

Chicago Daily Tribune

THE WORLD'S

GREATEST

NEWSPAPER

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FINAL

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1937.—40 PAGES

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF
THREE SECTIONS—SECTION ONE

PRICE TWO CENTS

IN CHICAGO
AND SUBURBS

ELSEWHERE
THREE CENTS

PETTING PARSON, BUT JAIL WAITS

He Repents His One Great Sin—vs. Mann Act.

(Pictures on back page.)

Two hundred members of the Christian Assembly church of Zion held a prayer meeting and "vindication service" last night for their pastor, the Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, who earlier in the day was sentenced to six months in jail for his "one mistake," a violation of the Mann act. Dake took part in the service, having been granted a brief respite before going to jail.

Before Federal Judge F. A. Gelger of Milwaukee Pastor Dake threw himself on the mercy of the court, pleading guilty of the charge that he took a 16 year old girl from Kenosha, Wis., to East St. Louis, Ill., registering with her at several hotels as "Mr. and Mrs. Anderson."

Accuser and Wife Present.

His accuser, Emma Barelli, former Kenosha high school girl, and his wife, the mother of his daughter, 8 years old, were in court, as Dake stood shamefaced and silent before the judge. Assistant United States Attorney E. J. Koelzer told of Dake's meeting with the girl last April '26 and how he subsequently had petting parties with her in hotel rooms in Waukegan, Bloomington, and East St. Louis.

The pastor's attorney, Eugene Sullivan, told the court that Dake had made "an unfortunate mistake," but insisted that no improper relations took place during the trip.

"There is no actual moral offense involved here," said Attorney Sullivan. "The girl is unharmed. He desisted upon her request."

Behind Bars Next Monday.

Dake's sentence, to be served in the Milwaukee house of correction, will start on Monday, a stay of execution until then having been allowed by the judge.

Loyal members of Pastor Dake's congregation crowded the courtroom. After sentence was passed they crowded around their shepherd to promise their unswerving devotion.

These pledges were renewed, with many "amens" and "hallelujahs" at the prayer meeting last night, at which Dake and his wife, an ordained minister, were the principal speakers.

Watch Yourself, Devil.

"I have learned a lesson," cried the contrite pastor. "I have had a little sense knocked into my head. I am disgusted with the devil. If the devil had a tail and I could get hold of it, I'd grab it and wrap it around a tree."

The 6 foot pastor, who is 33 years old, bowed his blond head and shed tears as he asked his congregation:

"Do you still love me?"

There was a unanimous shout:

"Everybody loves you!"

After numerous prayers and hymns Pastor Dake got down to more practical matters.

A Better Man—but Broke.

"I am now a better man," he declared, "better morally and better physically—better in every way except financially. That suit of clothes and overcoat you gave me three years ago are getting ragged."

"In jail I understand they supply me with clothes, but if they don't you'll have to send me some."

Pastor Dake said he intended to pass most of his time in jail in writing a book—a commentary on the bible. After his release, he said, he would write another book on his experiences in a cell.

"Meanwhile Sister Dake will carry on here in Zion—won't you?" said the preacher, turning to his wife.

Sister Dake Cheers Up.

Plump Mrs. Dake affirmed that she would, and added:

"I am gladder tonight than I ever have been. It is marvelous what the Lord can do for you."

An elderly member of the congregation arose.

"Sister Dake," he said, "the Lord has made you look ten years younger tonight."

Later all nonmembers of the congregation were asked to depart and the pastor read a formal statement asserting that it had been proved in court that he had no illicit relations with the Barelli girl.

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PETTING PARSON SENT TO JAIL

PLEADS GUILTY TO TAKING GIRL ON MOTOR TRIP

Loyal Parishioners Hear Admission.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 9.—[Special.]—The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, petting parson of Zion, Ill., was sentenced to six months in jail today for his "one mistake," a violation of the Mann act.

The 6 foot, 33 year old husband and father admitted before Federal Judge F. A. Geiger that he took a 16 year old girl from Kenosha, Wis., to East St. Louis, Ill. He had said he wanted to pray with her and find her a job, but the law thought otherwise.

The sentence, to be served in the Milwaukee House of Correction, will begin Monday, a stay of execution until then having been allowed.

