

SEVEN YEARS

OF

MY

LIFE

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BY

VERNIE B. STANLEY

HIGH POINT, N. C.

July 1916

Price 10 cts.



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## PREFACE

Some of my friends asked me to write a book giving account of my past life. I have prayed about this little book and hope that it will be a blessing to saint sinner. I trust the Saviour to make it a blessing to one and all

I have passed through some dangerous places but the dear Jesus has been mindful of me when I was a sinner.

**VERNIE B. STANLEY**

## FATHER'S

As my son has asked me to write a few lines for his little book, I gladly comply.

the time has been, in his past life, when he was no pleasure to our home, but there has been a very great change in his life. it is wonderful, what the Lord can do. if we will give him a chance.

I believe the Lord has chosen him to preach the gospel: if I had made a choice for him, it would have been that he should be a farmer and do some of my work.

My dear son now brings joy and comfort to our home, and it came by prayer. I want to say, fathers, that if the Lord Jesus saved my boy, in answer to prayer, when he was in China, a long way from home, he can save yours

I pray that this little book shall be the means of bringing some poor wanderer to the Lord.

J. M. STANLEY

## SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE

When I was fourteen years old, I thought I was a man I ran away from home. was gone a few days father came and took me home, for mother had grieved about me until very weak. I stayed at home a short time ran away again. Father did not come after me this time: I sent for my clothing when they come I went to work for two weeks, pay day come but did not get any money. Sure. the old man raised in me trouble came sure. My money gone along way from home. Sure your friends go with your money. sold my watch for \$2 50 made the effort to go home My money paid way within fifty miles of home, money gone my condition poor, did not know what to do, At this time was in Concord, N. C. arrived there at dark stopped in the depot until the police ran me out Then went to a brick yard, it was real cold at this time. layed down tried to sleep but could not, it seemed the longest night ever was, Day came after a long night, went all day trying to get work. They ask- "Have you had any experience in a cotton mill, and I would tell them I had worked about a month in a mill. Then they would say we cannot work you. I was two days and night in this condition, without anything to eat and nowhere to sleep. I was very young in this life, travels, why did this come upon me? Because a fourteen year old boy who thought he knew more then father or any one else. I went on and thought was getting along all right. I worked at night, did not do much meanness at this time, but reader I went on and had friends, I thought, but they were my enemies. At this time I had never drank any strong drink. How did you start?

It is the first drink that starts people to drinking and some times' never stop until death comes. My start was made in this way. One day myself and some other boys were drinking some cocacola, when another boy came up and asked

for some of the coca-co'la for chaser and we gave it to him , he took it and drank, then he said-“Oh!excuse me,I forgot to ask you have a drink of whiskey with me.” Then he gave me the bottle and I drank. You say,“It is no harm to drink soft drinks,“but listen,these are stepping stones to hell. Oh! you say, “I don't think so.“But reader I know for I have had the experience,

Home sickness will come you know, when you leave home you say, “I will not come back any more,“but homesickness will come bye and bye.I wrote to father, the following letter

**Dear Father:-**

Please send me \$10.00. and I will come home and stay and be a good boy. I have bought a new suit of clothes, and not money enough to pay for them.

**Your Son, Vernie B. Stanley.**

Do you think your father would have sent money to you? My father sent the money to me, and I bought whiskey, with part of it afterward went home and aright good boy for a short time and held down the old man for some little time. father did all that he could to get me to be a good boy and give my heart to the dear Lord He laid his hand upon me was sick for two months. I to'd the Lord that if he would let me get up, I would live for him. He let me get up, but did just like all do without a change of heart, just promised and, When health returned, back to the same old sins committing before making the promise to do better. I treated the Lord just like I did my earthly father. When recovered my health was worse then ever had been before

You know the Lord says, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" Gal;6,7. I had already reaped some but had not realized that there was another time of reaping to come, a larger harvest to be reaped. Reader, you do not realize the danger that you are in. when you are sowing for the devil. Dear young friends, read the Bible, take my advice, live by the Bible, and thus live a far happier life. Eph.2:12 "Having no hope and without God in the world." There is a devil, and there is a merciful God. Some people are going to hell in spite of all that can be done.

Some of you, readers, know me, and have worked with me. I was a boy that could be easily led off when I was not thinking what it would lead to. I did not consider well. I was a boy that had very good chance, in life, to have things easy, but the old man was so strong in me that he led me his way. I wanted to do right but the devil had such a hold on me, that he was leading me right on to hell at high speed. When I would feel discouraged and feel like giving up, the devil would come and tell me "Go and get drunk and you will get all right." Then I would do as he said and get drunk and then be sorry for it and would then be worse then before.

