

Major Frank I. Pickering, Retired

Born in a claim shanty on a homestead in South Dakato, in June, 1887. My mother when I was a baby nearly perished in the blizzard of 1888.

Met Free Methofists when 14 years old and saw with my own eyes people living victorious lives. I discovered that a person could obtain an expeerience that would give them the victory over sin in every situation in life. I became hungry for such an experience and was born spiritually when about 16 years old by knealing at an altar of peryer and aided by my oldest sister who was a wonderful prayer I repented of my sins. After repentence I exercised faith in the promise that " if we confess our sins, God would forgive me and make me a new creature in Him. I was overjoyed that it worked and all things seemed new..

A year or two later in a revival held by Rev. J. W. Glazier I dropped on my knees at the altar call and said Lord Sanctify me, He did just that with a great blessing and filled my heart with Divine love.

God saw to it that I got the right wife; He even sent her up from New Mexico where her parents had been due to the fact that her step-mother had T.B. We met in Sunday School where I was the Supt. in Boulder, Colo. I had been appointed Rural Mail Carrier so I had bot a horse and buggy. This aided in the development of our friendship and love. In the providence of God I was ousted from the Rural job and after I took a typewriter Civil Service examination, where I scored the highest in the group taking the exam. This put me at the top of the list of eligibles. I was offered two jobs which I turned down as unsatisfactory, therefore I just HAD to take the third offer whatever it was. I prayed earnestly about it and God answered prayer. I received an appoint at Fort Riley, Kans as clerk at the Mounted Service School.

My wife and I were married on March 2nd, 1910 so we we both travelled to Ft. Riley landing there via U.P RR on Oct. 22, 1910.

Junction City was a town 5 miles from Riley and the Fee Methodist society received us with open arms and said that our coming was in answer to prayer.

Here, tho in our early twenties, were elected to as class leader, S S Supt,

teachers etc. Incidentally I checked on the absentees from class meeting, calling on them, having prayer with them and trying to follow out the intent of the instructions in the Discipline. I was their delegate to Annual Conference for each year I was there and Rev. E.C. Lindley appointed me his assistant. He was the Conf Sec'y.

After five happy years I was transferred to Hq. Southern Dept because of the Border trouble.

Our F. M. Church was in the wrong location. The L. D. Finger, now of Phoenix and the Pickering's sold the old church and eventually established a new church over on Prospect Hill. This church is now the Latin American church and the white congregation are building a new church in Thunderbird Hills in Northwest San Antonio. After we got nicely started I was ordered to Hawaii. We were now a family of six, three daughters being born in ~~xxxx~~ Texas, We had just begun building the church but I supported it from Hawaii. In Hawaii we worshiped with the Methodists and soon both were teaching classes in the church school. Later I was the Supt for two years

In ~~1929~~ 1929 I was ordered to Omaha, Nebr.. Here I bot a lot across the street from the Church and built a home on it. It became an adjunct to our church for we had three classes meeting in it. After 7 years I was ordered to Hawaii so had to leave. Our oldest daughter was at Greenville College and we picked her up on the way to Brooklyn where we sailed for Hawaii. This time we got a trip thru the Panama Canal and had a lovely voyage. As I arrived at the dock I was met by the Methodist preacher telling me he had a job for me - Church School Supt. I took it and held it for two years when we left for Presidio of San Francisco, both myself and wife working with the young people. While the pastor went on his vacation he asked me to M. C. the Sunday evening services which were broadcast over the local radio KGU. I did this for a month.

On return to mainland we attended the Free Meth Church in Oakland as we had none on the San Francisco side. I was shortly called to duty under my Reserve commission and ordered to Ft Lewis, Wash. where I became Asst Adj. in charge of the

officers' section. Here we attended the Tacoma Free Methodist Church until ordered to Seattle Port. Here we had a hard time getting a place to live but the Lord opened up a way. After three months as night Adjutant I was sent over the mountains to Pasco, Wash. This was a new ^{instalation} ~~instalation~~ and I was the Adjutant of it. Later I was promoted to Major and was sent to the Hdqrs of 9th Transportation Corps in Salt Lake City. I was the Adjutant of the the entire 9th Corps and remained such until we closed the Hq and took up our stations in the Presidio of San Francisco.

Reaching age 60 I was promoted to Lieut. Colonel discharged at that rank and discharged from my active duty and reverted to Chief Warrant Officer and retired from the Army as Chief W. O.; later I was raised in rank to Major the rank I had held for several years.

Heart trouble at age 69 which curtailed my church activities.

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