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HE THAT WINNETH SOULS

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# He That Winneth Souls

*Illustrations of Personal Evangelism  
In the Mid-Century Crusade for Souls*

JH 1607

Prepared by the Commission of the Mid-Century Crusade for Souls of the Church of the Nazarene.

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NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Kansas City, Missouri

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"We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel  
in the same measure as we have received it."

—Dr. P. F. Bresee

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FOREWORD

In this volume is found further proof that visitation evangelism bears fruit. The evidence is overwhelming that, "where it is worked, it works."

Here, also, is a source of splendid illustrative material for the use of those who preach and teach the technique of personal soul winning.

Best of all, these stories will give inspiration to engage in this greatest of all tasks, the saving of souls.

May the flame of holy passion be incited in the hearts of those who read, until they will put into action what they have been admonished to do.

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

—G. B. WILLIAMSON

## INTRODUCTION

We send this little book out with one hope, and that is that it may be an inspiration to the great number of redeemed men and women who have a desire to win others to Christ. To be genuinely Christian is to have a surging desire to bring others to know the joy of sins forgiven and the beauty of holiness in heart and life. But many lack the moving force to respond to this inner passion and are thus defeated personally and fail in life's greatest commission. To know that others have succeeded should be an inspiration for all of us to try.

In these pages are found up-to-date experiences of how men won men. This book does not dwell on the technique of soul winning. There are doubtless some methods which will succeed more readily than others; but, regardless of the manner of approach and the details of procedure, one thing is most necessary and that is a desire to win the lost to Christ. We trust that the readers of these pages will have the desire, which is native to every Christian, fanned into a burning flame.

An appalling thought challenges me every day and that is, Someone will be saved forever or will be lost forever according to the responsibility I feel for his soul. There is someone whom you can reach for Christ, and if you do not reach him he will be forever separated from God. What a challenging responsibility!

It is my firm conviction that nothing in the history of our church has such far-reaching promise as the Mid-Century Crusade for Souls. We are just beginning to feel the impact of our untapped resources in evangelism. The Early Church experienced the great revivals of her day because the people went "from house to house" under the anointing of the Spirit. They were evangelists in the sense that they were bearers of the good news of salva-



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tion. We hope with all our hearts that the thrill of being a soul winner in co-operation with the Holy Spirit, without which all human effort will fail, will so catch fire that following the mid-century the great work will continue to prosper.

Much credit for the compilation and preparation of the material in this book is due to my very efficient and deeply consecrated assistant, Rev. Alpin P. Bowes. He has spent many hours reviewing and editing the stories that have come to us. The editing committee of the Crusade Commission has assisted in this task. We wish to thank every pastor and evangelist who sent in a story, whether it appears in this book or not. Without this co-operation the book would have been impossible.

There should be no confusion or question as to the relation of personal visitation evangelism and mass or public evangelism. One supplements the other. One of the greatest assets to mass evangelism is personal evangelism, and worked together under the anointing of the Spirit they make a great team.

I have been a Nazarene all my life. I have never belonged to any other church. I know something of her history. It is my most considered observation that never before have we had evidence of the Spirit's outpouring in so great a measure as we are seeing today. During the past two years I have traveled from coast to coast and from deep into Canada to Mexico, crossing and re-crossing the far reaches of our Zion, and never before have we enjoyed such an upsurge of revivals as we are seeing today. And they are not the tearless, handshaking, card-signing kind, either. They are marked by deep sorrow for sin which means repentance and restitution, which give birth to holy living. And these converts are going on into the experience of heart holiness as they walk in the light.

This revival spirit, I feel, is the natural result of personal evangelism. I have yet to find a church where continued and persistent organized personal evangelism has

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been practiced for any considerable time that has not experienced a far-reaching revival. And whether or not we see our hearts' desire in this regard, we still have a personal responsibility that we cannot avoid or pass to someone else. "Go ye into all the world . . ." And that neighbor next door to you is in the world. He is your responsibility as a Christian.

You can win someone to Christ. Will you try?

—ROY F. SMEE, *Chairman*  
The Commission on the Mid-  
Century Crusade for Souls

CHAPTER I

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

Laymen Can Be Winners of Souls

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## WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO CALL

The pastor of a church in Maine, who has promoted visitation evangelism since 1932, organized his people for a community enrollment for the Sunday school. As they made their survey, two ladies, the Sunday-school superintendent and the pastor's wife, found a family of sixteen who were not attending church. The grandparents had been members of the Church of the Nazarene and had brought some of the children with them to the services, but they had not been living for several years. As a result of the call, the parents promised to have some of the children ready when the newly purchased Sunday-school bus came the next Sunday.

The first Sunday six of the children were present in Sunday school. The pastor made a call in the home that week, and the next Sunday the husband and wife, with more of their children, were present.

The next day the pastor received a call from the husband, requesting him to call as soon as convenient, as he had something to talk over with the pastor before the next Sunday. The pastor spent the evening in the home. He found a man who had been awakened to his own and his family's spiritual need. The pastor answered his questions, counseled with him, read from God's Word, and then the two men knelt in prayer. The father prayed through to glorious victory, vowing that he would be faithful to God and the church and pledging that from that moment on his home would be known for having grace before meals and daily family devotions.

When opportunity for testimonies was given in the morning service the following Sunday, this husband and father rose to his feet and gave a glowing, victorious testimony that brought the blessing of God upon the entire



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congregation. The pastor preached on the theme, "The Privilege, Joy, and Responsibility of Personal Evangelism." The new convert listened attentively and began to put the message into practice that afternoon. He called on his relatives and his friends; and when he drove up to the church in his truck for the evening service, he had fifteen people with him. Eight of these, including his wife and his oldest son, responded to the invitation at the close of the service and prayed through to definite salvation.

The pastor reports a new spirit in the church. New families are attending; the Sunday-school attendance is growing; and, even more important, people are finding God at the altar of the church almost every Sunday.

### CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORLINESS

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At two-thirty in the morning a pastor was aroused from his sleep by the insistent ringing of the telephone. On the other end of the line was one of his laymen with an urgent message: "Our neighbor has been on a drunk, but is beginning to get sober, and we have been praying with him. Would you come out and help us?"

The layman's home was six miles away, but the pastor hurriedly got into his clothes, drove across the city, and prayed and talked with the man until he accepted Christ and found victory at four o'clock in the morning.

### PERSONAL CONCERN BRINGS CONVICTION

Dr. H. Orton Wiley, the great theologian of the Church of the Nazarene and now president emeritus of Pasadena College, was saved through the prayers and personal work of Christian people who were concerned about him. This is his testimony:

"I was converted in the fall of 1894. Previous to this, I had been active in the church but never consciously converted. Some holiness people moved near our home in

Medford, Oregon—a man, his wife, and her mother—and began holding cottage prayer meetings as they had opportunity. One of these meetings was held in my father's home. I was working in the drugstore at the time and, coming home later, heard them praying in the front room. One brother prayed, "O Lord, we are here for two things tonight—that John [my father] might be delivered from the tobacco habit, and that Orton [myself] might be converted.' At first I resented this personal reference; but God sent an arrow of conviction to my heart and, timid as I was, I opened the door and walked in. They immediately set out a chair as an altar; and as I knelt there, God for Christ's sake forgave my sins and put a light in my soul that has been shining more and more unto the perfect day."

Dr. Wiley's testimony concerning his sanctification is also an inspiration:

"Soon after this, I became a seeker after holiness—the second blessing, properly so-called. Here I found difficulty by not apprehending the simplicity of faith. For seven years I walked up and down the banks of the Jordan, seeking a narrow place to cross over; but it seemed always that I arrived at the time of the barley harvest when the Jordan overflowed its banks. I became a 'chronic seeker.' But one day in Berkeley, California, I went upstairs to my room, a discouraged young man, and, kneeling by my bedside, opened a little book called *Fletcher's Appeal*, and there read that 'thy helplessness is no hindrance to my loving kindness.' I was then enabled to cease my strugglings and let go. I thought I would be dashed to pieces on the rocks below, but in that simple act of trust I found my feet pressing the Eternal Rock of Ages. There I came first to understand the power of simple faith in Christ. I arose and began to sing, 'On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.' For forty-seven years now I have walked in the light of this



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faith—the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin, and the Comforter abides.”

### GREAT SAINT IS A SOUL WINNER

A pastor writes that a Christian nurse has the greatest faith of almost anyone he knows and is the best soul winner he has had in his church. She had been a member of a church that had succumbed to worldliness, but was saved and went on to get sanctified. She began to tell people what the Lord had done for her. She won her friends and the people she worked with in the hospital. She reached her boy friend and helped him to get sanctified and saw him join the church. Anyone who goes out to win souls will find his own faith and strength in the Lord growing daily.

### FOREIGN MISSIONS AT PASTOR'S DOOR —THROUGH PERSONAL EVANGELISM

One day a pastor in San Antonio, Texas, received a letter from a young man in Chicago whom he had never seen. The letter said that some Chinese boys whom he had met while in China were coming to San Antonio for specialized training at one of the army bases there, and that he had told the boys to contact this pastor. One Saturday the pastor was greeted at his door by two boys from China. Their English was not very good, but he says it was better than his Chinese! They became acquainted and the pastor invited them to church. They promised to come a week later.

All week the pastor prayed that God would give him a message for these Chinese young men. They kept their promise and were in church. At the conclusion of a simple message, one of them was saved. With great rejoicing the pastor again prayed earnestly for the help of the Holy Spirit, and the following Sunday the other one prayed through graciously.

They knew very little about salvation, but were eager to learn. They wanted to know what had happened to them. "Baptized?" they queried. "No," the pastor's wife told them, "you have been saved." One of them wrote that down in his little notebook. They invited the boys home to dinner with them and told them about holiness. "Holiness?" They wrote that down, too.

They wanted a hymnbook of their very own, and it was supplied them. They brought another boy with them to the services.

Now their ways have widely separated. The pastor, Rev. J. Melton Thomas, is ministering in Fairbanks, Alaska. The two Chinese, Melvin G. Ling and Lyman Paul Chung, are back in China, but still write to the good pastor who led them to the Lord.

It all happened because a Christian young man was interested enough in the salvation of some Chinese acquaintances thousands of miles away to arrange for them to meet a Nazarene pastor. How interested are we in the souls of our friends and neighbors?

### YOUNG CONVERT WINS A FAMILY

An automobile mechanic and his wife were spending their lives in riotous living and their money in taverns and night clubs. They were often drunk, and their children went hungry and did not have sufficient clothing.

A friend of the mechanic was leading a similar life of sin when he was converted and delivered from tobacco, liquor, and other vices and habits. He joined the Church of the Nazarene. One day as he was talking with his friend, the mechanic, an opportunity opened for him to testify to what God had done in his life. The mechanic became hungry for Christ, and his friend was able to get the entire family to church and later see them all converted.



## CHRISTIAN LOVE HAS ITS REWARD

In the city of Regina, Canada, a widower lived with his three children in extreme poverty. In order to have a place to live, he moved his family into a railway boxcar that was offered him free of rent. He was considered a "foreigner" and could not locate a job. During the winter he peddled coal from door to door in an effort to earn a little money for bread for his family. When he knocked at the door of Mr. and Mrs. John McPherson, Mrs. McPherson (now in heaven) took pity on the poor man and little by little got the story of the death of his wife and how he was trying to be both father and mother to his three boys.

Mrs. McPherson gathered together some used clothing and invited the family over for a party the day before Christmas. She had a Christmas toy for each of the boys. How excited they were with the first Christmas toys they had ever received! Mrs. McPherson made it a point to invite them to the Sunday school at the Church of the Nazarene, and the three boys were present the next Sunday. They attended regularly for only a few weeks, but Mrs. McPherson continued to invite them to her home. After presenting them with some badly needed items, she would always urge them to attend Sunday school.

Several years elapsed and the widower remarried, moving his family into a rented house. Faithful Mrs. McPherson called at the home to congratulate them and present a gift. When a baby died, she attended the funeral. Through her persistent love and kindness she won her way into the hearts of this "foreign" family. Yet it seemed that her efforts were in vain, for the boys seldom attended Sunday school. Michael, the oldest, stopped attending altogether for about two years; but Mrs. McPherson kept on praying and inviting.

Then while Michael was on a vacation, he heard a Baptist lady pray for him and conviction seized his heart.

Upon returning home, he sought out the Church of the Nazarene. After listening to the first evangelistic message he had ever heard, he gave his heart and life to God. Later he attended a Nazarene college, married the daughter of a Nazarene medical missionary, and felt the call of God to mission fields.

His name is Michael Varro. With his wife he has served as a missionary in China for the Church of the Nazarene. Others in his family have been converted, and his brother James is a member of the Church of the Nazarene.

### LAYMEN HELP PASTOR WIN RAILROADER

A pastor tried for some time to win a railroad employee to the Lord Jesus, but did not seem to be able to get next to him. One evening he sent two of his laymen to the home of the railroad man and came later himself. Before they left, the man had been saved. He was later sanctified and joined the church. Today he is a member of the church board and actively supports the church.

### A HITCHHIKER FINDS CHRIST

A young Christian in Connecticut was driving home from his work in an aircraft factory about one o'clock in the morning, following the swing shift. As he rounded a curve, a man staggering along the road held up his thumb for a lift. The thought of dealing with a soul, perhaps desperately in need of Christ, overwhelmed the driver so that the possibility of danger in picking up a hitchhiker at such a late hour never occurred to him.

The personal worker opened the conversation as soon as the stranger was settled in the car, and in a few minutes turned it to the subject of salvation. He discovered that his new friend had a Roman Catholic background, but at one time had attended the Mt. Hermon School for Boys in Northfield, Massachusetts, with which D. L. Moody's



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name was associated. It was also clear to the worker that he was dealing with a soul that was sick of sin and groping in his darkness for a better way of life. Before he let the man out of his car, he had secured a promise that he and his wife would attend church with him.

When the personal worker's car pulled up at his new friend's house the following week, it was a much brighter and more sober man who stepped into his car than the one he had picked up in the wee hours of the morning a few days before. It was with great joy that he led his friend and his wife into the Church of the Nazarene that Sunday night and sat with them during the service. They were obviously impressed and liked the people immediately. They were introduced to the pastor and came to the parsonage later for guidance and prayer. They returned to the church Sunday after Sunday of their own accord. Joe often came to the parsonage for help as he struggled with the desire for drink.

One Saturday night early in 1949 they came together to the parsonage for help. The pastor talked and prayed with them until after midnight. This was the final crisis, surrender, and victory. While both of them had entered the house under the influence of drink, they left under a new influence—the power of deliverance through Christ in their hearts. The next night, along with others, they walked out to the altar and confessed Christ before men.

Of course this was only the beginning of the story, even though this was glorious enough to the young Christian worker who dared to pick up a hitchhiker in the middle of the night. The new converts immediately became personal workers in their own right, until in a short time they were referred to by their neighbors as the "Brewster Street Missionary Society." They found a friend who hadn't drawn a sober breath in weeks and was at the point of desperation. He had lost his driver's license because of drunken driving and was about to lose his home and his

job, while his wife and seven children were entirely dependent upon him for support. The young convert said, "I know what you need," and brought him to the Church of the Nazarene.

Soon the young drunkard and his wife prayed through at the altar. A letter from the pastor confirming his testimony enabled him to get his driver's license restored. He was given a more responsible position in his work and began to make restitution. He is now paying off the mortgage and building an additional room on his home, and he and his family continue to attend Sunday school and church regularly.

The converted hitchhiker continued to scan his territory for new prospects and in less than a year was averaging twenty-five people in Sunday school every Sunday through his efforts.

Twenty-five more Sunday-school attendants—not to mention the glorious results in homes and lives saved—all because an earnest Christian caught the challenge of personal evangelism and made a call at one o'clock in the morning, on his way home from work.

### TIMELY CALL PREVENTS SUICIDE

Next door to a good Christian woman lived a police matron. The latter had become despondent, following the death of a little granddaughter. In her grief, she decided to kill herself with her police gun. As she made ready to do this, the doorbell rang. It was her Christian neighbor, inviting her to revival services in the Church of the Nazarene. She accepted the invitation and attended the service. God reached her heart and she was converted. Her husband came and was also saved, and both of them joined the church.

As is so often the case, a soul saved soon becomes another soul winner in action. These new converts have been busy at the task of inviting their friends to Christ and the



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church. Many others, including the mayor of the city, have attended the church through their influence.

