

'I Am Now Better Man,' Pastor Who Violated Mann Act Tells His Flock

Wife Will Run Church When Minister Goes To Jail In Morals Case

ZION CITY, Ill.—(INS)—The Rev. Finis Jennings Dake wound up his pastoral affairs here today preparatory to serving six months in jail for his "one mistake," after voicing his disgust for the devil before the loyal members of his flock.

The Rev. Dake's one mistake was a violation of the Mann act to which he pleaded guilty in Federal Court in Milwaukee yesterday.

Parishioners of the Christian Assembly Church heard the Rev. Dake's attorney tell the court the pastor had made "an unfortunate mistake," heard the prosecution trace the minister's travels with 16-year-old Emma Barelli and recall their "petting parties" in hotel rooms in Waukegan, Bloomington and East St. Louis, and at a vindication service here last night heard the pastor draw a moral from his experiences.

"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 handsome pastor bowed his blond head and shed tears as he asked his congregation:

"Do you still love me?"

"Everybody loves you," the congregation answered. After the "amens" and "hallelujahs" died down, the Rev. Dake got down to more practical matters. Declared he:

"I am now a better man, 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."

His wife, an ordained minister, will carry on for him when he goes to jail Monday, he said.

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

Plump Sister Dake nodded and declared:

"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 to note:

"Sister Dake, the Lord has made you look 10 years younger tonight."

The Rev. Dake said he expected to spend most of his time in jail writing a book—a commentary on the Bible. After his release, he said, he will write a book of his jail experiences.

At the trial yesterday the pastor declared he took the high school girl from her home in Kenosha, Wis., to East St. Louis because "I only wanted to pray with her and help her get a job."

His attorney termed the whole affair "an unfortunate mistake," and declared "there is no actual moral offense involved. The girl is unharmed."

Twixt the psalm singing and the "hallelujahs" last night, the Rev. Dake reiterated his innocence.



REV. FINIS JENNINGS DAKE

STATE IS CHILLED BY WINTRY BLAST

Frost Follows Windstorms That Unroofed Buildings And Injured 21

Jack Frost traced lacy ice patterns on casual water throughout the state last night as more seasonable February weather arrived on the heels of a prolonged warm spell and sent thermometers tumbling into the upper twenties.

Beginning yesterday after torrential rains and high winds had swept through the state, injuring 21 persons and unroofing buildings while the mercury dawdled unseasonably in the upper seventies, the thermom-