theologian of all evangelists I have known." J. B. Chapman called him the "Peerless Preacher." Paul Rees described him as a "remarkable preacher" of well-prepared sermons, with twinkling eyes, and the "look of a cherub" when he preached.

When E. F. Walker united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in 1908, he had a national reputation as a Holiness exegete and expositor. His election in 1911 as the fourth general superintendent in the denomination's history reflected the wide esteem in which he was held.

Walker was born in 1852 at Steubenville, Ohio. When he was 11, his family moved to California. He worked his uncle's ranch near Lodi, then became a printer, plying his trade in Stockton and San Francisco. He was converted in 1872 during a Holiness meeting conducted by Methodists John Inskip and William McDonald, patriarchs in the American Holiness Movement. Walker joined a Methodist church, was called to preach, and entered the itinerant ministry, pastoring Methodist Episcopal churches in Santa Cruz, Pescadero, Crescent City, Lodi, Plano, and Ventura. At Santa Cruz he met Eliza Bennett, whom he married in 1875.

After Ventura, Walker transferred to the Presbyterian ministry and became pastor of San Francisco's Third Congregational Church. From there, he went to Virginia City, Nev. Desiring more theological education, Walker moved his family to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he studied two years at Western Theological Seminary. Afterward, he pastored Presbyterian congregations in Glenfield, Pa.; Martin's Ferry, Ohio; Evansville, Ind.; Parsons, Kans.; and Fort Collins, Colo.

After his Fort Collins pastorate, Walker became a fulltime revivalist. The family home was established in Greencastle, Ind. From this central base, Walker conducted revivals in every section of the nation. His slate was published regularly in *The Christian Witness*, the publication of the National Holiness Association, and he was a featured speaker at the General Holiness Convention of 1901 in Chicago, an interdenominational gathering that marked a high point in the Holiness Movement.

During much of his career, Walker belonged to the Indianapolis Presbytery. The family moved back to California in 1906, and in 1908 Walker transferred his credentials to the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene, whose leaders he knew well. He pastored Pasadena First and Los Angeles First Churches, and, until his death, edited *The Pentecostal Bible Teacher*, the adult curriculum of the Church of the Nazarene. In 1899, Walker first published the book, *Sanctify Them: A Study of Our Lord's Prayer for His Disciples*. The book went through many editions, including several by the Nazarene Publishing House. He also published *A Catechism for the Use of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene* in 1914.

Walker's general superintendency was memorable for two events. In 1914, he held a series of Holiness meetings in Scotland that helped cement the merger the following year between Nazarenes and the Pentecostal Church of Scotland. Walker was also involved in events in 1916-17 that led to the withdrawal from the church of nearly 500 members under the leadership of Seth Rees. A contentious situation existed between Rees, the pastor of University Church in Pasadena, and the bulk of the district leadership. When the district superintendent disorganized University Church in order to deprive Rees of his base, a storm of controversy engulfed the infant denomination. Many saw this as the iron hand of episcopacy. Walker supported the action and was vilified by many for his stand. His colleagues on the Board of General Superintendents eventually forced him to publicly concede errors in procedure. Walker, however, was held in greater esteem than ever by Bresee's

coterie of disciples -- A. O. Hendricks, C. J. Kinne, E. A. Girvin -- and others who regarded his support as essential for saving both the district and Pasadena College from disintegration. Upon E. F. Walker's death on May 6, 1918, the Herald of Holiness was flooded with tributes to him from the Californians.

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