### DOCTOR FAILS TO BRING RELIEF FOR CONVICTION

A young couple moved into an apartment house in which a Nazarene couple lived. The two young ladies became acquainted, and the Nazarene lady soon discovered that the other young woman was in deep distress of mind. She suggested that she call her pastor to counsel with her. The young woman agreed and the pastor called. He discerned that she was under deep Holy Ghost conviction. She had not known what her trouble was and had been going to a doctor to try to get relief. The pastor counseled with her and read her some appropriate verses from the Word of God and had prayer with her.

The next Sunday morning she was in church and came forward when the invitation was given. In a few minutes she prayed through and gave a glowing testimony. Whereas before she had expressed herself as having a feeling of being lost, now she said, "The lost feeling is gone, and I feel that I belong to God and He belongs to me." Within a few weeks she came to the altar again and was sanctified.

A short time later the couple moved to Canada, but before going she left this testimony: "I don't know yet all that happened to me at the altar, but I do know that something has happened to me that I'll never forget and I'll never be the same person again."

### CONTEST BRINGS FATHER TO GOD

During a revival meeting, a Sunday-school contest was conducted with a Bible as the prize to the one who would bring the largest number of people. A little boy in the Primary Department went out to win the Bible and in-

vited people all over town. His father was not saved and had no interest in the church, but came to help his son win the contest and stayed for the morning service. During the altar call, the boy broke into sobs because he wanted to go to the altar and wanted his daddy to go with him. Finally the father yielded and, accompanied by his wife, who was a Christian, he and his son knelt at the altar and were converted. The family joined the church together and are today among the leaders.

### UNWANTED CHILD FINDS A HOME AND SALVATION

The heart of a Christian is concerned for others, even though it may cost something. The Christian remembers what it cost our Saviour to bring us salvation.

In one Southern town the young people of the Church of the Nazarene held services every Sunday afternoon in the county jail. At one of these services, one of the ladies noticed a little twelve-year-old girl in a cell with a drunken woman. She was shocked at the sight and began to investigate. She found that the girl's father had died when she was only three and that her mother had remarried and later been divorced. The girl was tossed around from one place to another and finally sent to the home of an aunt. Shortly after her arrival in this new home, the aunt divorced her husband and married a gambler and a drunkard. Finally the aunt put the girl on a bus and sent her to her former husband. He was a railroad employee and was not at home when she arrived. However, she found an open window and climbed into the house as she had seen her aunt do on several occasions. When her aunt's ex-husband returned home, he found the girl asleep in his bed, called the police, and had her arrested. She spent four days in jail in a cell with a drunken woman.

Learning the history of the girl was not enough for this good Christian woman. She called on the county



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judge and arranged to have the girl turned over to her care. Since being in this home she has been saved and sanctified and has joined the Church of the Nazarene. She is loved and respected by the people of the church and feels that the Lord has called her to be a missionary. Her new-found home is expecting to adopt her, and she is thrilled with this prospect. One evening after she had completed her homework for school, she brought her Christian "Mummy" these lines which she had composed:

*Humble is he who kneels at the Cross;  
Humble is he that goes to the Lord in prayer;  
Humble in spirit is he,  
For the Lord himself is humble.*

This incident reveals the spirit of the Master, who went out into the storm to find the lamb that was lost.

### SECRETARY WINS HER BOSS

The secretary to a businessman in a Southern California town watched for opportunities to speak to him about how God answers prayer. After six months of this quiet, unassuming witnessing, the man was one night mightily convicted of his need of God and unable to sleep. He called everyone he knew in the church and asked them where to read in the Bible and how to get help. The next day a businessman who was a member of the Church of the Nazarene outlined God's plan of salvation to him in his office and prayed with him for an hour until the witness of the Spirit assured him that he was a "new creature in Christ Jesus." A short time later (early in 1949) he joined the church. Now he has a shine on his face and a witness that is clear and unmistakable.

### A LAYMAN WEEPS FOR SOULS

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing

his sheaves with him" (Psalms 126:6). That verse is not only a beautiful sentiment, but expresses a great spiritual truth. A pastor was doing some cleaning about the church when one of his laymen came in with another man, down and out. The layman was weeping and so was the sinner. In just a few minutes there was another soul born again. Now he is working faithfully for the church.

Later this same layman telephoned to his pastor, asking if he could come to a certain address. When the pastor arrived, both the layman and the man of the house were weeping—one because of a burden for a soul, and the other because of sin. Of course he, too, was saved and now is a regular attendant at the church.

### JANITOR'S BUSINESS: SERVING CHRIST

He was an ordinary layman in the church—faithful, devout, and busy. He earned his living as a janitor in a large hospital in the city and, among other duties, he mopped the floors in the physiotherapy wards. One day he went to his pastor and told of a man who had been entered in the ward in an iron lung, a victim of polio. He asked his pastor to visit the man and see if he could not lead him to the Lord. Sensing that the layman had a vital interest in the patient, the pastor suggested that the layman make this his own project, and that if the pastor could help, the layman was to let him know. Weeks went by, and he reported the man showing an interest in the things of God. One day he came reporting that the man was saved, and gave happy testimony to the experience. A few days later he came again, reporting that the man had been sanctified.

The pastor stopped to visit the man, and his face shone with new joy. He witnessed happily to both works of grace. He told of the blessing that had come to him, and he could not speak highly enough of the janitor who had told him of the Christ.



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The hospital paid him for sweeping floors, and he did this work well; but the Lord used him to win a soul, and he did that work well also. God can use anyone who is truly ready to be used.

### WORKING GIRL SAVES HOME

A pastor in Iowa was called to a home in which a young lady who was a member of his church was working. The home was about to break up, with internal difficulties accumulated until the wife had tried to take an overdose of sleeping medicine and the husband had taken to drink. The Christian girl was faithful in her life and testimony, so that when the pastor came he was able to talk to them and have prayer. They began to attend church, and soon were converted. They were later sanctified and joined the church. A godless, shattered home became a place of love and happiness through the faithfulness of a young Christian employee.

### GLORIOUS BY-PRODUCTS OF SOUL-WINNING ENDEAVOR

A young Nazarene woman in a West Coast church was married to a drunkard and carried a heavy burden for his salvation. The discouragement of not seeing him saved, as well as the load of care for her family of four children and a full-time job, often brought her to the place of doubting her experience with God. During a campaign with Mrs. Eva Gardner she caught the vision for personal work. Employed in a large concern with a personnel of over five hundred, she set herself to win some of her associates, trusting God to bring about the salvation of her husband. On the closing Sunday of the meeting, one of her fellow office workers, a young married woman, bowed at the altar and was wonderfully saved—through the in-

vation of this member. Later she was sanctified and has become a member of the church. No less than twenty other employees of this concern have attended services through the invitation of these two, and whenever the pastor stops by their offices they invariably have several to whom he is introduced and given an opportunity to invite to church.

Two other spiritual by-products have come to this young woman who set out to be a personal evangelist. First, she has become a wonderful, steady Christian. The element of doubt has completely vanished. Second, her drunkard husband has been saved and stands as a monument to the grace of God. Her faithfulness in trying to win others resulted in multiplied conviction upon his heart until he yielded.

### HE LET HIS LIGHT SHINE

In the little town of White Horse, British Columbia, lived a Nazarene who loved God enough to be a witness, even though there was no Church of the Nazarene in his town. One of those to whom he witnessed was a traveler from Minnesota, on his way to Alaska. He said to him, "If you ever go to Fairbanks, look up the Church of the Nazarene." He did get to Fairbanks and he remembered to look up the church.

This young man was converted and joined "the farthest north Church of the Nazarene on earth" several years ago. Since then he has been sanctified and is a great blessing to the church. He is president of the young people's society, teaches a Sunday-school class, and brings a carload or two of folks to Sunday school every Sunday.

What if that unknown Nazarene in White Horse, British Columbia, had said, "There is no Church of the Nazarene in my town; I guess there is nothing I can do for the Lord"?



## COLLEGE STUDENT WINS SOUL DURING SUMMER VACATION

A college student, working during the summer in a city in Montana, met a middle-aged woman who had married a backslidden Nazarene after divorcing her husband. She was a member of another denomination, but had not attended church for two years because her actions had been denounced by another woman in her church who was also divorced and remarried. The college student invited her to the Church of the Nazarene and, after the second invitation, was delighted to see her in Sunday school and church. He talked to her several times about her spiritual condition and prayed with her in her home, but she seemed unable to pray through. She had many questions that could be answered more satisfactorily by personal interview than in public at an altar. The college student was faithful in helping her and she continued to attend church.

About two weeks after he returned to school, the lady was saved at the church, later was sanctified, and became one of the most faithful members of that church.

## YOUNG MAN WINS GIRL FRIEND

A young Christian realized a need to be interested in the salvation of others. He brought a girl friend to church with him, and she was converted in a short time in the regular services of the church. They teamed up and succeeded in getting the girl's mother to church. Within a couple of Sundays the mother was saved, and that night the daughter was sanctified. Two weeks later the mother was sanctified at the close of a Sunday evening service. "Each one win one" is more than a fine Christian motto; it is the spirit of every earnest follower of the Lord Jesus.

## LAYMAN WINS HITCHHIKER AND FAMILY

Picking up a hitchhiker in his car, a layman talked to him along the road about the Lord and secured his chance acquaintance's name and address before letting him out. The next Sunday he brought his new friend to church and in a short time he was converted. Soon his wife and their four children also came. Now they are active in the church and Sunday school and he is the teacher of a class of Junior boys.

But again, to win one soul only begins the spread of the gospel. This lady, having found God, became concerned about an unsaved sister-in-law. She asked her pastor to go with her to visit the sister-in-law and endeavor to win her to Christ. They were successful on the first visit and she was converted in her own home. She and her husband had separated, but now that she was a Christian and her life changed, her husband came back to her. Their baby was baptized on Easter Sunday, 1949, and the husband is becoming interested in salvation, also.

It all started with a Nazarene layman picking up a hitchhiker and testifying to him along the way. Already it has resulted in one home being reunited and new happiness brought into seven lives.

## A TIMID SOUL BECOMES A SOUL WINNER

A very timid man was converted in a Church of the Nazarene in the East and in a few months united with the church. Within three months, he was bringing an average of twelve people to Sunday school every Sunday. During a revival meeting, he led his own son to the Lord and the church. He visited a lady who did not attend any church and led her to God. He is now one of the boldest personal workers in the church.

## CHAPTER II

### EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK

Pastors Leading the Way in Soul Winning



## PASTOR'S VISIT YIELDS RICH HARVEST

Two young ladies began to attend services in one of our churches quite regularly until the Christmas season; then they suddenly stopped coming. In the holiday rush, the pastor was unable to call upon them until early in January. That call was one of the most fruitful he had ever made. The married sister was at home and explained their absence by sickness in the home. Turning the conversation to spiritual things, the pastor found that she had attended one of our strong churches in the South while she was living in a boarding school. Feeling the presence of God in the services and the warm evangelistic spirit, she had vowed to seek out the Church of the Nazarene in the city where she would live permanently. The pastor inquired as to whether she had ever been born again and received the answer, "No." She explained that many times while visiting the church she had been deeply convicted, but natural timidity kept her from making a move.

Feeling the leadership of the Spirit, the pastor asked if she did not still desire to become a Christian. Immediately tears came to her eyes, and she answered an emphatic "Yes," but qualified it by saying that she doubted if she could ever summon the courage to come to a public altar. He assured her that God could give grace for that, but that it was not necessary to go to a church altar for salvation—God could meet her need anywhere, even there in the home. When asked if she wouldn't like to pray then and there, she said she would and slipped to her knees. The pastor prayed; she offered a simple prayer for forgiveness; and when she arose, the light of heaven was upon her face.



The story does not end with simply one new name written down in glory, for God has a spiritual chain reaction. The next Sunday she rode the bus with two small children ten miles to church, her husband having stormed out of the house when she announced her intentions of attending church regularly and being a real Christian. He further denied her the use of the car, and threatened to leave her permanently if she did not give up this "foolishness." Within three months he bowed at the altar of the church during revival services and was beautifully saved. Subsequently, both were clearly sanctified wholly. A month later, the single sister who lived in the home was converted in a regular church service. All three have joined the church.

And still the story goes on. Both sisters now teach Sunday-school classes. The husband is an active worker in the boys' club. These two have brought more new people into the church services than any others in the church, and have seen several won to Christ as a result of their persistent invitation and visitation.

### HIGHWAY COURTESY BRINGS SALVATION

A pastor in a town on the East Coast was walking down the main street of the town one afternoon when he noticed a woman with a large car bearing an out-of-state license having trouble getting the car started. He offered his assistance and discovered that the starter was stuck. Calling on some others to help him, he rocked the car to loosen the starter, but without success. Then they pushed the car down the street and, as it gathered a little speed, the lady followed instructions, put the car in gear, and it started instantly.

The lady stopped the car and, when the pastor came alongside the car, she asked him how much she owed him. He answered, "A great deal—when you are in our city,

please come to the Church of the Nazarene." He found that she had just moved to the outskirts of the city. She did come to the church and was graciously saved. She died only six months later, but during this time had a wonderful testimony.

### WHAT IF THIS PASTOR HAD OBEYED GOD'S PROMPTINGS?

A young pastor heard of a man who was reported to have been a bootlegger and antagonistic to the church. He succeeded in getting the children into the Sunday school, and visited in the home several times.

One day when leaving the home, the pastor felt impressed to have prayer with the man and his family, but someone came in and he neglected to pray. As he drove away, he felt impressed to return and have prayer with the man and talk to him about his soul; but it was inconvenient and the pastor thought the impression might be from some other cause, so he went on his way.

On a Saturday night a short while later, the pastor was notified that this man had been killed on the highway while drunk. This is his soul-stirring testimony—a reminder to all of us that God's promptings are to be obeyed: "When I looked into his cold face, the Lord seemed to remind me of the time I neglected to mind Him, and now a soul was lost—lost probably because I failed."

### PASTOR SAVES BROKEN HOME

The setting of this story is typical of many American families today. The man and woman were in their early thirties; they had been married about ten years, and had two small children. Their income was budgeted very closely, for they were buying their own home and an auto-



mobile. The wife did extra work frequently to add to the family funds.

Sin is no respecter of persons, and the particular sin that attacked this lovely home was that of drinking. The husband was a fine young man, friendly and industrious. However, even a small amount of liquor made him fierce and dangerous. On more than one occasion his wife, in terror for the safety of herself and the children, called the sheriff and had her husband held in jail overnight when he came home in this condition.

A family of Nazarenes were neighbors to this home and friendly to them. Into this home late one night fled the young mother and her two children. Her drunken husband, who had threatened to kill them all, soon came also and tried to persuade his family to return home. The pastor of the Church of the Nazarene was called, but he realized there was not much hope of peace or safety as long as the young man was enraged by drink. The sheriff came and the young man was again taken to jail.

The pastor immediately gave himself to the task of saving the family. He took the young man some food at the jail early the next morning. In a few days he called at the pastor's office and prayed through to spiritual victory.

In the meantime, the young mother had decided this was the last time she would put up with such indignities and filed suit for divorce. The pastor did his best to befriend her and, after her husband's conversion, pressed upon her the responsibility she had for trying to save her family from divorce. She was hungry of heart and, although ignorant of the gospel, she responded and was converted also. However, she was reluctant about taking her husband back immediately and her relatives cautioned her against it. Perhaps he was only pretending to be religious and still meant to carry out his threats. If things didn't work out between them, her divorce proceedings would have to be started all over again. Never-



theless, within three weeks the family was living happily together again.

The pastor urged them to be faithful in church attendance as a means of grace. They promised to attend regularly and have kept their word, never missing except for serious illness. The young wife saw the need for a nursery class in the Sunday school and offered to accept the responsibility for it. She organized it, interested others in it, and operates it to the blessing of the church.

The husband has not slipped once in his experience and has a good testimony. He, too, is active in service for the church. Every Saturday he takes care of all the Sunday-school literature, seeing that every class has its papers and quarterlies ready. He had to sell his car because of the financial troubles caused by his drinking, but every Sunday morning he gets the pastor's car and makes a six-mile run, picking up Sunday-school youngsters.

Of course the greatest blessing is the fact that the home now is a Christian home with a family altar and grace before meals. The two young children, instead of growing up with divorced, unhappy parents, are growing up where prayer is offered daily by Dad and Mother and love is supreme. These blessings have come through the personal contacts of Nazarene neighbors and the personal work of the pastor.