Loyal Parishioners in Court.

During the brief trial the courtroom was crowded with loyal members of Pastor Dake's Zion congregation. Also in the courtroom were his wife—the mother of his 8 year old daughter—and his accuser, Emma Barelli, former Kenosha high school girl.

Except to plead guilty and thus throw himself on the mercy of the court, Dake stood shamefaced and silent, while Assistant District Attorney E. J. Koelzer told of his misdo-

tion. Also in the courtroom were his wife—the mother of his 8 year old daughter—and his accuser, Emma Barelli, former Kenosha high school girl.

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ZION PASTOR STARTS TERM OF 6 MONTHS

Leader of Christian Assembly
Begins Sentence in House of
Correction in Milwaukee on
Mann Act Charge.

Inmates at the house of correction in Milwaukee today accepted the Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, pastor of the Christian Assembly in Zion, into their fold with caution.

The Rev. Dake, who today started serving a six months' sentence or "vacation" as he called it, for violation of the Mann act, had promised his congregation at the final services last night in Zion that he would preach to the prisoners at the house of correction to "save their souls."

In between his preaching to the inmates at the house of correction and his work, when he is assigned to some task in the place, he plans to write a commentary on the Bible. And after he is discharged from the house of correction on Aug. 15, he may write a book on his experiences behind the bars.

In Jail Before

The Rev. Dake got his first taste of preaching to prisoners when he was in the Cook county jail last summer. He had been lodged in the jail after federal agents took him in custody for taking Emma Barrelli, 16, a Kenosha hitch-hiker, with him on a trip to Belleville to deliver a Bible lecture.

On the trip Dake registered with the girl as "C. Anderson and wife" at hotels in Waukegan, Bloomington and East St. Louis. He claimed that he did not harm the girl nor did he have improper relations with her at the stopovers. He said he had a desire to help the girl get a job and to interest her in religion.

At the Cook county jail the prisoners were divided in their opinions on the good of the sermon by the Rev. Dake. Some were reported to have wept and sought forgiveness for their sins, while others took it with skepticism.

Leads Prayer Meeting

With his wife, the Rev. Dorothy Dake, by his side yesterday, the Rev. Dake led his congregation in prayer meetings in the forenoon and evening.

Although he plans to do considerable writing while in the house of correction and after he is discharged, the Rev. Dake found fault with the newspaper publicity given to his "misstep" and compared himself to Job.

"Job had three friends," said Rev. Dake in another part of his morning sermon. "They came and visited him on the ashpile. They sat there for seven days and nights without saying a word to him. You're not going to sit here that long with me, for I am not going to stay here."

"If there had been newspapers in Job's day, the headlines would have been black relating the woes of Job. He didn't have reporters sitting around everywhere, but he did have three friends."

"I am experiencing more of the glory of God than for two years. I feel like I had come out of a horrible pit . . . I am the happiest man this side of heaven."

Praises "Little Woman"

"Thank the Lord for this little woman right here," Rev. Dake went on, touching his wife on the shoulder. "She has set a good example for all you wives to follow."

"An attempt is being made to destroy our program," he continued, referring to the church, "but let us be men and women and real Christians and see this work go forward . . . I am not the only pebble on the beach. I learned that long ago."

A moment later he asked:

"Do you think God has forsaken me?"

"No!" came the reply in chorus.

"Hallelujah, I am happier this morning than ever before," Rev. Dake said in closing. Then the congregation joined in singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

A number of newspapermen were present, but they were refused pictures or interviews. On his way out one reporter had his notes snatched from his hand by a lady of the congregation who ran into the church and tore them to bits.

Mrs. Dake Sings

Before Rev. Dake's address, Mrs. Dake spoke briefly. She also sang in a duet with Mrs. Girdon Puhl, the latter one of the readers in the Bible marathon staged by the church a few years ago.

A subscription for \$1,000 was asked for the support of the Bible school and more than \$700 was pledged during the two services. Rev. Dake announced that nearly \$20,000 had been given in a little more than a year and a half toward the establishing and support of the institute. "This is a wonderful beginning," he said, "And, we are rejoicing over the fact. We are only indebted to the extent of the \$5,000 mortgage and a note of \$1,000."