I worked for a while at Gould's Kennels and made thirty dollars per month. I boarded at home and they would give me my board.

I would go to town give up to the devil, go to shows buy all the white-lightning I could drink and give away, and then come home broke. Then I wanted to borrow money from my mother' and she would say: "Son you have just got your pay." I would say "No next Saturday is pay day, and I will pay you." This was a lie. You see how Satan does a poor boy that will not take advice from his parents.

More trouble coming: they told that I was selling whiskey, and I was mad. The truth very often makes people mad.



The truth very often makes people mad. I stopped work at the Kennels and went to High Point, N. C. and worked. I did not drink for some time, but after some time I was in bad company and would drink and was soon drunk again. I would say "I am not going to get drunk any more, but would only be worse then ever."

Well, was drinking all that I did? No, I smoked and chewed tobacco; I took my Lord's name in vain, I gambled and stole; I fought some. Well, where did you do all of this? I would go to the shows and learn how to do some of it. Some people will say "I don't see any harm in going to the shows: moving picture shows any way. Jesus said of his disciples, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Do you think he went to shows? "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of the whole." James 2:10. The devil does not want any better place than the moving picture show. People go there, who had better take the money and pay their debts. I know of some that the merchants stood by when they were in a close place, then got mad and said they would not pay, though they will pay or be lost in hell with all the nations that forget God. They pay out in a short time, going to shows, enough to have paid their grocery bills. Some mothers will be in trouble, because their girls will go with wicked boys to theater. but that is not the worst of all. some ungodly man, will call up some other man's wife and say where can I see you tonight? At the moving picture show? That may sound close, I know it does. I heard a preacher tell of a man, "who went to the show door, mad and said, "Some man is in there with my wife and I am going to kill him." The manager told him to wait, then went back into the room and said publicly, "There is a man at the door, who is mad and says some man is in there with

his wife. I will open the back door and let them out;" and, as well as I remember he said there were twenty men and women went out. Then tell me there is no harm in going to the shows? Where are you going to spend eternity? Get ready for heaven. People are trying to find pleasure in every way but the right way, and that is to find it at the cross of Christ. Ice cream parties, pool room and the dance are all stepping stones to hell, that lead rapidly down to the pit if they do not stop and retrace their steps. Reader, you may say Vernie Stanly does not know, but I plead with you to turn from your evil ways, before it is forever too late; find Jesus Christ, he will satisfy your soul and nothing else can. Then tell what great things. "the Lord has done. He has been good to me, I probably, would long since have found a watery grave in China or Japan or somewhere else. When I would get drunk, some were in great haste to tell about Vernie Stanley being drunk, and since the change has come, he is called one sanctified, and I am glad it is true. I am, and shouting the victory in Jesus' name, praise the Lord Remember the Judgment is coming, and if we are not ready, we had better make a start at once. Sometimes people in telling the truth add to it, making it worse each time that it is repeated. The devil's crowd will tell on one another and raise a racket and fight it out, I am out of the devil's business, and I am glad that I am. He is so mad about this little book, he is roaring. If I had not said anything about holiness and his dirty work, it would be all for him, but thanks be to God, he has lost a soul that he thought he had secure, and I am glad

I would tell the girls one thing, and then do just the opposite and disappoint them. I am so glad Jesus has saved me from all that, You tell some girl you will come, and then disappoint her but the Lord hears your talk and makes a record of it, He says that. "Every idle word that men shall speak

they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. " Mat. 12: 36. Jesus is coming some day and if you are not telling the truth to your friends, how will it be with your soul in that day. It is time that you were thinking.

Dear Boy, you can have better companionship with the girls they like a boy that tries to be kind and true, they want nice company, and when you get Jesus in your life you will keep the best company, You had better seek the Lord, while he may be found, The time is coming when you will see that you are lost," Behold now is the day of salvation 2 Cor.6:2. Dear friend, ask yourself the question, Where will I go after death? What life have I chosen, eternal life, or eternal death? You have chosen one or the other. Jesus says, "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matt.12 30, you see therefore, that you must be on one side or the other.