## YOUNG PASTOR WINS A FARMER

Struggling to support himself in his first pastorate, a young minister was working for a farmer, sewing sacks on a combine harvester. The two men ate lunch together each noon, under the shade of a tree. The young pastor ate and talked—witnessing to his boss about the things of God. Before long his friend came to the little church and at the first invitation came forward for prayer and was converted.

## SAVED AT SIXTY M.P.H.

Driving home from a revival meeting in another town, a pastor stopped to pick up a young serviceman who was signaling for a ride. The young man had just said good-bye to his wife and a week-old baby. His heart was about broken, as he was being sent overseas. He had sixteen minutes to catch his train, which was sixteen miles away.

The pastor's heart went out to the young man, and he asked him if he was a Christian. He said, "No." Racing down the highway, the pastor endeavored to save a soul and also catch a train. He told him of the Man of Galilee, who would go with him across the ocean and stay by his side, even in foxholes. As they rode along, the pastor prayed and the young man prayed. In a few minutes he exclaimed, "I have found Him. He has come into my heart, and I know I have a Friend who will go with me now."

The pastor reached the depot in time to catch the train, and left the young man rejoicing in his new-found faith.

## A PASTOR WHO WOULD NOT BE DEFEATED

They hadn't been in any church for twenty years, but this man and wife and their son visited a Church of the Nazarene for a special service. The pastor called on them immediately, but found them very ignorant about spiritual things. He repeated the call and got them out to church once more, but they moved to another part of the city and the contact was lost.

Some time later the pastor met the man on the street, secured the new address, and called again in the home. As the family had no car, the pastor offered to drive by for them the next Sunday in his own car and take them to church.



Now the pastor began a concerted effort to win the family to the Lord. Every Sunday he would drive by to take them to church. Sometimes they would go; on other occasions they would make excuses; often they would not be at home when he arrived. Once in a while the pastor invited them to his home for dinner. He encouraged his members to do the same, until the family began to get acquainted and feel at home.

Finally, God got hold of their hearts and they were wonderfully converted at the altar. The task of winning this family was not over, however, for the husband was addicted to cigarettes and was having a battle, and the wife thought she ought to go back to the denomination of her girlhood. The pastor enlisted the aid of his members to pray that God would deliver the husband and make the wife feel at home in the Church of the Nazarene. In the meantime, the people continued to invite them to their homes and to be friendly and helpful in every way. This persistence was successful, the son was converted, and the family joined the church.

Since that time, the husband has secured a better job, pays his tithe into the church, and he and his wife are getting others, including his wife's parents and brother, to come to church.

Lack of appreciation and response is many times discouraging, but the reward to the faithful is glorious indeed.

## FOOT RACE HELPS TO WIN TWINS

Coming to a new pastorate, a minister found two young men, sixteen-year-old twins, connected with the church but unsaved. Not yet in high school, they had left school almost in disgrace because of disciplinary problems. The pastor determined to win them to the Lord. He took special interest in them, spending time and attention to gain their friendship. He even challenged



them to a foot race, until at last he gained their confidence. It was not long, then, until he was able to win them to the Lord in a gracious victory.

### PASTOR AND WIFE WIN THEIR NEIGHBOR

All Christians have a measure of responsibility for the salvation of their neighbors. This pastor and his wife have been happy to see a neighbor won to the Lord. She lived two doors from the parsonage and, with her husband, had attended a few revival services in response to invitations. The pastor and his wife were praying for their salvation. Then the neighbor was taken seriously ill and confined to the hospital for several weeks. Now they could speak to her more directly. They found her hungry for the Lord and encouraged her to pray and seek God. After a number of visits, she met them one day with a happy smile as they entered her hospital room. "God has forgiven," was her testimony. She came very near to death, but God raised her up and, after several months of convalescing, she was able to attend the services of the church. In the first church services after her illness she arose and thanked God for sparing her life and for salvation from sin. God delivered her from smoking and other sinful habits, and she is planning to unite with the church. Her husband, although still unsaved, is beginning to attend the services regularly.

### TOO LATE! TOO LATE!

A man running a wrecking yard across town came to the attention of a pastor, and God began to talk to him about the man's wicked life. He felt he should go and talk to him about his soul, but he kept putting it off, waiting for a time when all would be convenient.

One night this man, while in a drunken condition, killed a deputy sheriff. Now the pastor talked to him, but it was too late. He shook the hand that was guilty of

murder, and when he asked the man who was behind bars if there was anything he could do for him, his answer was a sad "No."

## A NEW ROOF WINS TWO FAMILIES

The pastor of a church in a small town felt the responsibility of the surrounding countryside and, with his wife, began to call in these rural homes. They stopped at a little country home and were graciously received and invited in. The call lengthened, as the pastor accepted the invitation to hunt a few squirrels and stay for dinner. The family admitted that they had been attending church some and were Christians, but were mixed up on the question of speaking in tongues. They also told of how their house roof leaked, but that they were not able to afford a new roof. As the pastor knelt for prayer, he asked God for a new roof for this home.

About three weeks later they gratefully reported that an uncle had unexpectedly made restitution to them for a wrong deed in an amount sufficient to buy a new roof for the house. On the next visit, the pastor gave them an exposition from the Bible on the tongues question, and shortly thereafter they joined the church.

Then they asked the pastor to call on their daughter, who had three children. He did so and was able to win them all to the Lord and the church.

Perhaps a squirrel hunt and dinner are sufficient inducement for any pastor to break a busy schedule with a lengthy call; but it was the personal interest and sincere attention that crystallized the seeking of these hungry hearts and brought them to the church.

## CONVERTED IN AUTOMOBILE

One pastor has made a lifelong practice of endeavoring to win others to Christ through personal work. He



was able to help a man pray through on January 1, 1940, in his automobile, parked in front of the post office. Later this man joined the navy during the war and he, too, began to win men to Christ. A young sailor wrote back to the church, telling how the Lord had saved him and how happy he was that this Christian officer had been sent his way.

### PASTOR POINTS MURDERER TO GOD

A young man accused of murder was confined to jail. The Nazarene pastor went to see him, talked to him about Christ, and prayed with him. He called another Nazarene pastor and together they went to the young criminal's home and were able to see his mother and sister accept Christ. They later had a cottage prayer meeting in the home, with a large attendance. Other members of the family were won to the Lord and joined the Church of the Nazarene. The pastor continued to deal with the accused man and he was converted while in jail awaiting trial.

### A MINISTER IN DISGUISE

A pastor in California became interested in a man who attended a church service. He seemed to be alert, talented, and possessed of a splendid personality. The pastor was faithful in calling, praying with the family, and urging their attendance. After about a dozen calls, the young man broke down one day as the pastor was praying with the family and sobbed out his story:

"I am a backslidden Free Methodist preacher. My wife and I got discouraged and resigned our first pastorate about a year ago. I came to California and went to work in the aircraft industry. I've been working Sundays for the extra time and one-half wage paid, instead of taking my wife and children to Bible school. Our hearts are



broken; we are out of God's will. Please pray that God will forgive us and give us a chance to prove ourselves in His ministry again."

In a short time there was great rejoicing in that home, with the assurance of restoration. God soon opened a door for them, and they are now back in a pastorate in their own church. One of God's laborers was restored because a pastor was concerned about the souls in his community and faithful in dealing with them.

### SANCTIFIED IN HER OWN HOME

A young married woman, who was a Christian, began to attend the Church of the Nazarene. The pastor noticed that she was becoming interested in and concerned about sanctification. One day the pastor and his wife, after prayer, went deliberately to deal with her about her need. She soon was in tears and consented to pray. In a few moments she arose to her feet to testify that she had the "blessing."

The pastor says, "The steps involved in our dealing with this woman were almost to the letter the steps as given in our helpful manual, *Soul Winning Through Visitation Evangelism*. I had read this and may have unconsciously been guided by it in a measure, although at the time I was unaware of it. I may add that in dealing with souls the point of utterly relying on and trusting the Holy Spirit to work cannot be overemphasized."

### FAITHFUL TESTIMONY BY FEARFUL YOUNG PASTOR

A mother asked a young pastor to call on her married son, who was living in sin, and try to win him to Christ. It was his first soul-winning call and he became so terrified that he trembled. Praying to God for help, he visited the young man one evening. The minister was not treated

cordially, but was unable to carry along the conversation until there was more friendliness. All the time he wanted to talk to the young man about salvation, but when he tried to he became afraid and trembled. The time to go came and still he had said nothing to the young man about his soul. He arose and in desperation backed to the door. He was so frightened that he cried, but he gave his testimony of what God had done for him and told the young man God could do the same for him.

A few days later, after two days and nights spent in gambling, the young man arrived at home at two-thirty in the morning. His wife told him he ought to get saved, and for an answer he got out of bed and said, "Let's pray."

God came to his heart that night, and for about twenty-five years he has been a faithful member of the church which helped him to find God. During that time he has given thousands of dollars to the church. God blessed the young pastor who was willing to do what the Lord wanted him to do, in spite of his fears.

### BARBER WON BY PERSISTENCE

A pastor and some of his laymen joined forces in winning a family to God and the church. The church people called on a barber who was far from God, and asked the pastor to follow up their calls. He visited his place of business and his home many times. When there was sickness in the family, he prayed with them. Only occasionally would the barber visit the church, and then he seemed to have little interest in the services. But finally the Holy Spirit brought conviction to his darkened heart. After more than a year of faithful calling, the pastor's heart rejoiced in seeing the barber accept the invitation and come to the altar. He was converted, and brought his wife and children to the church. They were all saved and joined the church. He was soon a member of the



church board. Faithful calling enabled God to have a chance to get to his heart.

### WINNING THE MAN WHO CAME AFTER DINNER

A pastor and his wife were calling on a family and stayed for dinner. Near the end of the meal, a salesman came to the door. He knew the family and was introduced to the minister. He began to ask questions about religion and the Church of the Nazarene. Finally, the pastor began to speak to the salesman about his own spiritual needs. He became so interested that three hours had passed before he realized it.

After earnest prayer by the pastor, the salesman went home and told his wife all about the conversation. Although she was a Sunday-school teacher in a prominent church in the town, she had never been converted and was convicted of her need of God. She began to attend the Church of the Nazarene and soon was saved at the altar. She began to seek to be sanctified, but her husband became indignant and tried to take her home. Later she was sanctified and joined the church. Then her daughter also was saved. Finally, however, the salesman himself was saved and sanctified. The whole family now belongs to the church and are enthusiastic and spiritual workers.

### SAVED ON A STREETCAR

A student pastor was busy witnessing for Christ as he rode the interurban out to his church. He talked to the men next to him as he hung onto a strap. Then he passed out tracts throughout the car. Finally he came to two young men who were sitting together. He asked them if they were Christians and they responded in the negative. He asked if they would like to be Christians, and they both answered, "Yes." They admitted that God is no respecter of places or persons, and when he asked,



"Do you believe that God could save you here as well as in a church?" they answered, "Yes."

The young pastor prayed while the seekers bowed their heads on the seat in front of them, and soon the light of heaven broke in upon their souls.

The next week the pastor got a letter from one of the young men. He wrote, "You may think it strange as to why I so quickly answered your questions on the street-car. I have been keeping company with a young woman for seventeen months and going with her to church every Sunday night. I wondered why she or someone did not say something to me about my soul, as I wanted to be saved. I told her Sunday night how I had been saved, and she was very glad to hear the story. I asked her why she had not spoken to me about being a Christian and she answered, 'I have been praying for you, but was afraid to speak, as I thought I was not wise enough to instruct you aright.'"

### SICKBED CALLS BRING SALVATION

The father-in-law of a man who had been won to the Lord through persistent calling became ill. The pastor called a number of times and tried to lead him to the Lord. One day as he was sitting by his bedside and telling him about God and His saving grace, the man suddenly leaped out of the bed and dropped on his knees, crying out to God. He was saved just in time, for a few days later he died, leaving a good testimony to the saving grace of God. A few extra calls were required—several hours of a busy pastor's time; but the result was a soul eternally saved.

### HITCHHIKER FINDS CHRIST

Traveling along the highway between Enid and Tulsa, Oklahoma, a pastor felt impressed of the Lord to pick

up a hitchhiker he saw standing by the side of the road. When he stopped the car, the man got in the front seat with him and soon started to light a cigarette. The pastor asked him to wait until he got out of the car to smoke if he could, as smoking was offensive to him. He agreed and commented that he would be better off if he didn't smoke at all.

This was the opening the pastor was looking for, and he began to talk to him about a Saviour who could save him and give him victory over every habit in his life. The hitchhiker said he would like to have that kind of salvation and that no one had ever talked to him like that before. The miles were now slipping by, and the minister knew he would have to work fast if he were to win this soul before the trip had ended. He saw that the man had tears in his eyes, so he pressed him to pray and asked him to bow his head. The pastor drove and watched the road and prayed at the same time. The hitchhiker prayed and wept until God came to his heart. As he got out at the end of the journey, he said he would never be the same after that. This was indeed sowing by the highway.

## DRUNKARD FINDS A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

One Sunday afternoon during a revival meeting, a drunken man staggered by the parsonage of the Church of the Nazarene and asked the pastor if he would come over to his house and talk to him. The pastor told the evangelist he had been endeavoring to win the man to Christ for some time. When the evangelist and pastor entered the home, they found him with a glass in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

They talked with him and urged him to surrender to Christ, and finally he knelt and began to pray. In a short time, the light of Christ's presence broke into his heart and tears of joy rolled down his cheeks as he ex-



claimed, "What happened? I'm a different man!" He unloaded the cigarettes from his pocket and made vows about his way of life. That night, clothed and in his right mind, he and his wife began to attend church.

### A PASTOR WHO WOULD NOT GIVE UP

One of the most heartbreaking experiences for any pastor is to see a family separate in spite of all he can do to heal the wounds and bring the souls to Christ. One pastor visited such a family, talked and prayed with them, but the wife left the husband with four children.

The pastor did not give up. He continued to call and pray and point to Christ. Finally he was able to get them back together again and win them to Christ. His deep concern and earnest efforts have been well repaid. Not only has he seen a Christian family established where formerly there were separation and heartaches, but he has seen a splendid addition to his church membership. The husband is now superintendent of the Sunday school and the wife is a Sunday-school teacher.

CHAPTER III

HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS

Winning the Unchurched



## A PRISONER OF WAR

Many Christian boys who served in the armed forces during the war were loyal witnesses to their faith, sometimes at the expense of being ridiculed by others. Quietly they served Christ and let Him speak through them a testimony of saving grace. The following experience is related by Joseph W. Clark, now serving the Church of the Nazarene in Hawaii:

"He was a man of fifty-seven and well educated. His name was Fritz and he was a German prisoner of war.

"I saw him for the first time on Ward 2-B. He was pushing a cart of clean linens. As he passed me, he placed two clean sheets and a pillowcase on the foot of my bed. Later he came back and changed my linens. While he was working we talked.

"He said, 'I have been a prisoner for five years and I wonder often about my wife and son. Sometimes I get so lonesome.'

"I asked him about his home, his family, about how he was captured, and about his education and future. He made the remark, 'I have no future. It has been killed.'

"I told him about what I planned to do when the war was over and he said, 'You have someone who cares. I don't.' It was then that I used the Word—John 3:16—and told him that Someone cared about him; that God loved him and would help him. I told him how Jesus could satisfy his heart and bring peace to the soul.

"Fritz asked me, 'How do you know? You can't move from one side to the other and you are ill.'

"I replied, 'Even though I can't move from one side to the other and though I am ill, I know that Jesus rules in my heart and He brings me peace. He can do that for you now.'

"We talked a little longer and he asked me to pray for him. As he knelt by my bed and we prayed together, such a peace came into my heart! It was not long until Fritz found Jesus and peace to his soul. He arose with tears streaming down his face and said, 'I feel so free inside.'

"From that day on, it was not the same Fritz who pushed the linen cart and cleaned the ward. He, a prisoner of war, became a fisherman for God. Often I could hear him singing as he worked, and others found the Master because of his words. Frequently he would stop by my bedside and tell me how happy he was.

"One day he came to me and said he was going home. The tears splashed down his cheeks and he held my hand tighter than I could bear. He promised to write and to keep true.