Deacon Archibald Swartztrauber, who is also an accountant, backed up Rev. Dake's statement. "The Shiloh Bible Institute started from scratch a little less than two years ago. We assumed a great debt to begin with but we are beginning to see daylight. Now is the time to rally to do something for God, and to let the world know that you are alive for God."

John Erickson of Waukegan, another member of the board of deacons,

Job was without sin - no companions



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

WIFE TO CARRY ON FOR JAILED PREACHER—

The Rev. Finis J. Dake, who pleaded guilty in Milwaukee to Mann act charge and was sentenced to six months, bidding wife good-by after prayer meeting in Zion. (Story on page 3.)

ZION PASTOR STARTS TERM OF 6 MONTHS

(Continued from Page One)

also spoke briefly: "My whole heart and pocketbook is here in this work. . . I want to stick to the ship and go all the way."

A comment from Overseer Wilbur Glenn Voliva was to the effect that "some people in the house of correction in Milwaukee ought to be in the federal penitentiary."

Democratic Resolution

Rev. Dake read a resolution from the Zion Democratic Voters' league during the preliminaries of the evening meeting. It read:

"Rev. Finis J. Dake, Zion, Ill.

"Dear Rev. Mr. Dake:

"At a recent meeting of our organization, the following resolution was offered and unanimously accepted:

"Whereas Rev. Dake has been unjustly persecuted, and whereas he has done a fine work in Zion and surrounding community, and whereas it is our belief that Providence placed him in our midst, and whereas this organization believes in his integrity, Therefore, be it Resolved that this organization go on record with this expression as evidence of our belief in Rev. Dake, and may it be an expression also, of hope that he return to our city to carry out that work which God has given him to do. May he always carry his cross with understanding and Grace.

"Be it further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Rev. Dake with a hope that it will in some small degree, help him carry the cruel cross that he has been called upon to bear.

"May your people stand steadfast in their belief in you.

"With kindest personal regards, we beg to remain,

"Very truly yours,

"Zion Democratic Voters' League,

"By: Martin Ruesch, chairman."

Rev. Dake, at the conclusion of the evening service, stood at the front door of the church shaking hands with all who left the building while his wife knelt at the altar to help those who had come forward for prayer.

This morning Rev. Dake left for Milwaukee where he will begin his six months sentence after pleading guilty last Tuesday in federal court to violation of the Mann act.

In his absence Rev. Theodore Kessel, an instructor at the Shiloh Bible Institute will assist Mrs. Dake in the services. Rev. Dake declares that he will preach to the other prisoners in

the house of correction where he will be incarcerated until Aug. 15.

Rev. Dake Surrenders

Milwaukee, Feb. 15 (P)—The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, Zion, Ill. preacher, surrendered to federal authorities today to begin serving a six-months sentence for violation of the Mann act.

The preacher, who told his flock yesterday he was "the happiest man this side of heaven," because he had renewed contact with divine authority, was taken to the county jail to await removal to the house of correction. He was confined in the bullpen with half a dozen other prisoners.

The 34-year-old minister was sentenced last week in federal court after he pleaded guilty to charges he took a 16-year-old Kenosha girl on trips to Illinois.

Zion Pastor Off to Jail After Bout with Devil

The Rev. Finis Dake of the Christian Assembly church of Zion, who will begin a six months' jail term this morning on charges made by a girl of 16, bade his congregation good-by from the pulpit yesterday.

"I believe I am the happiest man this side of heaven," he said.

The minister's joy, he said, came from his renewed contact with divine authority. He blamed all his troubles upon the ill will of the devil, and praised those who had telephoned messages of confidence as "broad-minded."

Devil Gets More Blame.

Belief that the devil brought on all the minister's troubles also was voiced by Martin Ruesch, president of the Zion Democratic Voters' league, and Henry Stevenson, a former Waukegan business man.

"I believe the devil wants to ruin the Rev. Mr. Dake and wreck his work," said Stevenson. "The church should offer him a ten year contract to reassure him of a welcome back."

The church members, who filled every seat and stood in the doorways, took no action on the contract, although they expressed their confidence in their pastor.

Compares Self to Job.