On August 22. 1914 I began making preparation to go to China. I came home on this date to see my Father and Mother and ask them about going to the army. they did not like to hear of it at first, but in a little time said they would do anything to please me That was about all that was said. I went on that night, and father and mother talked to me about being a good boy and giving my heart to the Lord. You know I did not like to hear that. I went on until the next morning. and they were going at Hickory Chapple, near High Point, N. C. but the devil did not want me to go and it made me mad. Papa told me if I would wait until dinner, he would take me to town, I would not listen but went on to town on foot. On the way the devil told me to " Just leave and never come back. I would go to the army, for there they will not come to see you. " So I went to my room, and the old devil had me going. I was so mad that I took the Lord's name in vain, and called my people

everything that I could. I went on in that way until night. I had been going with a girl in High Point, and went to tent meeting that night, and found her there. I had a boy to ask her if I could go home with her. She said that I could. But there was another boy, and she said yes to him too. Then I would not go, and the devil again said, "Leave." I went to my room and went to bed. The devil kept saying, "Join" the army," and the good Lord would say, "Don't join." Which one did I obey? I went and obeyed the devil. I went to my work the next morning, but in about an hour I called my boss and said, "I am going to quit." He said, "What for?" I told him I was going to join the army. He gave me good advice, but I did not heed it. I got the money that was due me: paid board and went to Greensboro N. C. and on to Winston Salem.

On the train I met a man, who asked where I was going. I told him that I was going to join the army, and he laughed at me. I talked with him until he found that I had some money, he then said he believed he would join the army too. We went on, and in a short time my money was gone. I then opened my eyes and told him that I had no more money, then he and I had some trouble. You know you always have friends when you have money. We joined the army and went to Columbus, Ohio, arriving there on Saturday morning, and staid around there until Monday, then were examined, and at about four o'clock that evening the devil had me tied like he wanted me. I staid about a month there, and received a letter from home. In it they told me they were going to get a discharge for me. I guess you want to know how they could get me out. I will tell you: in the first place, I was only nineteen years old, and my father was to sign a paper. but when the man sent it home my father would not sign it, Then it came back and the man said the only thing that I could do was

to take the paper home and tell them I was going to join the army any way at that time. I was so mad that I was cursing, but I took the paper and started home, then one of the men called me back and said, "Have you any friends here?" I said I had. Then he said, "All right, you take the paper and sign it." I did so and that is the way I did so and that is the way I went in the army. And one of the men said, "I will stand between you and trouble." Say, you know the old devil will do all that he can to get you in trouble, but he will not try to get you out. He shows you the beauty side and say nothing about the dark side. Reader you can get in with people, who will stand by you, but when trouble comes they are not there, I have been through test, I know some thing from experience. Some person will tell you to do something to that ladies' horse or buggy, you do as they said, are found out, and get into trouble. Then, they say you have but little sense or you would not do things that are likely to get yourself into trouble, you are in trouble now and you may get out the best way you can. Judas was in good company at one time, but he went out and took a bribe to give his Lord into the hands of those who were seeking to destroy him. When Judas saw what was going to result from his action, he was troubled about it, and went to those who had given him the bribe, and told them of his trouble, and asked them to take back the money that they paid him, but they refused to do this, or in any way to help him out of his trouble, He tried to repent, but it was too late: he could not undo what he had done. Young man it will be far better for you if you will take heed to good advice "If sinners entice thee consent thou not." Prov, 1;10. Judas went to those who had planned, with him the wrong that had been done, and told them what he was suffering on account of it: but they told him,

"See thou to that." and that is what they will tell you, if you allow sinners to entice you into wrong doing. When I was in trouble they said, "Get out the best you can." The devil did all that he could to get me in the army: but when my sin found me out, he said, "Get out the best you can."

When I went on the train to go to Sanfrancisco, I tried to enjoy it: for I thought I would never hear from my father and mother again and I would never again hear any one say anything about the Lord. I went on trying all that I could to be good, but I could not. And why? Because I was not running from my father only, but from heavenly father, as well. When we reached Sanfrancisco I was disgusted, but went on and on, I had a long trip before me, but did not then realize it. We were here about three days, and then started for the Philippine Islands. I had never before seen a ship, and did not have much idea of what it was like. there were seven hundred men. When we came to the dock, we were lined up in companies of fifty each, and each man was called and given a messkit, knife, fork and spoon, We then marched on board of a ship, that was six hundred feet long about fifty feet wide, with five decks. Then I began to think, "What is coming next? At twelve o'clock the ship began to move: She sailed around in the bay a short time, then started out through the Golden Gate. Then I began to ask myself question. "Is this Vernie B. Stanley, or some one else," but I had to say, "Is it I." And for about a day and night I could not talk to any one, but after that I again went on in the ways of sin, playing cards and drinking or any thing that Satan wanted me to do.