"It has been over six years since he knelt by my bedside and found Christ. He has written and told me how he has led over one hundred twenty-five others to the Saviour that he found.

"Fritz—just a number on the records, a prisoner of war—found Christ and became a fisherman for God. When he needed a friend and help, he found that Jesus could meet his every need."

### YOUNG VETERAN CALLED TO MINISTRY

A young veteran was attending the University of Arizona in Tucson. He rented an apartment from a member of the Church of the Nazarene. Several of the young people in the personal workers' band made his acquaintance and urged him to attend the church. Finally he did attend, and a month later, during a revival with Evangelist Lon Woodrum, he sought God and received a call to preach. The following year he transferred to Pasadena College, where is studying for the ministry.



## GOD COMES TO A FAMILY IN SORROW

During a community enrollment, two Nazarene laymen discovered a family that did not attend church and had no church preference or interest whatever. Father, mother, and two boys composed a typical American family, but they had no church and no God. Could they go through life in this fashion, depending on their own strength alone?

The pastor took a personal interest in the family. He was able, by furnishing transportation with his own car, to get the boys enrolled in the Sunday school. The boys were full of life and pranks and noise. Some of the church people thought the Sunday school would get along better without them. But the pastor saw two lives to be saved for God, and kept right on bringing them in his car. He visited in their home and talked to the parents about a real experience of salvation. They had never heard of such a thing and could hardly grasp the idea. He asked to read in their Bible and have prayer, but they had no Bible.

Suddenly disaster struck the family. Without spiritual moorings, life fell in upon them in awful reality. The younger boy was accidentally burned to death. The parents asked the Nazarene pastor to preach the funeral, but they were unable to attend themselves. The father was carried to the hospital with a heart ailment, and the shock was too much for the mother. Now the father was confined to his bed. His wife tried to escape the realities of life by smoking and drinking, and finally even attempted suicide.

The pastor visited the home again and listened with a sad heart as the wife and mother poured out her troubles to him, and told how she had sought peace in worldly things and found none. As the pastor questioned her, she admitted that everything she had tried had failed to bring peace, that the way she had been living was wrong, that

she was lost, and that she didn't know what to do. He asked, "Would you be willing to admit that to God and ask His forgiveness on your broken life?" She answered, "Yes," and by the side of her husband's bed she knelt and prayed to a loving Heavenly Father until the burden and sin of her life rolled away.

The husband was deeply touched, but did not make any move right then. Three weeks later, he was back in the hospital. The pastor called on him and prayed for him, but felt no burden as he prayed. He asked the man if God had done anything for him since he had seen him last. His eyes brimming with tears, he said, "Yes, I've had a complete housecleaning in my soul." How the good pastor rejoiced in the change in this man! No longer was he bitter and resentful, but loving and forgiving. The following week he died, and the pastor had another funeral in this family.

Only two of them are left now—mother and son. For them, there is no other church but the Church of the Nazarene. When the storms of life swept around them and almost took them all to an eternal disaster, it was the Church of the Nazarene that lovingly and tenderly pointed them to a sure Rock, the Hope of the world, that brought them certainty in the midst of hopelessness, peace in the midst of despair, and salvation in place of sin and darkness.

Thank God for a pastor who saw beyond the pranks and noise of two young boys into a family that needed God.

### YOUNG MOTHER PIONEERS FOR CHRIST

During World War II, there lived next door to a Nazarene layman in Colorado a mother and her children. The husband was overseas with the armed forces. The layman invited the family to accompany him and his wife to church. They accepted and began to attend regularly. In a few weeks the young mother was converted



and then sanctified. She now had a desire in her heart to win others to Christ. Hearing of a prospect family about three miles in the country, she visited them, although it meant walking the entire distance in cold weather in Colorado mountains. She had the joy of seeing the family she visited begin to attend church. There is great joy in service to One who has done much for us.

## PERSISTENT CALLING REVEALS HUNGRY HEARTS

In the summer of 1948 a Nazarene woman asked her pastor's wife to go with her to visit a family she was endeavoring to interest in coming to church. After the visit, one of the children came spasmodically. He had to ride his bicycle quite a distance and then ride in a car that picked up another family. Frequently he went with his parents on Sunday to visit relatives. The pastor called from time to time and sent them cards and literature. During a revival meeting, eight months after they were first contacted, the pastor and evangelist called at the home. The husband was at work, and the wife was frustrated and busy with the children; so they extended an invitation to the services and left. They came just one night during the revival.

The pastor continued to visit them, and a month later they were present one Sunday night and raised their hands for prayer. Discovering that the husband liked to play a guitar, the pastor asked him to bring his and play it sometime. He did the following Wednesday night for prayer meeting. The pastor kept persistently after them, for now he was able to secure their confidence and he found that they were really hungry to be saved. When a neighboring Pilgrim Holiness church announced a revival campaign, the pastor invited them to attend with him, urged them to go to the altar, and helped the husband to pray through. The following week the wife and

son were saved at a zone rally. A few weeks later, the pastor's heart rejoiced as he took the father, mother, and son into the church and dedicated two other children in the family.

### HE WON A FAMILY FOR GOD

A man came to the Church of the Nazarene from another denomination in a town in Oklahoma. He sought and received sanctification. Then he became one of the most outstanding soul winners his pastor has known. He became interested in one family with seven children. He invited them to church without success. Finally he was able to get them all to church by inviting them to dinner Sunday. They were back at the church for the evening service; and when the invitation was given, the father, mother, and two daughters knelt at the altar. They are now attending regularly and testifying to the saving grace of God.

### BEHIND THE NEXT DOOR, SUCCESS!

In the fall of 1948, the Church of the Nazarene in Cheney, Washington, organized for a community enrollment. One afternoon the pastor was teaching and encouraging one of the young ladies of the church as she began the calling in her area. She was timid and, after about fifteen calls with little response, was ready to give up in despair.

At the next door an elderly lady answered their ring. In answer to their questions, she informed them that she was living with her daughter and family, who attended another church. Their names were secured for the friendly call list, appropriate literature was left, and the visitors started on their way.

About the time they reached the sidewalk, Mrs. Thompson, the elderly lady, opened the door again and



called to them, "The Lord bless you. It does my heart good to see young people working for the Lord." They turned back for further conversation, and the next Sunday morning Mrs. Thompson was present in Sunday school and church.

For the next six months Mrs. Thompson never missed a Sunday morning service and has attended the Sunday evening and midweek services whenever she was able. She is one of God's choice saints and has been a great blessing to all who attend the services. Until the visitors came to her door she had been unable to find a church that satisfied her. What if the visitors had become discouraged and stopped before they reached her door?

### VISITATION WORKER WINS A FAMILY

A member of a visitation band, calling on a Thursday evening, knocked at the home of a family that did not attend church. The lady did not invite him in, but he told her why he had come and invited her to Sunday school and church. She said that she was too busy for church: she worked through the week and had to wash on Sundays. He replied that she would get along much better if she would leave the washing and take time for church.

The next Sunday she was at church, perhaps to see if what the visitor said was true. Today she and her daughter are saved and sanctified and members of the Church of the Nazarene. She has also succeeded in getting other members of her family to attend the Sunday school.

### IN THE SHADOW OF THE CHURCH

A family moved from New York State to Tucson, Arizona, where they found a house four doors from the Church of the Nazarene. In the family was a young man who entered the University of Arizona.

Like many families living within the shadow of a church, they might have been overlooked entirely; but this church has an active and continuous visitation program, with calling one night every week. The family was soon discovered, and, as much of the calling is by young people, the young man was invited to church. Perhaps this would not have been sufficient to win the family, but several Nazarene young people attending the University had organized and received a state charter for a Holiness Club on the campus. These young people invited others in the University to attend the church, and through these two means the young man was influenced to come to the church. During a revival meeting he sought and found God, and later received a call to preach. He transferred from the University to Pasadena College. While at Pasadena, he married the daughter of a Nazarene evangelist. They are planning to attend the Nazarene Theological Seminary and then enter the ministry.

#### INTEREST IN CHILDREN WINS FAMILY

A pastor in a town in Washington was calling with his wife one afternoon when they passed some children playing in a yard. They stopped and talked to them and found out that they did not go anywhere to Sunday school. So they went to the door and spoke to the children's mother, who agreed that she and the children would attend Sunday school if someone would come for them. Two weeks later she brought her husband to church on a Sunday evening, and at the close of the service they both went to the altar and were saved. In a few Sundays they were taken into the Church of the Nazarene.

#### WAITING FOR AN INVITATION

The churches of a city in Canada organized to conduct a canvass in the interests of their Sunday schools. A card was handed to the pastor of the Church of the Nazarene



with the name and address of a family interested in the Nazarene Sunday school. In inquiring about the family, the pastor was told by someone that they attended another church and he dismissed the matter without making the call.

Perhaps that would have been the end of the story, but an interested canvasser asked the pastor about the family and, urging him to go, said they were not attending church anywhere. The pastor made the call and was told by the man of the house, "You are the first minister who has ever been inside my door." The pastor invited him to church and he promised to come.

When the family did not come, the pastor called again. The man came the next Sunday night and found his way to the altar when the invitation was given, finding forgiveness for his sins. Later he became a Sunday-school teacher.

### WAITING TWENTY YEARS FOR AN INVITATION

During a short Sunday-school revival, held by Rev. Frank McConnell, a woman was stirred by the messages on personal work. She called on a neighbor whom she had known, merely to speak to, for eleven years, and invited her to the revival. For twenty years the woman had been waiting for someone to invite her to church. Six months before, the woman's husband had died. She said, "Why didn't you invite me when he was alive? Maybe he, too, would have gone and have been converted."

### PASTOR SAVES HOME BY CHANCE CALL

A pastor in Indiana, engaged in a community enrollment, was going from door to door, seeking prospective Sunday-school or church attendants. He came to a house into which he was invited, and found that the family was

about to be broken up. Because of the drinking, gambling, and evil associations of the husband, the family was frequently without sufficient food, clothing, and fuel. The husband and wife were planning to separate.

The pastor spoke to them of the power of Jesus to save from such a life, bringing harmony and happiness back into the home. Before leaving, he had prayer with them and urged them to come to the services of the church.

After a few weeks, they came to church one Sunday night, and not many services later the husband made his way to the altar as the invitation was given, followed by his wife. They were beautifully converted, have joined the church, and are making splendid Christians. Needless to say, their home has been transformed and is now a place of peace and happiness.

#### PASTOR'S PERSISTENCE YIELDS DIVIDENDS

It is not for us to say whether a person is worth much time and effort, prayer and burden in an attempt to win him to the Lord. In the sight of God, every man and woman, boy and girl is of infinite worth—more than all the world.

A pastor made a number of calls on a large family in very poor circumstances. There seemed to be no response, and some of his members told him he was wasting his time. But the pastor was thinking of a family without God, rather than of his own time and convenience. Finally he was able to get them started attending church by going for them and taking them home in his own car. He kept this up for over a year, and God has richly rewarded him for his faithfulness. The father, mother, and four of the children are members of the Church of the Nazarene. Two of the boys have been called to the ministry, and one of them is now taking his training at Northwest Nazarene College.



This pastor's labors were fruitful, but the real reward is that which comes from our Master and Saviour. We are persistently to endeavor to win souls, whether or not our efforts ever bring such splendid dividends as this example.

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL SOUL WINNING

During a revival campaign in a Midwestern state, the evangelist watched the culmination of a successful soul-winning endeavor.

A Nazarene couple, living on a farm, desired to win their neighbors to Christ. They called on them and told them about their church. Then they invited them to an informal church reception, to get acquainted with the church people. They called in their home frequently. When the revival meeting began, they brought them to the services. At the close of the first night's meeting, they invited them home for refreshments and a friendly chat.

The next night, they took them to church again. When the altar call was given, the wife put her sleeping child in her husband's arms and said to her neighbor, "If you want to go to the altar, I'll take care of your babies for you." The neighbor looked at her husband, handed over her youngest baby, and husband and wife went to the altar and were converted. Two nights later, the same maneuver was repeated, and they were both sanctified. The following Sunday they joined the church.

When the evangelist checked with the pastor several months later, these young people were two of the church's faithful supporters.

## CAPTURED BY CHALLENGE OF CHRIST FOR YOUTH

The attention of a pastor was called to a high school Senior of unusual talents and high scholastic standing.

His name was put on the church's mailing list just before a youth revival. In addition, a high school friend began to urge him to attend the meeting. Because of many activities and interests, it was difficult to get him to come the first time, but finally he did attend. After that it was not hard to interest him, for he was captured by the challenge of Christ's love for youth and by His call to sacrificial service. He was converted during the revival and has since been a regular attendant at the church services, participating actively in the various organizations. He is now planning to enroll in a Nazarene college to prepare himself for a life of service in the Master's vineyard.

### A TWENTY-FIVE-CENT SHINE

The Christian who is interested in winning souls will be sensitive to every opportunity to witness for Christ. An example is this incident from the experiences of Joseph W. Clark:

"I did not know his name. I met him on the street in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was thin and wore dirty, ragged clothes. The lad was only fourteen.

"I had arrived in the city and was walking from the bus station to my hotel when he stopped me and asked, 'Need a shine, mister? I'll shine 'em for a dime.'

"At first I was inclined to keep walking, but I looked at him and on impulse said, 'Do a good job and I'll give you a quarter.'

"As the lad knelt on the sidewalk and began to shine my shoes, I began to converse with him. As I talked, I took an English walnut from my pocket and asked him if he had ever seen a nut like the one I held in my hand. He said, 'Sure, they sell them in the store.'

"I told him that I had a 'Gospel Nut' and wanted to tell him a story. As I began to tell him the story of Jesus and His love, the boy became very attentive. I told him



how Jesus had helped me and how He changed my life completely, how He loved even 'shoeblacks,' how Jesus could help even him. As I talked, the lad looked up and asked, 'Say, mister, can your Jesus help me now?'

"I repeated a few simple steps and the scripture verses, I John 1:9 and John 3:16, and we two knelt on the sidewalk in the heart of that city. Using a rough shoe-shine box for an altar, we began a prayer meeting, and it was not long until the boy of fourteen found Christ real to his heart.

"I remember his words so well: 'Mister, I'm so happy now.'

"Afterwards I invited him to eat lunch with me, and as we shared His love together my heart was thrilled. I told him that I would be in the city a week and wanted him to shine my shoes each day. He asked if he could bring his friends to help him. For a week, he brought a new friend each time he came to shine my shoes. Each morning he would say, 'Would you tell my friend the story of our Jesus?'

"Yes, I was inclined to walk on, but God used a shoe-shine to win seven boys for the Kingdom."

## TWENTIETH CENTURY PIONEER

A young pastor felt led of God to a community in Pennsylvania which did not have a church. In calling in homes, he was asked by a Roman Catholic lady, "Why don't you start a church?" The question urged him on and gave him courage. He returned to the home, and the lady gave him the names of twenty families that were interested in having a church.

With a Macedonian call ringing in his heart, the pastor called on these homes and many others and advertised a revival meeting in the local school building. The pastor preached for two weeks and then organized a Church of

the Nazarene with twenty charter members. More than thirty people were converted during the meeting and, although many of them had never previously heard of holiness, eighteen were sanctified.

The church is now three years old and recently averaged eighty in Sunday-school attendance. It supports its own pastor and is planning to erect its own church building soon. The combination of visitation and public evangelism started this church on its way.

### USING THE BIBLE ON THE STREETCAR

A businessman in a large city had the habit of reading his Bible on the streetcar on the way to work. One morning a man sitting in the next seat, whom he knew, turned to him and said, "I see you are a reader of the Bible."

"Yes," he replied; "we are having a revival at our church and I was checking up on the scripture the evangelist read last night."

"It must have been a good sermon to interest a businessman."

"Yes, it was. Would you care to hear a good sermon by an able evangelist tonight?"

"Well, yes."

"All right, I'll be by for you about seven o'clock. You and your wife be ready, and we shall be glad to have you as our guests this evening."

In the revival meeting that night, the Christian businessman and his wife sat with their guests. When the invitation was given, both of their friends went forward and were saved. They united with the church and became faithful and useful members.