In his sermon, Mr. Dake compared himself to Job, and said that had Job lived in the present, the newspapers would have been "black with stories about him."

Of those who telephoned, Mr. Dake said:

"Many worldly people have phoned me telling me how much faith they have in me. This broad-minded type of person can express itself better than some religious people. Religious people are my worst critics. Many times rank sinners will give a helping hand when the religious will not. But I want it understood that my fight is with the devil."

Wife to Carry On.

Mr. Dake's wife, Dorothy, the mother of his daughter, 8 years old, has promised to manage church affairs while her husband is in jail. She sang a duet, "Thy Will Be Done," at the close of the service with Mrs. Mildred Puhl.

The blond, 6 foot minister, who is 33 years old, was sentenced last Tuesday when he threw himself on the mercy of the court at a trial for violation of the Mann act before Judge F. A. Gelger in the federal court at Milwaukee. The minister admitted petting parties with the girl, whose home was in Kenosha, on trips to St. Louis and Bloomington.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1937.

PETTING PARSON OF ZION MOVES TO JAIL HOUSE

Starts a 6 Months' Term Under Mann Act.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 15.—[Special.]—The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake stopped saving souls and muted his slide trombone today and became just one more prisoner in the Milwaukee house of correction. He is under six months sentence of the federal court in Milwaukee on charges by a 16 year old Kenosha girl who was his companion on extended petting parties in Wisconsin and Illinois, after which he has been assured his congregation at the Christian Assembly Church of Zion, Ill., will welcome him back to his pulpit.

The pastor, his six days' stay of execution gone, was on hand at the federal building early today. Mrs. Dake, repeating that she loved him more now than ever, was his sole companion. She accompanied him an hour later from the federal building to the Milwaukee county jail a dozen blocks away, to await transfer to the house of correction.

Most of the zeal, the unction, and the emotionalism which marked the Rev. Dake's most recent meetings with his congregation in Zion, had passed before he arrived at the county jail. The God Bless Us All spirit had given away almost to surliness which marked his refusal to permit picture taking.

"Too many pictures already," he told the Milwaukee photographers gathered in the jailer's office.

Granted the privilege of waiting in the office until the arrival of the Black

Maria, the steel barred bus which takes its loads of white and black prisoners away, the Rev. Mr. Dake sought security in a jail cell rather than continue in the office barraged with questions and resisting attempts to steal snapshots of him.

Mrs. Dake did not follow her husband to the house of correction, a dozen miles distant from downtown. She returned to Zion, where she will be awaiting him on his release, she said.

The Day's Biggest Hero

By International News Service

ZION, Ill., Feb. 15.—"The happiest man this side of heaven" left here for jail today.

He was the Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, who must serve six months in the house of correction at Milwaukee for violating the Mann act with a 16-year-old Kenosha girl.

But Brother Dake, as he is affectionately known by his congregation, was exalted rather than downcast as he bade farewell.

Taking advantage of his last hours of freedom, he preached a stirring sermon last night which so moved his audience that 20 men and women rose and announced they had been converted.

The Rev. Dake, a handsome 33-year-old father of two children, wept with emotion and as he departed arm in arm with his wife, the entire congregation rose and shouted: "God save Brother Dake."

'Soul-Saving' Brings Term



Emma Barcelli



The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake

Convicted of violating the Mann act, the Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, Zion, Ill., pastor, drew a six-month jail sentence when tried in Milwaukee. The Rev. Mr. Dake, "exonerated" by his wife and flock, was charged, and admitted, transporting a 16-year-old girl, Emma Barcelli, shown above with Dake, from her home in Kenosha, Wis., to East St. Louis, Ill., during a "soul saving" expedition. The preacher says he just wanted to "pray" with Miss Barcelli.

Flock Still Loves Pastor Convicted For 'One Error'

By International News Service

ZION CITY, Ill., Feb. 10—The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake wound up his pastoral affairs here today preparatory to serving six months in jail for his "one mistake," after voicing his disgust for the devil before the loyal members of his flock.

The Rev. Drake's one mistake was a violation of the Mann act to which he pleaded guilty in federal court in Milwaukee yesterday.

