

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. Gordon 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