## **CHAPTER IV**

### **ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY**

**Visitation Evangelism Brings Attendance Increases**

## A PASTOR CONCENTRATES ON VISITATION EVANGELISM

When Rev. William D. Eckel took the pastorate of the Church of the Nazarene in Crawfordsville, Indiana, he desired to build a visitation evangelism program among the laymen. For two months he preached on holiness of heart and the necessity for visitation. He says, "It got to the place where the people would sneeze 'visitation.'" After this intense preparation, he asked all who would consecrate themselves to the task of visitation evangelism to come and kneel about the altar, at the close of a Sunday morning service. Forty-four people responded. After earnest prayer, they were asked to be at the church the following Friday evening. Two Friday evenings were devoted to general instructions, and then the first visitation assignments were made.

The visitation program of this church, which had a membership of 215, did not begin with a community enrollment. For several weeks the pastor had passed cards through the congregation each Sunday, on which the people were asked to write the names and addresses of friends or relatives on whom they would like visitation teams to call. This provided a responsibility list of one hundred names. However, the first assignments were upon absentees from the Sunday school, in order to get the visitation teams familiar with calling methods.

The results of the visitation were immediately observed in attendance increases, the Sunday school (which averaged 207 for the previous assembly year) jumping from 197 to 293 in four weeks.

Shortly after the program was organized, a revival campaign was held with Evangelist Howard Lewis, who



emphasizes visitation and provides a large place for it in his revival planning. The time was excellent, for the people were already familiar with the need and possibilities of visitation evangelism, so that results of their efforts were evident from the very beginning of the meeting. Every night new people were present in the services and they were seeking and finding God. The old-timers of the church said that they had never seen so many new people contacted for God in the history of the church. Seventy-five per cent of the converts during the meeting were new. The visitation continued during the revival, with two thousand personal invitations to the meetings given by the visitation band.

The pastor urged all converts to begin working for God immediately by joining the visitation work. As a result, ten new young people were added to the visitation band the Friday night after the meeting had closed. There are now fifty-five personal workers going out every Friday night, happy in their work and full of enthusiasm. A new spirit is coming over the entire church, and already they are talking about the need of a church building expansion program. The pastor is praying and working for an evangelistic visitation band of eighty to one hundred members. The impact of such a church will be increasingly felt throughout the entire city.

### YOUNG MARRIED CLASS SPONSORS A BUS

A young married class in a Dayton, Ohio, Sunday school became interested in personal work. They went out into a new section of town and canvassed for prospects. Then they chartered a bus at \$12.50 a Sunday and brought many of these prospects to Sunday school. Some of them have been saved, and the class is continuing to sponsor the bus and more new people are coming to the

church and Sunday school. Personal workers regularly cover the area of the bus route to secure more attendants.

## CO-OPERATION SPELLS SUCCESS

The Church of the Nazarene in Shenadoah, Iowa, is five years old. In 1947 there were twenty-five members and an average Sunday-school attendance of forty-nine. For the assembly year, 1948-1949, the average had increased to 110, and it is still growing. A new record was set on November 20, 1949, when 197 were present. In the last four months of 1949, twenty-three members were received into the church, increasing the membership to sixty-five. The pastor reports that these have come through the Sunday school.

In analyzing the reasons for this rapid growth, the pastor, Rev. James C. Holman, says, "Calling stands at the top." He instructed and organized the church for visitation evangelism, and then conducted a community enrollment. Since that time, pastor and people have been busy in following up the contacts that were made. Regular visitation is carried on through the week. Sunday-school teachers are given the names of absentees at the close of the lesson period and are expected to visit or call each one during the week. In addition, an absentee secretary mails a card to each one who is not present.

A unique feature in the visitation program of this church is its Sunday morning calling. The Sunday school does not convene until ten o'clock; so the hour between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. is used for calling. The pastor says, "Calling early Sunday morning brings the most immediate returns. This is to make sure that those who have promised to come do not oversleep. No one gets angry at being awakened, for he is ashamed for being in bed so late."



The Sunday school has organized a fleet of automobiles to make regular routes. Every available car is pressed into service. The routes are arranged for each driver, who then becomes responsible for these persons. One young man often brings thirty or forty people in his car.

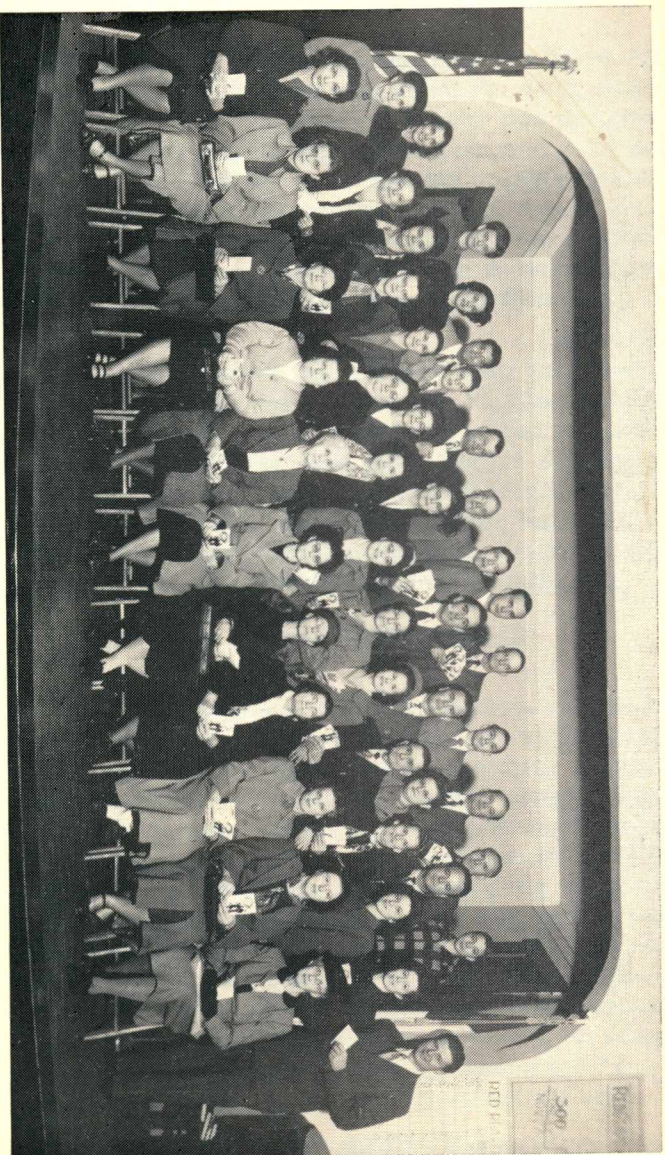
The church has very poor building facilities, but the people refuse to believe that they have reached the limit of the building capacity. They are using a little tabernacle located behind the church and are trusting God to help them find more space as it is needed.

Co-operation spells success in a church such as this. The pastor is doing his part. The Sunday-school superintendent is doing his part. Although he frequently works late Saturday night, he is at the church and on the job before eight o'clock Sunday morning. The people do their part—some in calling, some in using their cars, and all in praying, working, and boosting for the church.

### PREJUDICE BROKEN BY HOME VISITATION

The Church of the Nazarene has recently gone into a new community in the suburbs of Fort Wayne. The pastor, Rev. Myron C. Morford, found the majority of the people were afraid even of the name "Nazarene." He and his wife have faithfully gone into the homes of the community and are finding that the message of hope which they bring is breaking down prejudices. Several families are becoming interested, and repeatedly they hear, "I didn't know there was an experience that you could feel and know about."

The Morfords have seen the membership grow from sixteen to thirty-five in ten months. Sixteen of the new members have joined on profession of faith. Brother Morford says, "Any advance we make here with the help of the Lord will be through visitation evangelism."



The visitation band at the Crawfordsville Church of the Nazarene. The pastor, Rev. William D. Eckel, stands at the far right. See page sixty-nine for story.



## TRAINING CLASS VITALIZES CHURCH

The Parkview Church of the Nazarene in Dayton, Ohio, sponsored a Christian Service Training class in *First Steps in Visitation Evangelism* early in 1949. The attendance was good and the people became stirred to start a visitation program in a greater way. Plans were made, workers enlisted, and the results were an amazement to the people. The Sunday school had seldom reached three hundred, but following the campaign the attendance increased to well over three hundred. In April, 1949, the school averaged 393. The pastor, Rev. O. A. Singleton, says, "These courses on personal evangelism are the greatest factors in winning the people of anything we have had in our church. We plan to keep the good work up and do more of this kind of visitation."

## EVERLASTINGLY ON THE JOB

The building and all equipment of the Broad Street Church of the Nazarene in New Castle, Indiana, was lost in a fire the latter part of 1946. The congregation met in a public school basement for eleven months, averaging 200 in Sunday school. Then they were able to move into a basement unit of the church, which had been rebuilt. The present building will comfortably handle 325 for Sunday school, but their average has been as high as 50 more than this.

In accomplishing this fine record, the church has used many methods of publicity and visitation. Certainly the spiritual vitality should not be overlooked. Although they have a church membership of only 130, they have averaged 110 in attendance at the midweek prayer meeting for a year and a half. The church has cottage prayer meetings and, during the summer, two street meetings a week. They use tracts with an invitation to the church on the back, and pass out advertising blotters by the thou-

sands. They have a public address system on an automobile, and broadcast a radio program from the church.

Visitation figures largely in the growth of this church. Special times of personal visitation and community enrollment are used. The pastor has made 1,500 house calls and 300 hospital calls in a year. All visitors to church services are carefully followed up to secure their continued attendance. This represents a church busy at its task of winning others. Rev. C. A. Griffith is the aggressive pastor.

### UNUSUAL GROWTH LAID TO PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The church at McArthur, Ohio, has had a remarkable growth in one year. Starting with ten to fifteen in Sunday school, four or five in the Sunday evening services, and only two or three at prayer meeting, the Sunday school is now averaging eighty-five in attendance. The Sunday evening services have increased to 100 and 125, and prayer meeting attendance usually exceeds fifty. The pastor, Rev. Friner Riffle, says that personal visitation has brought this increase. It is evident not only in attendance but in the spiritual life of the church. In one year about one hundred people have knelt at the altar of the church.

### VISITATION BRINGS RESULTS IN SMALL TOWN

Cheney is a town of 2,500 population in eastern Washington. The Cheney Church of the Nazarene has never been large. In September, 1948, for example, the Sunday-school attendance averaged fifty. In October, a visitation evangelism program was launched. Two results were immediately evident: an increase in attendance (to eighty-two for October), and an increase in enthusiasm on the part of the church members. The latter was aided by the reports of workers on comments over the town: "The



Nazarenes are certainly doing something"; "We hear a lot about the Nazarene church now"; "They have a lively group of workers at the Church of the Nazarene."

Permanent results do not often come from a community enrollment alone. Friendship visitation and other follow-up are necessary. The pastor, Rev. Jay B. Budd, says: "It has taken us six months to see good results, but we believe that the greatest results are in the future. We have 100 families (or portions of families) on our church responsibility list and 200 on the friendly call list. We have been able thus far to follow up only the most likely prospects."

### REGULAR VISITATION EQUALS STEADY GROWTH

At Pampa, Texas, where Rev. Elbert Labenske is pastor, the Sunday school was averaging about sixty in attendance in 1946. The pastor began to boost personal and visitation evangelism until the people became enthusiastic to do something. A visitation band was organized and the people spent two or more hours a week visiting absentees and new prospects. The pastor himself led the way in a community enrollment and many new people were discovered. The visitation band enlarged its activities and the church marched on.

The first year of the visitation program, the Sunday-school attendance increased 50 per cent over the previous year. The next year there was a 15 per cent increase, and the attendance went over one hundred. The Sunday-school facilities were now overcrowded, and it was necessary to build an annex to the church. Some of the visitation was relaxed as the people gave their time to the church building, but the attendance increased again to an average of one hundred eleven. By the end of the assembly year, 1949, the Sunday school was running close to one hundred fifty and the people were enthusiastic concerning the future of the church.

## RURAL CHURCH REACHES OUT

The Church of the Nazarene in the little town (400 population) of Clayton, Indiana, felt that it should extend its influence beyond the limits of the town. In the fall of 1948 a community enrollment was conducted out into the surrounding countryside. The Sunday school had had a fairly steady average of fifty-four in attendance. As a result of the enrollment, three new families began to attend in the spring of 1949, increasing the attendance by eleven. In addition, the church is alive with enthusiasm with many other prospects whom they are trying to reach. Rev. R. Liggett is the pastor of this church.

## VISITATION EVANGELISM RESULTS INCREASE ENTHUSIASM

In the fall of 1948 the First Church of the Nazarene at Terre Haute, Indiana, set out to follow the visitation evangelism program provided by the general church. After proper instruction of workers, a community enrollment was made about eight blocks in each direction from the church. The people faithfully completed the calling in areas assigned to them. They were thrilled with the reception they received and the results of the survey. In the neighborhood of the church 132 unchurched homes were discovered and 150 homes were placed on the friendly call list.

The pastor, Rev. Ralph Ahlemann, set the example in following up the enrollment with friendship visitation by getting seven families in the neighborhood of the parsonage to attend the church services, several of these continuing regularly in attendance.

The attendance in all services has reflected the visitation work. Without any high-pressure contests, the Sunday school increased an average of 35 a Sunday over the previous year's attendance, from 190 to 225, and reached



an all-time record of 503 on May 1, 1949. Sunday evening services have new people continually coming in, and there have been seekers at the altar almost every Sunday.

The pastor says, "The personal visitation plan works because it is not built around high-pressure methods, but upon the good foundation of personal contact and of friendly interest."

### STEADY INCREASE

Pastor Clyde A. Rhone headed a systematic, city-wide visitation program in San Bernardino, California, in November, 1948. For the previous year the attendance in Sunday school had averaged 158. In December it increased by only two. Some of the people were a little discouraged, but they refused to quit. In January, 1949, it increased to 170 and went on up to 193 in February. March continued on with 194, and the first two Sundays in April (before Easter) the average was 212. The pastor says, "You can't lose for winning—if you'll really work the visitation program."

### BEGINS PASTORATE WITH VISITATION

Pastor Hearne W. Spruce began his work in McAllen, Texas, by personally visiting every home within a large area surrounding the church, introducing himself and searching for the unchurched. He enlisted his members in following up this program, and the Sunday-school average attendance increased about 90 per cent as a result of the program. For four years it has remained consistently high.

### ONE WOMAN'S INTEREST VITALIZES A SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bethel Church of the Nazarene in Roswell, New Mexico, was "on the bottom" during the month of De-

ember, 1949, as far as Sunday-school attendance was concerned. Then one lady, Mrs. Cora Landers, became interested in getting the boys and girls of her neighborhood to attend the Sunday school. She began to visit the homes near her and invite the children and adults to go to church. She had ten boys and girls the first Sunday.

Among the children Mrs. Landers interested in the Sunday school were the Trents, whose father operated the Trent Laundry. She asked Mr. Trent if he would help provide transportation of the children with his laundry truck. He agreed and she kept right on inviting others to Sunday school. The attendance reached ninety-three in January, and by the end of the month there were three cars in addition to the laundry truck bringing people to Sunday school.

Rev. Nettie Neff, the pastor, reports that the church attendance has also increased as a result of this visitation.

### VISITATION EVANGELISM REVIVES CHURCH ✓

A church in New England was rather run-down, but had great possibilities. After prayer and planning, the pastor got the young people together, showed them what could be done, and solicited their help. They accepted the challenge, and a visitation group was organized and a community enrollment made.

The pastor followed up all prospects with a pastoral call and prayed in many homes. New people began to attend the Sunday school and church services, and in a few months the attendance had increased from around thirty-five to over one hundred.

Then the pastor conducted a three weeks' revival campaign, which also increased the attendance each Sunday. By the end of one year, forty-three members had been taken into the church, the pastor's salary almost doubled, and many improvements had been made on the church building.



## CALLING BRINGS A SUNDAY SCHOOL BACK TO LIFE

A pastor in Michigan was discouraged when his Sunday school dropped to an enrollment of only nine, as people moved out of town or quit coming for various reasons. Five of these nine were members of his own family, and his wife was the Sunday-school superintendent. They decided the only way to save the situation was to engage in a visitation campaign throughout the community. The pastor and his wife began to call intensively and were happy to find unchurched people who could be interested in Sunday school. Transportation was offered where it was needed.

Results of the calling were evidenced in the attendance immediately. The first month the Sunday school increased to an average attendance of nineteen, and it climbed steadily until there were forty-three present the fifth month. The summer slump began to set in, and the calling emphasis changed to the follow-up of absentees. These efforts brought encouraging results, and the pastor expected to reach seventy-five by the following spring.

## SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONTEST BUILDS CHURCH

Many people have been disappointed with contests that have filled the church for one Sunday and then left it empty the next and with hurt feelings on the part of some. But a properly planned contest helps the church.

A Sunday-school class planned this one. Two families in the class who lived near each other decided to visit their community and get as many people as possible to come. They secured twenty-eight new people for one Sunday, but the results did not end there. Today seven of those twenty-eight, who had no previous contact with the church, are members of the church.

## ENGLISH CHURCH GROWS THROUGH DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITATION

Pastor Robert Emsley faced a difficult proposition when he went to the Church of the Nazarene in the village of Gildersome in Yorkshire, England. Finances were low and the seven members were discouraged. A former pastor said the task was almost hopeless. In two and a half years the church has grown to a membership of thirty, with forty-five adults present in the Sunday evening services. The Sunday school has grown from ten (children) to forty or more. There is now an N.Y.P.S. of twenty-five.

Pastor Emsley writes, "Apart from prayer meetings, how do we work? *Door to door*. Week after week. There have never been more than six of us at the work, but we visit each home, and then start again, using tracts and invitations. We have done this from the first, and God has blessed. All praise to Him!"

## ONE LITTLE BOY STARTS A SUNDAY SCHOOL

In a small New England town the Church of the Nazarene, once strong, now had no Sunday school. The pastor became burdened over the situation and began to visit prospective Sunday-school scholars. At one home he found a large number of children not attending Sunday school. The mother promised to send her children the following Sunday and then directed him to a family of her relatives near by to contact for the Sunday school. While in this home, he met a young boy who was visiting there. He invited the boy also to come to Sunday school the next Sunday.

The following Sunday neither of the two families visited was present, but the little boy who was visiting in the home came and brought six others with him. These





After five weeks of visitation in her community, Mrs. Cora Landers (far right) had this fine group attending the Bethel Nazarene Sunday School in Roswell, New Mexico. Three cars and the laundry truck provide transportation. Rev. Nettie Neff, pastor of the church, is on the far left. See page seventy-seven for story.

continued to come and brought others with them. Soon there were three classes in the Sunday school with a good membership in each of them—all because a pastor invited a little boy to Sunday school.

The pastor later moved to another church, but the boys kept coming to Sunday school. Some of them gave their hearts to the Lord, and one of them became secretary of the school.

## PERSONAL EVANGELISM BUILDS A CHURCH

“A few people, through personal evangelism, have built a great church,” writes Rev. Andrew Young, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, Tucson, Arizona. “I made my first report four years ago for Tucson First Church, and I reported 117 in Sunday school. This year (1949) I reported 317 average attendance. We had an average increase of 77 in Sunday school during the past year. I preached in a church that was practically empty four years ago and, not because I am a better preacher, but because of the work of the people, we now have nearly four hundred in the morning worship service.”

## A SUNDAY-SCHOOL SALESMAN

There are those who question the value of the Sunday-school rally because of the psychological reaction the following Sunday when only the regular members are present. However, these rallies often reveal methods of getting people to attend that, if practiced consistently, would bring a steady growth to the school.

In one such rally, put on in conjunction with a revival campaign, a church that had been averaging eighty-five in Sunday school set a goal of two hundred, and exceeded it by forty-eight. Much of the success of this rally was due to one young man. Going from house to house, he



signed up all who would agree to come and gave them full information as to their classes. Then he gave to each Sunday-school teacher the names of those who had agreed to attend. Through this method, he brought sixty-eight to Sunday school for that rally.

### PASTOR BUILDS CHURCH BY SOUL-WINNING EVANGELISM

A minister accepted the call to a church that had the second largest Sunday school on the district and had been established for ten years. Upon arriving, he was shocked to discover that, although the building was well filled for Sunday school, only about twenty-five remained for the morning service, and there were even less present in the evening. The only permanent result that he could discover from the ministry of the church was one young man who had been converted and sanctified and was superintendent of the Sunday school. The district superintendent was planning to transfer the small membership of the church to a near-by church and continue only as a Sunday school.

The pastor became concerned about the many Sunday-school attendants who were not being reached by the church. He urged the teachers to seek the salvation of those in their classes and to get them to stay for the morning service. One teacher, who had not been a Christian long, took upon herself the winning of the twenty girls in her class, all in their later teens. She dealt with them personally and also offered them a Christmas award if they would attend each morning service over a certain period of time. Eighteen of them qualified and won the award. The pastor prepared his messages with these young people in mind, and within a month all of them were saved. These girls formed the nucleus for a young people's society and one of them later became the president. Two of them are now married to Nazarene pastors.

Within one year, the church doubled its membership, and it has been growing since. One consecrated teacher who determined to win her class to the Lord provided the key for the transformation of an entire church.

### VISITATION AND DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS AID CHURCH

The laymen in one church, many of them new converts, are becoming established in their Christian experience by daily prayer meetings in their homes. The place where the prayer meeting is to be held each day is announced in advance, and the people come from their work. They are reaching into new homes and are winning converts. In this way, they are receiving excellent training in praying for others and dealing with the unsaved. The entire town seems to feel the influence of these prayer meetings, and the members of the church are more enthusiastic Christians and carry more of a burden for others than they have ever had before.



CHAPTER V

UNDERSTANDEST THOU WHAT THOU READEST?

Literature Distribution and Soul Winning

## ONE HERALD OF HOLINESS BUILDS A CHURCH

A number of years ago a copy of the *Herald of Holiness*, the official paper of the Church of the Nazarene, came into the hands of a man who had not heard of the church. He read it with interest and was particularly impressed with the column by Rev. Bud Robinson, in which "Uncle Bud" boosted the Church of the Nazarene, telling the number of members, ministers, and young people, and that none of them used tobacco in any form, danced, played cards, or attended the movies.

The man said to himself, "I have been looking for a church like that all my life." He wrote to Dr. J. B. Chapman, who was then editor of the paper, and asked him to send a Nazarene preacher to his town to conduct a revival. Dr. Chapman sent the letter to Evangelist H. H. Hooker, who lived near the man. Brother Hooker got in touch with him and made arrangements for a tent meeting. During the twelve days of the meeting sixty-four people were converted, and at the close a church was organized with fourteen members. Later, the widow of a doctor, the wealthiest woman in town, joined the church. She donated a lot and her family gave \$8,000 toward a church building. There is now a beautiful stone and brick Church of the Nazarene in that town. It started with one copy of the *Herald of Holiness*, but "little is much if God is in it."

## THE WORD OF GOD BRINGS SALVATION

A faithful Bible colporteur left the well-traveled highways and followed the country roads, seeking those who did not have the Word of God. In a remote spot in western Pennsylvania he found a Hungarian farmer, living almost out of reach of civilization. The farmer bought a



New Testament and began to read it. It brought light to his soul and he was converted.

Perhaps few would ever have known of this farmer's conversion had not a faithful Nazarene minister heard the call of God to start a Church of the Nazarene in a near-by community that had no church. He passed out his own advertising for his own revival meeting in a local school-house, six months before the farmer was converted. In some way one of the cards advertising the meeting got into the hands of the farmer. As he seldom received any literature, he kept it. After he was converted, he looked up the pastor one Sunday at the address given on the card. The pastor was able to counsel with him and help him, not only on that occasion, but many other times.

### DRUNKARD SEEKS THE LORD AFTER READING CHRISTIAN BOOK

During a revival conducted by Evangelist Thomas Hayes, the pastor of the church handed a little religious book written by the evangelist to a man who had been attending the services some and whom he knew to be a drunkard. The next day he took the book to the park and read every word of it. That evening he was sober and ready to seek the Lord. It was several nights later that he found complete victory, but the book had put him under conviction and started him in the right direction.

### JUST A CALLING CARD

The name of a new prospective family was given to a pastor. He called at their house and, finding no one at home, left his card. The next Sunday morning six children and young people from that family were present. They came back for the evening service, and four of them came to the altar and prayed through. Within a few

weeks two more were saved, and within six months they all joined the church.

Two of the older boys have been graduated from high school and one of them planned to attend Bethany-Peniel College in the fall of 1949. A sister is assistant supervisor in the Beginners Department of the Sunday school.

These young people are making loyal, active Nazarenes. They are bringing in their young friends. As a result of their influence at least twelve others have come to the church, and most of them have been saved at the altar.

They are also supporting the church with their money. In addition to their regular giving, these six young people gave a total of \$51 in a special offering on the church indebtedness.

### HERALD OF HOLINESS LEADS TO INQUIRY

An anniversary copy of the *Herald of Holiness* was left at the door of a lady in October, 1948. About five months later she called the pastor of a near-by Church of the Nazarene to ask about the church. Two months later she was sanctified in a Sunday evening service.

### HERALD OF HOLINESS WINS A SOUL

Someone sent a subscription to the *Herald of Holiness* to a businessman in Ohio. After reading it for a number of years, he called on the pastor of a near-by Church of the Nazarene. He said: "I am greatly interested in your church. I am an educated man and have been in business all my life. I have watched the Church of the Nazarene grow, and I want to know more about it. I want spiritual food for my soul, and I believe I can find it here.

The man did not need information about the doctrines and policy of the church, for he had learned of them through reading the *Herald of Holiness*. The pastor was



able to see him converted, and he has now joined the church.

### ONE VISIT WINS A FAMILY

An evangelist and his wife were entertained, while in a revival campaign, in the home of a well-to-do family. The evangelist's wife noticed a family living in a tent not many blocks away. She said to her hostess, "I feel that you and I should visit that family and invite them to church." The woman's daughter spoke up, saying that there was no need to invite them, for they went to the "show" every night.

The evangelist's wife said, "Perhaps the reason is that no one has ever invited them to church." The woman was afraid of what her neighbors would think if they saw her visiting the family living in a tent and said, "Let me pray about it first."

After a day or two, the evangelist's wife went alone to visit the family. She found no one at home and pinned an invitation to the revival meeting on the door of the tent. That night the family was at church and the mother went to the altar and was converted. The following night they were present again, and father and son were saved.

The family was not poor. They owned a home in another town and were living in the tent only temporarily, for the father was an agent for a lumber company. The revival invitation pinned to the tent door had resulted in a whole family won to God.

### CONFUSED THINKING CLEARED BY HOLINESS LITERATURE

A pastor met two ladies who were members of a group that taught "speaking in tongues." They were disgusted, discouraged, and ashamed, for there had been a court case over a church issue. The pastor felt their sincerity

and visited them faithfully, counseling them from the Word. Each time he left tracts for them to read—tracts that were sound in their teaching of holiness. This was the key to untangling their confused thinking and conception of salvation. They were saved and later sanctified, and through this contact four families were won to the church.

### MAKING TRACTS A HABIT

Rev. C. E. Cornell, beloved pioneer pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, was a firm believer in tract distribution. He kept a supply of tracts at his desk, and whenever he mailed a letter—even if it was only the paying of a light bill—he put a tract in the envelope, praying that he might send one that would bring a message to someone. It took only a few seconds to do this. He said people came to the church and thanked him for the tract he had sent, and some had been led to the Lord.

### PRINTED MESSAGES BRING CONVICTION

An experiment in tract distribution was made by a Chicago church during a revival meeting with Evangelist H. H. Hooker. The pastor bought \$350 worth of gospel leaflets, stamped them with an invitation to the revival, and systematically distributed them. The meeting was well attended, with many new people coming and being converted.

One night the pastor sold copies of the evangelist's booklet *Endless Retribution*. One man who bought a copy gave it to a man on the streetcar the next morning. He in turn gave it to his wife, who read it and was deeply convicted of her need of God. She thought, however, that she was sick and went to the hospital. A doctor examined her and told her, "I cannot help you, but I think a minister can." Her husband got in touch with the man who had



given him the booklet. He went to the hospital, instructed her in the way of salvation, and helped her to pray through to victory. Her "illness" immediately was gone. A ten-cent investment had won a soul to Christ.

### A FIRST INVITATION THAT BROUGHT RESULTS

"Uncle Bud" Robinson and Rev. L. Milton Williams held a revival campaign in Oklahoma City many years ago, during which a Christian woman handed out tracts and invited to the services people whom she met on the street. She talked to a young man who seemed interested, and urged him to come to the services. At the meeting that night she watched for him until she saw him come in. Then she prayed for him all during the service. When the invitation was given, she went to him and led him to the altar.

The young man later testified that he could never remember the day when he did not desire to be a real child of God; yet this woman was the first person who ever spoke to him about his soul. He was converted that night, and later became a minister in the Church of the Nazarene.

### WON BY A CHURCH BULLETIN

The pastor of a home mission work in Florida decided to distribute the church bulletin from house to house every week. He did this for a number of weeks, sometimes wondering if it was worth the time, effort, and cost. One day as he was delivering the bulletins, he came to a house where a man was working in the yard. He seemed to be busy, and the pastor hesitated to speak to him; but the man looked up and called him over. He asked him if he was the one who had been leaving the bulletin each week. The pastor told him that he was, introduced himself, and invited him to the church.

The next Sunday this man and his family were present for church. Within a few weeks nearly all of them were converted and they joined the church. The man testified that a poem he had read in the bulletin had stirred his heart and started him thinking about God and the church and his own need. The seed thus sown led him to God.

### GOSPEL LITERATURE CREATES A DESIRE FOR GOD

While in a West Coast city, an evangelist gave out tracts, booklets, and copies of the Gospel of John. Among those who received the literature was a young woman employed as a secretary. Several months later the evangelist was again in the city. The young woman came to him and told him that the literature he had given her had created a desire in her heart to go to church. She had gone, listened to the old story of Jesus and His love, surrendered to Him, and was now His disciple.

### TWO FAMILIES WON THROUGH THE *HERALD OF HOLINESS*

A church in a large city secured extra copies of the *Herald of Holiness*, stamped the name and address of the church and the time of services on them in red ink, and distributed them to every house within four blocks of the church. Through this means, one family of seven began to attend Sunday school and church and were won to Christ.

One member of the church, a laboring man, had a copy of the *Herald of Holiness* with him as he was on his way to work. He came to a car parked at the curb with a family of four in it. He handed the driver the *Herald of Holiness* and went on his way. The family in the car was just moving to the city and had not found a church home. They drove ten miles across the city to



the church, found the parsonage, and met the pastor. That night they were present at prayer meeting and the next Sunday joined the church.

### HARDENED CRIMINAL WON BY TRACT

A man who had terrorized an entire section of Missouri by his robberies and crimes was captured and given a long jail sentence. One day a Christian woman was going through the jail, distributing gospel tracts to the prisoners. She offered one to him. He snarled as he grabbed it from her hand. When he saw the first two words, "God says," he crumpled it angrily in his fist and threw it to the floor. As he paced the floor of his cell, he noticed that the tract had opened again. He became curious to see what the rest of the tract contained, finally picked it up, and read it.

The message of the tract gripped his heart and he could not drive it from his mind. At last he knelt by his cot and prayed that God would lift his burden. His prayer was answered and he was converted. His fellow prisoners had never seen such a change come over a man. He was released from prison on good behavior before his sentence was completed, established himself in his community, and lived a Christian life.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY**

- 1. Evangelists Busy at Soul Winning**
- 2. Visitation Evangelism and Revival Campaigns**



## 1. Evangelists Busy at Soul Winning

### FOUND BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE

During an evangelistic crusade in Oregon, the afternoons were spent in house-to-house visitation. One afternoon the evangelist knocked at a door and a lady about sixty years of age opened the door. He told her who he was and what he was doing and gave her a card of invitation to the meeting. He asked her if she attended church, and she replied, "No, I do not go any place regularly." He knew he had a potential prospect and urged her to come, telling her she would surely like the services.

Just before the evangelist left, and while he was still talking to her through the screen door, he asked her, "How is it with your soul? Do you know the Lord as your Saviour?" Tears came to her eyes and she said, "No, I am not a Christian." Sensing the hunger of her heart, the evangelist told her that the Lord would save her right then and offered to pray for her. However, she had an engagement that day and the evangelist left, telling her that he would be praying for her. On his record card he wrote opposite her name, "S. O. S.," which meant, "Get back in a hurry."

A few days later the evangelist called again at the home, this time with the pastor and the song evangelist. When the lady responded to the knock, she opened the door and invited them in. After proper introductions, the evangelist began to lead the lady to Christ. He explained what it means to be a Christian and how to become one, and soon they were on their knees in prayer. She found Christ that afternoon and her husband also became a Christian. They attended the services, happy in their new-found joy.