Parishoners of the Christian Assembly church heard the Reverend Drake's attorney tell the court the pastor had made "an unfortunate mistake," heard the prosecution trace the minister's travels with 16-year-old Emma Barelli and recall their "petting parties" in hotel rooms in Waukegan, Bloomington and East St. Louis, and at a vindication service here last night heard the pastor draw a moral from his experiences.

"I have learned a lesson," cried the contrite pastor. "I have had a little sense knocked into my head. I am disgusted with the devil. If the devil had a tail and I could get

hold of it, I'd grab it and wrap it around a tree."

The handsome pastor bowed his blond head and shed tears as he asked his congregation:

"Do you still love me?"

"Everybody loves you," the congregation chorused. After the "amens" and "hallelujahs" died down, the Rev. Drake got down to more practical matters. He declared:

"I am now a better man, better morally and better spiritually—better in every way except financially. That suit of clothes and overcoat you gave me three years ago are getting ragged."

1356
TO AVOID DELAY ANSWER EVERY QUESTION
WHETHER IT APPLIES IN YOUR CASE OR NOT.

Application Blank

For Ordination Certificate

WHAT IS YOUR—

1. Full Name? Finis Jennings Oake
2. Home or Headquarters Address? 900 N. Pierce St. Amarillo, Tex.
3. Race and Nationality? American
4. Age? 24 Male? yes Female? no Single? no
Married? yes Divorced? no Remarried? no
Have you a former companion living? no
How many children? none
Has your companion a former companion still living? no
5. Have you an experimental knowledge of salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues? yes
6. Your Special Calling:
Pastor? Bible teaching Evangelist? no
7. What grade of schooling? Grade and C.B.J.
8. How much of your time is consecrated to your call? all of it
9. How long have you been in this ministry? 2 yrs
10. Have you been ordained, and by whom? Executive of Texas & N.M. District

11. The exact date of your ordination? June 9, 1927

12. To what office in the Ministry are you ordained? Bull Gospel as Elder

13. What is your present Ministry:

Pastor: Pastor Where: Amarillo, Tex.

Evangelist? _____ What State? _____

14. Do you trust God for your support? yes

15. What is your attitude toward the General Council, its purposes and work? I endorse it

16. Can you accept and endorse the statement of fundamental truths enclosed with this application blank as the basis of a united ministry (that we all speak the same thing. 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42)? yes

Sign your name here: Benjamin Oake

17. Official Endorsement:

Under this space you must have the personal endorsement of the Chairman of your District Council. If you are not in a section where there is a District Council, you will need to associate yourself with the nearest or most convenient District Council and then be recommended by them to the General Council Office. If you do not know who is your nearest District Chairman, write to the General Council Office, and they will tell you.

Hugh M. Badwelder
Chairman

"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I

Certit

BY 1

CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP

WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY That Finis J. Dake
of Zion Illinois
is hereby recognized by the EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY of the GENERAL COUN-
CIL as a Minister of the Gospel in good standing in the fellowship of the ASSEM-
BLIES of GOD, and that he is acting as Pastor
in agreement with and by the consent of the said EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY.
Given at Springfield, Mo., this 26th day of August, 1916.
The Credentials Committee

This Certificate is renewable annually and is valid only until Sept. 1, 1917.
Secretary

This is to Certify:

That Finis Jennings Dake

of Amarillo Texas

being a member of the general assembly of God (Heb. 12:23), having proven his Divine Gift and Calling to the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ, and having Consecrated himself to said Calling according to the Word of God and in fellowship with the GENERAL COUNCIL of the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD in the United States of America, Canada, and Foreign Lands, has been regularly ordained on the

Ninth day of June, 19 27

We, the EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY of the General Council, by earnest prayer, invoke the Divine Presence with blessing and power upon him, and hereby recognize his Divine Ordination to the ministry of the Gospel, conferring upon him the right to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the church, perform the rite of marriage, bury the dead, and exercise all other functions pertaining to the Christian ministry, in compliance with the laws and customs of the state and country in which he resides, so long as in fellowship with said ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, and while maintaining a Godly life and a Scriptural standard in teaching.

Given this Thirteenth day of June, 19 27 A.D.

W. T. Gaston

CHAIRMAN

J. R. Evans

SECRETARY

This Certificate is valid only when accompanied by Certificate of Fellowship under the Seal of the General Council, which Certificate is to be issued annually.



