

Brother Dake Saves 20 on His Way to Jail

The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake played his slide trombone and his wife preached the sermon last night as he bade farewell to his congregation in the Christian Assembly church of Zion. The handsome, blond, six foot pastor will go to Milwaukee today to begin a six months' term in the house of correction on charges made by a girl of 16.

The Rev. Mr. Dake wept. His wife wept. Members of the church wept. And the members frequently shouted: "God save Brother Dake!"

At the close of the service, 20 persons came forward, announcing their conversion by the convicted minister and his wife.

Church Is Packed.

The church, a rival of Wilbur Glenn Voliva's famed religious organization in Zion, was packed when the service began. The members seemed unanimous in the belief that their pastor was innocent.

"Does any one here think that God has deserted me?" he asked in a ringing voice.

"No!" the congregation roared.

"Remember," the pastor said, "I'm not the only pebble on the beach. You can get along without me."

Then, turning to his wife, who has remained steadfast to him: "God bless this little woman. She has set an example for all to follow."

Mrs. Dake beamed through her tears.

Renews Divine Contact.

At the morning service, the pastor said that since his trouble he has renewed his communication with divine



The Rev. and Mrs. Finis Dake.

authority, and added that as a result, although he must go to jail:

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

The Rev. Mr. Dake blamed all his difficulties upon the devil, and praised as "broad-minded" those who kept faith in a minister accused.

"Many worldly people have telephoned me telling me how much faith they have in me," he said.

"This broad-minded type of person can express itself better than some religious people. Religious people are my worst critics. Many times rank sinners will give a helping hand when the religious will not."

Business Man Agrees.

Henry Stevenson, former Waukegan business man, told the members the devil wanted "to ruin Mr. Dake and wreck his work."

But Mr. Voliva broadcast in his customary Sunday radio service:

"Justice is a peculiar creature. There are some people in the House of Correction who ought to be in a federal penitentiary."

Mr. Dake, who is 33, was sentenced last Tuesday when he pleaded guilty to violation of the Mann act before Judge F. A. Getzger in the federal court in Milwaukee. The minister admitted petting parties with the girl, whose home was in Kenosha, on trips to East St. Louis and Bloomington.