One night at the close of the service, the woman said to the evangelist, "You came, but it was almost too late."

There are many hungry hearts that can be found who are just waiting for someone to tell them of Jesus and His love. Let us hasten before it is too late.

### EVANGELIST WINS SOULS WHILE ON VACATION

While visiting Yellowstone National Park, an evangelist met a young lady and spoke to her about Christ. Through this means, the young lady became a Christian and has written to the evangelist that she is serving the Lord.

On another occasion, the evangelist met a young man on a train. She witnessed to him as they traveled, and later sent him gospel tracts. He has written to her since that time from his home in Canada that he was greatly influenced to give his life to Christ and attend church through her testimony.

### "ARE YOU AN ANGEL?"

During a revival campaign in New England with Evangelist Mabel R. Manning, a conference was held by the evangelist, pastor, and leading laymen of the church when the townspeople did not attend the meeting at first. It was agreed to have a visitation campaign and the next day, after a prayer meeting, pastor, evangelist, and singer started out in different directions, calling in homes, inviting people to the services, and praying where they could. Mrs. Manning relates her experience thus:

"On my way home, I was feeling very tired and weary, since it was a hot July afternoon and I had walked for miles along the country road. I said to myself, 'I'll make this house under the bridge my last place.' The enemy said, 'You are tired and have to prepare for the evening service. You had better go home to your room.' Again I said, 'Perhaps I will not come this way tomorrow,' and something in me said, 'Go in this white house now.' Again



the enemy said, 'No, you are tired. Go to your room for rest.'

"I felt I should go now, so I opened the gate leading to the house, mopped the perspiration from my face, and rapped on the door. No answer. The door was ajar, so I pushed it open. I felt that, since I had come this far, I must make the call if possible.

"As the door opened, I saw a flight of stairs in front of me. I called, 'Ho, there!' A voice answered, 'Come up.' I followed the direction of the voice and found a queenly old lady, lying on a couch. She was alone. I went over to her, and she asked who I was and what I wanted. I said, 'I am an evangelist holding a revival meeting in town. We are inviting people to come to the services. How is it with you?'

" 'I don't know,' she replied.

"I said, 'Are you saved? Do you know Jesus?'

" 'Are you an angel?'

" 'No, I'm just a lady messenger of the Lord.'

"She said, 'I am almost blind. I never had anybody speak to me like that before. Can I feel your face? Are you real?'

"I took my glasses off and let her feel my face. I helped her sit up, as she was lying down, and then as I took her hands in mine I said again, 'Do you know Jesus, dear?'

" 'Oh,' she said, 'I heard about Him when I was a girl, but nobody has told me about Him for a long time. I am eighty-three years old. The people downstairs will have my property when I die, but what about my soul?'

" 'Yes, that is what I am here for. Suppose you give your heart to Jesus now.'

" 'Oh,' she said, 'will He take me?'

" 'Yes, if you will ask Him.'

“‘But I don’t know how to pray.’

“I formed a prayer for her and she followed me earnestly. The Spirit witnessed with mine that she was heard of God, and she began to clap her hands and pat her breast, crying, ‘Oh, I have peace! Something happened inside of me. Jesus is here.’ And surely He was. I sang songs of assurance to her while she clapped her hands for joy. Then I went back to my room to prepare for service.

“The next morning I went back to call on my new convert and found her happy and rejoicing in the Lord. She said she had not slept all night, she was so happy. A good brother and I went to her home and he carried her downstairs to his car. We took her to meeting that afternoon and she gave her first testimony of saving grace. In a few weeks, the dear old lady went home to be with Jesus. If I had not minded the urge of the Holy Spirit that day, possibly that soul would have never been saved.”

### DOPE ADDICT SAVED AND HEALED

A neighbor of one of our evangelists, employed as a railroad yardmaster, was addicted to dope. The evangelist became burdened for his salvation and visited him several times. Finally, the way opened for a more positive approach. The evangelist was having a prayer meeting in his home. He saw his neighbor sitting on his front porch, and invited him over to the prayer meeting. The man replied that he couldn’t make it, but the evangelist offered to help him. He helped him across the street and into the house. Even with this help, the man was almost exhausted by the time he was able to sit down.

Explaining to the Christians gathered for the prayer meeting his concern for his neighbor and his neighbor’s need, the evangelist asked the men to lay their hands on him and all to pray for his salvation and that he might be



healed from his addiction to drugs. God answered prayer and the man was marvelously saved and healed. The evangelist gave him a New Testament, which he read faithfully. He died about ten months later, but was faithful in his testimony during that time.

### EVANGELIST WINS A SOUL AND SAVES A CHURCH

"I was called to a meeting in an old church that was about to be closed," relates Dr. U. E. Harding, for many years an evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene. "The membership consisted of one woman and her three children. Her husband had been a backslider for seventeen years. He was a grouch. As I returned thanks at his table for the first meal, the old man made all the noise he could, sucking the soup from his bowl and the coffee from his cup and dropping his spoon on the floor. His wife apologized and said, 'My husband has not been a Christian for seventeen years. When his sister died and they took her body to the church for the funeral, he spoke out loud at the church door, "Well, Sister, I can't follow you in there.'"

"'Go on, tell him everything,' he said. 'But you don't need to—the pastor no doubt told him on the way out here.'"

"I felt sorry for that man and made up my mind that I would do everything I could to win him back to God. I felt it would save the church. So I went over to the barn and cleaned out the mangers—I was raised on the farm—and the cobs out of the old feed boxes. I noticed some corn in the fence corner, standing in the shock. I shucked it out, tied the fodder up in bundles, and put the corn in the crib.

"Each day he hauled up fifteen or twenty more shocks. I was determined that he wouldn't defeat me, so I went

on shucking corn. As he was shucking corn he said, 'Well, it looks like the Lord spoiled a good farmer to make a poor preacher.' I had heard that story many times, so I just laughed. I asked him if he would let me keep the shucking peg he had given me.

"He said, 'What do you want to keep it for?'

" 'I want to keep it to remember you.'

" 'I didn't know anybody wanted to remember me.'

"I said, 'I want to.' Then I said, 'You've never been out to hear me preach.' I had been there several days and felt I was beginning to get next to the old fellow.

" 'Well,' he said, 'to be honest with you, my wife told you the truth about what I said at the door about my sister, and it's true I never expect to go inside of a church.'

" 'If you are ever going to hear anybody preach and if you're ever going into a church, I wish you'd promise me that you'd come and hear me.'

" 'Well,' he said, 'I make no pledges or promises. I swore that I'd never go inside a church.'

"I told him about the man in the Bible who made a foolish vow that cost the life of his daughter. I told him the story of how John the Baptist lost his head because of Herod's foolish oath, and that oaths like that would be better broken than kept.

"I talked to him frequently about his land. I told him that land where I was raised could be bought for only a fraction of what it cost where he lived and would raise just as fine a fruit as he had on his place. He wanted to buy up a thousand acres, establish a cannery, and make me the president of the company. I tried to get his interest and confidence in every way. When I asked the blessing at the table, I thanked God for the apples of gold and the pictures of silver and for the way the sun had kissed the cheeks of the peaches, until the old man



thought he was attending the county fair. I worked as hard preparing those table blessings as I did the messages for the church services.

"One night the pastor said to me, 'There he is—back there on the back seat. I'm going back there and shake hands with him.'

"I said, 'No, you're not. If you go, he'll leave. He's mine and you keep away now.'

"I warned his family to leave him alone concerning religious matters and they agreed. The next night he came up two or three rows farther, and the third night he sat up by the stove. On Saturday night, he was saved, and on Sunday morning he was sanctified.

"Through this victory, the old church was saved, and that man was a stalwart member throughout the years. I met his daughter a few years ago in Vincennes, Indiana. She was now married and the wife of the chief of police of the town. She said, 'I was the baby girl in that home. My father and mother often told of how the Lord used you to lead my precious father back to Him when he had been a miserable backslider for so many years.'"

## AN EVANGELIST TAKES VOICE LESSONS

While engaged in an evangelistic meeting, an evangelist met a fine voice teacher who was a Christian but was not sanctified. He arranged with the professor to take voice lessons, but admits, "I used as much time on him as he did on me." His interest and concern were rewarded, for the teacher was sanctified before the meeting had ended. During the last voice lesson he told the evangelist, "I believe that you took these lessons more to help me than for me to help you."

The winner of souls must become all things to all men, that he may by all means win some.

## CONDEMNED MURDERER CONVERTED

During a revival meeting in Oklahoma, a man was tried for murder in a near-by town and sentenced to die in the electric chair. The man's daughter came to the evangelist one night after service and implored him to visit her father. She said, "Father became so wicked and vile I thought I did not care what became of him; but now that he is sentenced to die, I find that I do care. I wish you would go and talk to him." She wept as she talked to him, and he told her he would go.

The next day the evangelist went to the county jail with reluctance and misgivings. He asked the jailer to tell the prisoner he was coming at the request of his daughter and would like to talk to him if he would give him the opportunity.

The jailer soon returned and took him in to see the man. The evangelist introduced himself and said, "I am a minister of the gospel and have only one subject to talk with you about. That is Jesus and His power to save. If you do not want me to talk with you along that line, you can say so and I will not intrude."

The man replied, "You may talk."

He told him how the devil would get a person into trouble and leave him there. Then he told him of the love of Jesus, that followed us even in the deepest sin. The man seemed deeply moved, and the evangelist suggested that they pray. After earnest prayer, the man seemed to find victory and he arose weeping and said, "All that I can do is say, 'Jesus takes me as I am,' and I am saying that now."

The prisoner was later sent to the penitentiary, where there was a Nazarene chaplain. The evangelist wrote the chaplain about him and received a letter back that the man's spiritual condition seemed satisfactory.



## HE COULDN'T FORGET THE PERSONAL APPEAL

Evangelist T. H. Stanley was holding a meeting in a Midwestern city. On the first Sunday night a man who had been attending the services with his family raised his hand for prayer. The next afternoon Brother Stanley and the pastor called at the city water works, where the man was employed as chief engineer. He welcomed the ministers and took them on a tour of the whole plant, explaining in detail about water and the process of purification. He told of depths of wells, rock and sand formation, and veins of water until they marveled at the greatness of God and His provisions for mankind, even to the very water necessary to quench thirst.

The pumps, turbines, and machinery were fascinating, and at the end of the tour they went back to the engineer's office. Suddenly the conversation about water was over and the opportunity came for the evangelist to speak directly to him about his soul. He admitted that all was not well with him and seemed to be moved very deeply. After a brief prayer, the ministers left.

The engineer did not attend regularly the remainder of the revival campaign. On Sunday morning he was present and under deep conviction, but did not yield. In the afternoon he came out to a service in which the people were enlisted for visitation evangelism. In the closing service of the campaign that evening, he was also present. When the altar call was given, he went running to the altar and prayed through to glorious victory.

In his testimony he stated that he could not shake off the personal appeal made to him in his office. He said, "I am determined to go with God even if it costs me my position. It is nice being chief engineer, but it is better to have peace in my heart." He is now the head of a group of visitors in his church.

## TRAIN CONVERSATION LEADS TO CHRIST

Traveling across the country to a revival meeting, an evangelist and his wife met a woman about thirty-five years of age on the diner of a train. She seemed very nervous and during the conversation revealed that she was on her way to have her thirtieth operation for cancer. They talked to her about her soul and told her how to receive Christ in her heart. They said they would be praying for her and gave her one of their cards, asking her to write to them.

Four months later they received a letter from the woman. She wrote that she had prayed in the hospital and felt God had helped her. When she was able to get out, she had looked up the Church of the Nazarene and had been converted.



## 2. Visitation Evangelism and Revival Campaigns

### VISITATION EVANGELISM BRINGS "MOST OUTSTANDING REVIVAL"

When a Church of the Nazarene of forty-four members in a town of twenty-five hundred population has thirty-nine different individuals at the altar during a revival, the town is going to feel the impact of that meeting. Figures never give the whole story of any spiritual effort, nor are they as important as they sometimes seem. However, a careful analysis of a meeting in Cheney, Washington, in the spring of 1949 reveals the success of the visitation evangelism program which was started six months earlier.

During the meeting, there were twenty-two who were saved for the first time, eleven of whom had never been in the church before. Eight of these were contacted by the visitation program, which had been responsible for the attendance of some of the others who were saved. Nine of those who were saved were also sanctified later in the revival. The church received fourteen new members from that meeting, and had eight more prospective members. There was a lot of prayer during the revival, but that is part of the visitation evangelism program, to which much of the success of the meeting was attributed.

An instance of the effectiveness of the visitation program may be seen in the example of one family. The six children sometimes attended a Sunday school, but the parents did not go anywhere. The visitor of the area in which they lived had given them many invitations to come to church. The first Sunday night of the revival, the fifteen-year-old daughter was saved. The next night the parents and another daughter were present, and the parents were both saved. Later in the meeting the three of them were sanctified, and they are three of the fourteen members added to the church. They would not have been

reached in that meeting, except for the visitation evangelism program.

### **TOWN CANVASS BRINGS INCREASE**

Before holding a revival in January, 1949, a pastor conducted a canvass of the entire town. The pastor reports that the congregations each night were better than before the canvass or in any other revival held in this church. Finances came more easily and a good revival resulted.

### **PERSONAL EVANGELISM HELPS START NEW CHURCH**

An evangelist went into a town that is predominantly Roman Catholic and engaged in a home mission revival meeting. Three laymen who attended fairly regularly brought the attendance up night by night by their personal visitation work, until the attendance was thirty-five by the closing night. A new church was later organized, aided greatly by the results of this meeting.

### **UNIQUE CAMPAIGN MAKES REVIVAL EFFECTIVE**

Visitation always makes a revival campaign more effective, but one pastor developed an unusual plan with notable success. A week end of prophecy lectures was highly advertised. A thousand personal invitations were made and the church was packed each night. Care was taken to see that each visitor received a welcome card to sign, giving information as to church membership, etc.

There was a period of ten days between this week end and the regular fall revival. During this time, the pastor made a personal call on every likely prospect. If he seemed interested at all, a team of two laymen called on him a few days later. As a result, new people attended the services every night of the revival, the attendance was far above average, there were many seekers, and a good



class of members was received into the church. In addition to the spiritual help to these people, this method was a great blessing to the lay visitors and helped to create a good revival spirit.

### **PASTORAL CALLING AIDS REVIVAL**

At the beginning of a revival campaign, a pastor felt led to call in a new section of the county. During the day he called and prayed in twenty-one homes. As a result of this effort, four new families with a total of twenty-one people are now attending the Sunday school and entering into the life of the church.

### **VISITATION BRINGS CAMP-MEETING SPIRIT**

A church was in the midst of a revival meeting which was having some measure of success. On Thursday and Friday of the closing week, the pastor conducted a visitation program with volunteer workers. They visited every home in the vicinity of the church. There was a marked increase in attendance for the remainder of the meeting, and on Sunday morning the Sunday school increased from 160 to over four hundred. The presence of God fell upon the people in the Sunday school until it seemed like a great camp meeting. Those who had visited during the week until their toes were sore and their feet had blisters shouted and praised God.

The pastor wrote the evangelist later that the church had a continuous revival spirit, with many finding salvation in the regular church services following this special effort.

### **VISITATION AND REVIVALS BRING PERMANENT INCREASE**

Rev. L. R. Rushton, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene at Sanford, Florida, determined to build the attend-

ance and membership of his small church. The Sunday school averaged sixty-nine in 1948. He organized the church for visitation evangelism and then had three revival campaigns, one after another. The calling on prospects continued during all of the revivals.

In less than eight weeks of such intensive work, the Sunday-school attendance increased almost 75 per cent. After the revival meetings were over, the attendance remained considerably higher than it had been before, so that the average for the year 1949 was 112. The church membership also had a good increase.

### WITNESSING POWER

One aspect of the experience of entire sanctification is power for service. The Holy Spirit provides this power, but the consciousness of a clean heart gives a sense of freedom in witnessing to others and also backs up the testimony with a clean life.

The first Sunday night of a revival meeting, the teacher of an adult Sunday-school class went to the altar, confessing that she had lost the grace of holiness. She prayed through until she had a clear witness and testimony to God's saving and sanctifying power in her life. Then she and another Christian woman went to their pastor and asked for some names of prospects on whom they might call in evangelistic visitation.