Name Finis Jennings Dake

1356

Age 24

Address 900 N. Pierce St.

Married

Amarillo, Texas

Ordained as Pastor

Date 6/9/27

Endorsed by H. M. Cadwalder

Office	Renewed	Until	Location
Pastor	6/13/27	1928	111 N. Crawford, Dallas, Texas As above c/o Texico School
Evangelist	9/19/28	1929	828 N. St. Louis St., Tulsa, Okla.
"	10/24/29	1930	316 E. Cherokee Ave., Enid, Okla.
Evangelist	7/23/30	1931	828 No. St. Louis, Tulsa, Okla.
"	9/29/31	1932	ditto
Pastor	10/3/32	1933	2911 Enoch Ave., Zion, Ill.
"	11/22/33	1934	2913 Eshcol Ave., Zion, Ill.
"	8/23/34	1935	2800 Enoch Ave. Zion, Ill.
"	10/24/35	1936	620 Shiloh Blvd., Zion, Ill.

PUBLISHING

Scholars Scrutinize Popular Duke's Bible

Questionable reference work gains in usage thanks to appropriation by Word-Faith teachers.

Theologians, apologists, and scholars are taking a stand against teachings found in the *Duke's Annotated Reference Bible*, which they claim are aberrational and unorthodox.

Published more than 30 years ago and billed as "the Pentecostal Study Bible," Duke's has seen an upsurge in popularity in recent years, selling more than 30,000 copies in 1992, perhaps due to its embrace by leading Word-Faith



Finis Jennings Duke

teachers such as Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, and Benny Hinn.

The controversial reference work was written entirely by Finis Duke, who gained notoriety in the 1930s as a flamboyant pastor, convicted of violating the Mann Act in connection with transporting a minor across state lines for immoral purposes. In prison, Duke reportedly began writing his biblical commentary. He died in 1987.

But in recent years, the Bible, published by Duke's descendants in Lawrenceville, Georgia, has come under fire from evangelical, Pentecostal, and African-American leaders who say that some of the author's more than 35,000 commentary notes, taken from his 1949 book *God's Plan for Man*, are racist, heretical, and contradictory.

Reformed theologian Michael Horton, in his book *The Agony of Deceit*, says Duke's view promoting nine persons in the Trinity is heretical. "The Faith teachers borrowing from Duke's *Annotated Study Bible* deny [the Trin-

ity]." Horton says Duke's view on the Trinity is similar to Mormon theology.

God's body

G. Richard Fisher, in a *Personal Freedom Outreach* article, says many of Duke's doctrinal errors are rooted in his misinterpretation of anthropomorphism. "Although Duke wrote of 'symbolic language,' he did not always recognize where these things apply."

Duke wrote in a note accompanying John 4:24 that God has bodily parts such as a heart, hands, mouth, and tongue, and he wears clothes, eats, and lives on a planet called Heaven.

Christian Research Institute's Hank Hanegraaff says Duke grossly misunderstands theophany—the temporary manifestation of God in a physical form. "Nowhere does the Bible say that God is forever dependent on a body. Duke's doctrine denies the historic Christian church doctrine that God, in the Trinity, is one in essence."

Many Word-Faith teachers subscribe to Duke's view, interpreting that God wears clothes, is about six feet tall, weighs about 190 pounds, and has a hand span of roughly 9½ inches.

Duke's grandson and company spokesman Derrick Germaine says nothing is wrong with the teaching. "Does anyone in this carnal mind have any idea, even from Scripture, that God does not live on a material planet?" Germaine asks. "I can even see Finis Duke's unorthodox view of the Trinity as well as the orthodox one, and this is what separates us from everyone else. When it comes to one of the fine-line issues in theological differences, everyone is entitled to their own opinion."

Duke's Bible Sales' president, Finis Duke, Jr., agrees: "My father concluded that the Bible was trying to tell us that God does have a body."

Biblical scholar Gleason Archer, though, says that Duke's teaching is contrary to Scripture. "He's basically flawed in his approach and has brought in some stuff you could never get from the Bible." The premise of God having a body is an "aberrational absurdity," Archer says.

