

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 Melanchthon 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.