When they returned from their first afternoon of calling, they were bubbling over with joy, for they had helped three mothers to pray through to spiritual victory in their homes. One of them had a Roman Catholic background, but gave good evidence of being genuinely saved. Another had said to them, "I have been hoping for a long time that someone would come and help me to get saved."



**CHAPTER VII**

**BY MY SPIRIT**

**Not the Program, but the Spirit of the Lord**

## JESUS BRINGS HOPE

One evening a pastor made a casual call on one of the members of the church. He was introduced to a married daughter of the family, who appeared to be in her middle thirties. Her face bore the marks of despondency. She had no smile, her handclasp was limp, and there was no animation in her step. Her clothes and her whole bearing told a story of poverty, disappointment, and despair.

As the pastor conversed with the mother and daughter, he felt a compassion for this forlorn creature. He knew that her only hope was in Jesus. With a prayer for help, he began as gently as he could to tell her the wonderful story of salvation. She brightened up. He saw the faint flicker of a smile play across her face. As simply as he could, he asked her if she did not want to accept Christ into her heart. She looked up at him for the first time with a smile as she answered in the affirmative. As they knelt there in the home, the pastor prayed, the mother prayed, and finally she prayed—a simple, child-like prayer, asking God to come into her heart. She claimed faith in the Saviour, and the pastor went on his way.

The pastor wondered if a prayer so simple and without struggle could bring a work of God in her heart. She seemed so helpless and needy. He continued to pray, awaiting the outcome almost with doubt.

The next day was Sunday. As the first hymn was about to be announced, the door opened and a mother with several children walked in. Her head was erect, her step firm, a broad smile brightening her whole countenance. The pastor almost gasped aloud, for it was the



same woman who a few hours before was the picture of poverty, despair, and hopelessness—now marvelously changed by the grace of God. Within a short time she began to testify, to pray, and finally to bring her husband.

When this woman was fourteen years of age, she had gone to work in a home, keeping house for a family. When the mother of the family died, she was induced to marry the son—a man who seemed more animal than human. He was utterly lazy, cared nothing for refinement, bartered away what little his family had left him, and seemed incapable of providing for a family of children which came to them in rapid succession. A visit to the home revealed the utter poverty. There were a few broken chairs, a table or two, a few kitchen utensils, and a little bedding. The county nurse said it was the most pathetic case in her territory. At the time of her conversion this young woman was not yet old enough to vote, but looked at least ten years older than her age.

Now the home as well as the mother was transformed. She gathered her children around her for prayer. She read to them daily from the big, old-fashioned family Bible. She told her husband, "No more swearing in front of the children; we are going to have a Christian home." In the midst of poverty she began to keep her home cleaner, and the whole atmosphere of the home changed. Although she lived in a sparsely settled rural community, she began to talk about a community Sunday school. She located a friendly neighbor, and together they planned for a little rural church building in which to hold services. She handed out Sunday-school papers, waited, and prayed.

Today a Sunday-school bus runs from that community when weather permits, bringing a load of people to the Nazarene Sunday school several miles away. A wonderful change has taken place in her home and in her community, all because Christ was introduced to the heart of a poor,

forlorn, discouraged, poverty-stricken mother. Thank God for the power of the gospel to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him.

### WAYWARD ELDER RECLAIMED

A church in Arizona held a community enrollment, to find those in the neighborhood for whom it was responsible. Two high school girls were teamed together and calling on a Sunday afternoon. They knocked at a door and an elderly man answered. They asked the usual question, "Do you know of a boy or girl in this block or neighborhood who does not attend Sunday school?" The man told them that he did not, but after they had gone he began to think. He said to himself, "I don't know of a boy or girl, but I'm a boy who does not attend Sunday school."

The next Sunday morning he came to the Church of the Nazarene. When the altar call was given, he came forward and was reclaimed. Later he revealed that he was an elder in another church, but had lost God out of his heart. Within a month, he was preaching in a little church about thirty miles away. He had been away from God for twenty years.

### SANCTIFICATION MAKES FATHER'S TESTIMONY EFFECTIVE

Dr. Hardy C. Powers, general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, was saved through the influence and testimony of a godly father. This is his testimony:

"My father was a Methodist layman and very active in the work of the church, having served from my earliest recollection in some official capacity. He had been powerfully converted, and I believe walked in all the light he had. Unless hindered by illness or something else equally serious, the entire family's attendance at church services was undebatable. The Bible was read



and prayer was offered daily around the family altar. He always expressed our thanks for the food at mealtime.

"Hence, it is not surprising that such a father would be earnestly concerned for the spiritual welfare of his family. Quite frequently on proper occasions he not only talked with his children about their spiritual welfare, but prayed earnestly for them. His interest in me was not without influence in my life. I respected and appreciated it, but I did not act upon it until one day a Nazarene pastor, Rev. Fred A. Smith, gave my father a copy of John A. Wood's *Perfect Love*. After reading twenty-seven pages of this wonderful book, while on his knees in his prayer room, my father was wonderfully sanctified. That same day, after receiving this marvelous experience, he spoke to me about my soul. There was something different in his appeal. I could not define it, but I recognized it. I do not recall that his words were so much different from the words he had spoken to me before, but they were freighted with unction and power which made them grip my heart with mighty conviction. I began to seek God immediately and, after months of struggling, the light broke in on my soul and I was born again.

"This experience and many others I have been privileged to observe convince me that entire sanctification is basic and essential to soul winning. And while souls are won by those who have not yet received this glorious experience of sanctification, yet this is the spiritual purging and the enduement of power which would increase the soul-winning potential of every child of God. Christ's command to His disciples is still, 'Tarry ye, then go.' "

## TOO LATE

A church organized for a community enrollment, and the workers went out, asking, "Do you know of a boy or girl in this block or neighborhood who does not attend

Sunday school?" The following Friday night the personal workers' band visited homes where additional calls were in order. Among them was a family that had indicated a desire for a friendly call. The visitors reported back that the wife and mother was in the hospital.

The next morning at ten o'clock the pastor made a call at the hospital. He was directed to the door where the woman was. He spoke to the husband, and told him that he had come to pray with the sick wife and mother. The husband said, "You can pray, but it is too late—wife just passed away."

The pastor prayed and left, with a heavy heart. For sixteen years the Church of the Nazarene had been in that city, and for twelve years this family had lived within a short distance of the church. When the home was touched through personal evangelism, it was already too late for one member of the family. How many others have been missed and lost because the church has not gone out into the highways and byways and compelled them to come in!

### GOD FOLLOWED HIM AMONG THE COWS

The superintendent of a large dairy ranch attended a revival campaign in California. His wife was a good member of the church and was the singer during the altar calls. He brought his wife every night, but made no move to go with God. Years before, when they were first married, he had said to his wife, "Yes, we will have a Christian home," but he seemed to have forgotten all about it.

During the first week of the revival he made no attempt to yield to Christ. He was under deep conviction and would grip the back of the seats so hard that he pulled the screws out of the floor. The pastor and the evangelist, Rev. T. H. Stanley, called frequently at his home, urging him to become a Christian.



The second week was almost past and still he was unsaved. On Friday afternoon, after much prayer and fasting, the pastor and evangelist made another trip to the ranch. Brother Stanley engaged him in conversation about his soul, amidst the calf pens filled with bawling calves. The gospel gun was shooting at close range now: "Why is it you hold back and do not go with God? Do you not realize your soul is at stake?" He replied, "There are things that I do not understand."

The evangelist discovered that he was stumbling over the inconsistent lives of professing Christians. He pointed out that he could not afford to be defeated by these things, even though they did exist. It was difficult for him to see how people could rob God, have wrong attitudes and wrong relationships, and still profess to be Christians. They urged him to go through with God and then left, praying earnestly that God would follow him around among the cows.

That night there was a great altar service with many praying through, but the dairyman made no move. However, about eleven-fifteen that night a knock was heard at the door of the parsonage, which was next to the church. It was the dairyman. He said, "I think we had better pray." He headed for the church on a full run, with the pastor and the evangelist right behind him. He pulled off his jacket as he ran down the aisle. In less than five minutes he was wonderfully saved. He confessed that God had indeed followed him among the cows.

At that time he was an excessive cigarette smoker. He threw away five cartons and started to live for God. Later he was sanctified and joined the church. Today he is a fine Christian and his influence has been fruitful in bringing others to Christ. He might well have resisted the call of God through the messages of the evangelist from the pulpit; but the close-range, direct appeal brought him to a willingness to go with God.

## VISITATION BREAKS DOWN INDIFFERENCE

An evangelist was called back to a church which she had organized and built twenty-two years before. In those beginning days she had witnessed a wonderful revival in the church, with almost one hundred seekers in one Sunday morning service.

During the years, however, some had lost out spiritually, misunderstandings had arisen, and some had said they would never come to the church again. The evangelist and pastor decided that prayer and visitation would be necessary if the meeting were to be a success. Group prayer meetings were arranged every morning in homes, and the pastor and evangelist visited and prayed in every home they could enter.

The result was that hard hearts were made tender and approachable, folks who had said they never would come to the church again returned to the Lord and the church, and some families were reunited. A young couple who had been divorced and remarried and the home established, with children and parents praying around the family altar.

Using the channels of prayer and visitation, God was able to bring a great spiritual victory to this church and a genuine revival. Six months later, the report was that the revival spirit was still on the church and new people were being brought in.

## FALLING LEAF WINS A SOUL

Dr. U. E. Harding, well-known pastor and evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene for many years, had this experience in his ministry:

"One day, as I was raking leaves in the yard in front of the church of which I was pastor, a man came walking along with a dinner box under his arm. He paused as he passed and said, 'Well, the leaves are falling now.'



"I said, 'Yes,' and then, picking up a fallen leaf, went on: 'This little leaf has served its day. One time it was just a little tiny shoot or bud. Perhaps, as it grew, it served as a shield over a bird's nest, to keep out the hot sun, protecting the young birds when they were hatched. But now it has finished its work and has come down. If we let it alone, it will become a part of the great quilt that covers the ground and keeps the grass until spring-time.'

"He looked at me, rather surprised, and asked, 'Are you the preacher at this church?'

"That's right.'

"Well,' he said, 'I thought you were the caretaker.'

"I don't think he would have stopped to talk to me if he had known I was the preacher. Just before he started on his way I said, 'If you'll come to church Sunday night, I'll preach on this leaf,' and I put the leaf in my pocket.

"I didn't know whether he would accept the invitation and come to church or not, but I got my text, prepared a message, and was ready for him. The next Sunday night that man was present in the service, and with him was his wife. I preached from the text, 'We all do fade as a leaf,' and mentioned the incident out on the church lawn. I think the man felt he had some part in the service, and when the altar call was given he and his wife came down and yielded their hearts to Jesus. During that year I had the privilege of taking them into membership in the church."

### YOUNG VETERAN'S EXAMPLE INFLUENCES BROTHER

An army veteran went into business for himself upon returning from the service. He was well received in his home town and was soon on the road to success. His

wife was a college graduate and had taught school while he was in the service.

These splendid young people were nominally Christian, but were not members of a church. They began to visit churches of various denominations, seeking one in which they would be satisfied. They visited two large churches in town. To be a member of either of these would enhance their social prestige in the city and give the young veteran the backing of men of influence in his business. They also visited the Church of the Nazarene. At last they had found a place where they felt their spiritual welfare would be given first consideration and they would have the greatest opportunity for growing in grace. To become members of the Church of the Nazarene would mean to separate themselves from the business-social crowd of the city, but the young veteran and his wife took this stand and joined the church.

A short time later, about a dozen teen-agers responded to the evangelistic invitation of the pastor at the close of a Sunday evening service. One lad of fourteen remained at his seat and seemed to be setting his will against the Lord. The invitation ended and Christians gathered around the seekers to pray, but the veteran went back and spoke to the young man at his seat, for it was his younger brother. He reminded him that it would cost something to go with Christ, but that he could testify that it paid real dividends to do so. Prayerfully he urged him to give his heart to the Lord, and it was not long until they were both walking down the aisle to the altar. The young man was thoroughly saved that night.

He finished high school with renewed interest, for he felt called of God to preach. His pastor encouraged and coached him, and when he graduated he enrolled at Olivet Nazarene College, where he is continuing his study for the ministry.



## A CHAIN SMOKER DELIVERED

A pastor took the evangelist calling with him during a revival campaign. They called in one home where the man was sick in bed. After the pastor and family had left the room, the evangelist talked to the man about his soul. He seemed responsive and agreed that it was the right thing to go with God. After prayer the evangelist left, feeling that the time was not ripe for a more urgent appeal.

The evangelist made another call later and urged the man to get everything settled spiritually. He told him, "You are high up on my prayer list and I am praying for you to get saved."

After the man had recovered and was back at his work as the head of a department in a large department store, the evangelist again sought him out at his work and urged him to become a Christian. He reminded him that he was praying for him.

On the last Sunday of the meeting, the man was present in Sunday school and church. Although he was evidently under conviction, he did not yield to God. Late that afternoon, however, he telephoned the pastor that he was coming to the study and wanted to get saved. When the evangelist finished speaking in the young people's service, he was met by a man who had been transformed by the power of God. He hugged the evangelist like a long-lost brother, all the while telling him how glad he was that it was all settled.

That night his wife also found the Lord. Habits of long standing, including chain smoking, were broken, as together they started out to live for God.

## A SOLDIER WINS HIS BUDDIES

During World War II, a troop train was traveling westward across the country with shades drawn and no one allowed to get off. The men were endeavoring in va-

rious ways to while away the time, but nearly all were thinking of home and the future. Six Christian boys had located one another and were chatting together and singing. They felt the spiritual need of the other men, and all bowed their heads and prayed for a chance to work for God.

About six-thirty in the evening, the opportunity for which they had prayed arose. About thirty fellows were playing cards in one end of the car. One of them walked over to the six Christians and said to one of them, Joseph W. Clark, a Nazarene, "Sergeant, how about a game of cards with us?" He told him he didn't play cards, and there was loud laughter from the other end of the car. Someone yelled, "Come on, sergeant, we'll show you how it's done." Then four husky fellows picked him up and carried him back to the card players.

Not knowing what to do, he prayed that God would help him, as the men explained the cards to him and told him he could throw them. God seemed to whisper to him, "Let Me play for you," and he picked up the cards.

He tossed one card to a fellow. It was a spade. He said, "Fellows, you dig your own grave with the spade of evil, and God does not like it."

The next card was a jack and he said, "This card is the devil, and you are lost to the good of life."

The men were silent. No one was laughing now. Some of them stared at him in surprise. A queen card came next and he said, "Your queen—your mother—loves you and does not want you to serve sin."

Then he turned over a king. "Fellows, there is a King who forgives the sins of everyone's heart and brings peace to the soul." He told them of Christ, the King of his heart, and how He had died for them and could help each one of them.



As he finished, a corporal blurted out, "Sergeant, I'm awful. Pray for me now." The faithful Christian soldier looked around at the others and said, "How many of you want prayer?" About twenty-one of them raised their hands. There were twenty-one seekers kneeling in that troop train, crying and praying, while six Christians prayed with them and explained to them the way of salvation. All of them were saved that evening.

Six Christian soldiers had prayed for a chance to serve God. Their prayer was answered and twenty-seven soldiers had a praise service that night. Joseph Clark is now serving the Church of the Nazarene in Hawaii. He says:

"That card game was my first and last. I have never been asked even to join in a game since. I thank God for fixing me up in such a way that I have no desire to seek after the worldly things in life. I find it much better to serve Christ."

## PERSONAL WORK BUILDS CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

A pastor moved to a very small church that seemed to be declining in size and strength. He believed in personal evangelism and wanted especially to get the young people of the church active in this work. However, there were only two young people in the church and they were in their early teens. After a few weeks one of these left. The pastor began to look for others. He found a family in which there were three young people. The oldest girl had been a Christian at one time, but had never been able to keep a good experience. She and a sister were wonderfully saved, and gradually other young people were interested in the church.

The pastor started a class in visitation evangelism and put these young people to work in calling. A visiting band

was organized and grew in size until as many as fifteen young people would meet each week for calling. The girl who had never been able to keep a Christian experience grew to be the best and most dependable caller of the group. She carries a deep burden for others and is efficient in altar work. She testifies that the visitation program has been of great help in getting her established in Christian living.