"The belief of God having a body is a

crass, carnal perversion and a pagan teaching that brings dishonor to God."

There are also many seeming inconsistencies in the work. Among them, Duke asserts in John 10:26 that there are "three things men must do to receive eternal life." Yet in his notes on Luke 9:23, he lists "seven things one must do to be saved," and at John 6:27 he tabulates "23 conditions of eternal life."

Archer asserts that Duke's stand is invalid. "It certainly seems to be a faith-plus-works proposition. I don't recall anywhere in Pentecostal beliefs that suggests that. It sounds cultic, and there is very great cause for alarm."

George Wood, newly appointed general secretary of the Assemblies of God, is quick to distance himself and his church from the Duke's Bible. "His opinions are in direct conflict with our statement of fundamental truth."

Strange teachings

Fisher calls Duke's version "the vacuum cleaner Bible," indexing a bizarre collection of controversial revelations, such as Jonah literally dying inside the whale, the rejection of "if it be thy will" prayers such as is found in Jesus' Gethsemane prayer, angels ruling countless planets, resurrected saints giving birth to their own kind in heaven, germs closely allied with demons, the teaching that Adam and Eve flew back and forth from the moon, and Christians being immune from sickness.

But perhaps Duke's most divisive precept can be found in notes on Acts 17:26, where he promotes racism—giving "30 reasons for segregation." He states, in part, that all nations will remain segregated from one another in their own parts of heaven, will not be allowed to worship together, and that God wills all races to be as he made them, each reproducing after his own kind. "Kind means type and color, or He would have kept them all alike to begin with," Duke writes. "The Bible is against this."

African-American church leader Martin Hawkins of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas is distressed about the teaching. "Imagine the Bible stating that heaven is a place where we all can go, and then being segregated according to race, once we're there. Sounds like there will be an 'other side of the tracks' section in heaven, and that's just too absurd to latch on to."

Wood says, "I suspect that if anyone is using the Duke's, they merely hunt and peck for what they want and, hopefully, ignore the rest."

By Perucci Ferraiuolo.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

cial system finally follows through, we read that requiring a convicted felon to serve his sentence is "discrimination" and "persecution."

Is jail a hardship? Of course it is. It's supposed to be. Does a convicted felon have the right to complain because he is subjected to the full penalty of the law while another convicted felon receives better treatment at the hands of the justice system? I think not.

Winzenburg complains that the system has treated Michael Milken better

than it treats Bakker. The complaint is well-founded, but the better cure for this wrong would have been to keep Milken in jail longer, not to let Bakker out sooner.

Goldie Rotenberg
New York, N.Y.

Why don't you contact some of the poor, elderly widows unsuspectingly bilked out of their small pension checks and ask them what they think of your opinion of Bakker's justice? Methinks

he was fortunate that some of them did not have the privilege of meting out justice to him!

Pastor Jim Evatt
Riverview Baptist Church
Greenville, S.C.

Give me a break! The last thing Christendom needs is for Bakker to hit the road again.

Pastor J. Grant Swank, Jr.
Church of the Nazarene
Windham, Maine

It's easier to travel the narrow path when you have footsteps to follow.



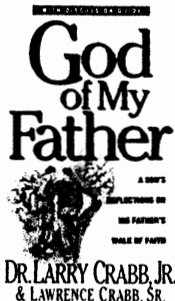
When you feel alone on the path you're supposed to walk, a glimpse of someone ahead of you on that path can mean the world.

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takes us on a deeply personal journey through hard times and unanswered questions to a tough faith—the kind worth passing on from generation to generation.

If you ever doubt whether you can

stay true to the walk of faith, or just long for someone to direct you to solid ground, find *God of My Father*. You'll discover the valuable gift of a seasoned, faithful witness—a gift worth passing on.



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Questions about Dake

The damaging article in your January 10 News section, "Scholars Scrutinize Popular Dake's Bible," is full of untrue statements about what is in the Dake Bible: (1) Dake's view promotes nine persons in the Trinity; (2) Dake denies the Trinity; (3) Dake's view on the Trinity is similar to Mormon theology; (4) Dake's writings imply "God is always dependent on a body"; (5) Dake's view is that God "is about six feet tall, weighs about 190 pounds, and has a hand span of 9½ inches"; (6) Dake rejects "if it be thy will" prayers; (7) Dake teaches that resurrected saints will give birth to their own kind in heaven; (8) Dake says "Adam and Eve flew back and forth from the moon"; (9) The Dake Bible promotes racism. We expect an acknowledgment that such concepts cannot be found in the Dake Bible.

