

FLOCK ABSOLVES PETTING PARSON, BUT JAIL WAITS

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

(Pictures on back page.)

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

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

Accuser and Wife Present.

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

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

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

Behind Bars Next Monday.

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

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

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

Watch Yourself, Devil.

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

The 6 foot pastor, who is 33 years old, bowed his blond head and shed tears as he asked his congregation: "Do you still love me?"

There was a unanimous shout: "Everybody loves you!"

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

A Better Man—but Broke.

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

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

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

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

Sister Dake Cheers Up.

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

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

An elderly member of the congregation arose.

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

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