Annabeth Dake Germaine, Vice President
David L. Germaine, Vice President
Finette Dake Kennedy, Vice President
Finis J. Dake, Jr., Vice President
Dake Bible Sales, Inc.
Lawrenceville, Ga.

Clarification: The article about Finis Dake's writings presented commentary by critics that was based on their interpretations and perceptions of Dake's teachings. The statements in the letter above do not appear in the Dake's Annotated Reference Bible or in his book God's Plan for Man.

For example, Dake nowhere states there are nine persons in the Godhead. He does teach that each member of the "Divine Trinity," Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has a "personal spirit body, personal soul, and personal spirit in the same sense that each human being, angel, or any other being has his own body, soul, and spirit." CT regets any statements that appeared to be textual quotations from Dake's works instead of interpretation by critics.

—Eds.

Brief letters are welcome; all are subject to editing. Write to Eutychus, CHRISTIANITY TODAY, 465 Gunderson Drive, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188; fax (708) 260-0114.

From the Dake Family . . . Heart to Heart

An article in the January 10 issue of CT entitled "Scholars Scrutinize Popular Dake's Bible" presented commentary from critics. The April 4 issue brought needed clarification to nine crucial points in the article ("Questions about Dake," p. 12). Below are answers about other facets of Dake's life as well as his teachings.

Dake was a biblical literalist who devoted his life to the study of God's Word. He provoked people to think and study Scripture for themselves. He always gave two or more Scriptures to back his statements, and made subjects clear by harmonizing all related Scriptures. God gave him a gift of quoting Scripture without memorizing it. He never believed his own writings were infallible; only that the Word of God was. He did not want simply to follow traditions of men, but searched diligently for Biblical truth, knowing that the Bible itself must be the final word. He was a collector of information and listed things in great detail.

In 1935 Dake violated the Mann Act by transporting a minor across a state line. One author told us that stories like this are what people want to read. It doesn't matter that it was sixty years ago; that there was no evidence of immorality; that the girl's Catholic parents were irate that she attended Rev. Dake's Pentecostal church; that Dake lived three miles from the state line; or that the town's police, newspaper, and industries were controlled by people who disliked Pentecostals, especially Finis Dake. Thus the stage was set for the event which plagued him and his ministry the rest of his life.

This event haunts his children and grandchildren to this day. People talk about it and writers add it to their message, ultimately branding it as his most notable accomplishment. But we know that God has forgotten it, grace has covered it, and there will come a day when we will hear of it no more.

Dake spent six months in jail, but he began his notes on the Bible before this and did not finish until twenty-five years later.

Some have labeled Dake a racist. Those who really study his notes (not just the headings) know this is not true. Notes on Col. 3:11-12 state that "as a new creation in Christ there is no distinction made in rights and privileges because of race, sex, color, or position in life." Racism has to do with belief in the superiority of one race over another. As a new convert, Dake often attended an African-American church and was baptized there. Throughout the years, African-Americans attended his church as well.

Page 159 of the Dake New Testament lists "30 Reasons Nations Separated," but this relates primarily to the nation of Israel. In 1990 the wording of the title and selected notes was changed to remove unnecessary offense.

Point #21 states that "all nations will remain separated on earth forever" (Acts 17:26). Some have substituted the word "heaven" for "earth," giving an entirely different meaning. There is no reference to people being segregated in heaven.

Point #23 states that "in heaven certain groups will not worship together," but this is not a racial issue. Rev. 7:9-17 and 15:2-4 refer to tribulation saints of *all nations, kindreds and tongues*, worshipping God and singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb. Rev. 14:1-5 refers to the 144,000 that sing a song that no one can learn.

As Melancthon said, "In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity." We pray that those who have a heart for God will hunger and search diligently for the truth. If you have any questions about Dake's writings, please call 1-800-241-1239.