Our first stop was at Honolulu, which was about seven days run from Sanfrancisco. I was off one day and part of a night, and the first night it seemed like hell on earth. Four or five men would come in drunk, and fall down two

or thee steps, hollow as if they were dying: and take the name of the Lord in vain, and fight and cut one another. I had never been much in such a place as this, and, you know it made me think some, but it was not long until I was in with them.

On leaving Honolulu, We sailed for the Phillipine Islands and when we arrived there it was worse. We were there about a week, and the day after we arrived, some other boys and my self hired an automobile and went over town. I think it was the most drunken crowd that I ever was with, I was so drunk that I did not know much more about the town than if I had not been there. We were all arrested when we reached camp, but I did not know about it until the next day. Why did I not know about it? It was because the devil had my mind so stupefied with drink, that I did not know about it. Some of you say there is no harm in taking drink, but if I had never taken a drink I would not then have been in a condition not to know what was going on about me. One of the boys cut his throat at this time. You know young man, that when you get the devil's dope in whisky and drink it, you will obey him and not think of the consequences until it is all over. Many murders have been committed by those under the influence of strong drink, and who, if they had been free from drink, would have never thought of doing harm to any one and would not have been led into crime if they had never taken the first. Yet there are many who say "There is no harm in taking a drink"

We next embarked for China. It was very quiet on board yet were bad enough. We arrived in China, November 14, 1914, and remained on the boat that night. Went ashore the next mornig boarded a train for Tensin, China. travelled all day arriving at Tensin at night, and about nine o'clock, ate our suppers.

## 13 SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE

Well, by this time the devil was very well satisfied with me for he had me a long ways from home and made me believe that I would never be bothered any more with prayers or praying people. I got along all right for a while but, by and by, my sins found me out. My first pay day in the army I drew \$ 38.00, after I had paid my bills I had \$.29.00, and let the paymaster have \$.15.00 to keep for me. I had then \$.14 00, this I gave to the devil and his people, playing cards and pool, buying whiskey and drinking it. I am sorry that this is true, I pray dear friend that you may be preserved from falling into such ways. We gambled all day on Sunday. played ball, boxed and everything that the devil would get up for us to do. you say, "Did you like this kind of life?" I thought then I did. My first time on guard was on Sunday after Christmas, I was on second relief, and my post was number one' at number one compound. My order was that "My post extends from the Court marshall room door to the edge of the street. I will not let any soldiers go out or come in without proper dress, and civillians except by order of the commanding officer." I had to recite this to the officer of the day, and if I did not know it, he would be rough. When I saw him coming I was to say, "Turn out the guard officer of the day," and if he saluted me I had to say, "Never mind the guard." If he did not salute I did not say anything. Now I had my orders good before going to my post, when the officer of the day came I said, "Turn out the guard officer of the day," he saluted me and I just stood still and did not say anything. He came to me and asked. Do you know your orders? I do. Then let me hear them? but I had forgotten them. I did tremble then for the way he talked to me, I would have given anything if I had not been in the army then Gal.6:7 reads like this, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." I had began to reap my harvest,



for it had stood just as long it could. From my first time on guard my sins began to fine me out, these were the most unhappy days of my life. the sad part of my life it seemed as if I could see the devil and his angels and even the bottomless pit of hell, every lie that I had ever told was before me, and right where I had told them: and every wrong thing that I had ever done, was before me as plain as day and night. I tried pray but it seemed as if all they heavens were brass. For about one week I could not eat or rest, I lay on my cot and cried about two nights, and the boys all around me would say, "He is going; crazy," I told them my trouble and they made fun of me. I was in this condition for about ten days, until I said yes to the dear Lord. On the 4th of January 1915 about three o'clock in the afternoon. the burden of my heart rolled away, glory was in my soul. Glory to God! I still feel like shouting over that day. This was in Tensin, China, at a Missionary home Mrs. E B Gordon. I quit smoking and swearing for about two weeks lived as saved man should. In the camp it seemed like hell on earth, the boys would come around and make fun of me, but the Lord answered my prayers, praise his dear name The Lord, was talking to me in a marvelous way I wrote three letters to my father, the first two, the devil would not let me send, but thank God, the third I wrote with tears of sorrow and the Lord was mindful of me and he gave me strength and power over the devil, and helped me to mail the third letter, praise the Lord. I have the letter now and will let you read it. Remember dear friend, if you are a prodigal, you will have to confess in an humble spirit. to your Heavenly father, as I did my earthly father

Below I give the letter in full.

Tensin, China Dec 29th, 1914

My dear Father:

I will write to you and tell you how I feel today, I am sick of sin. I have went Just as far as I can go. I would give my life if I had you to pray for me a gain I have been praying, but the devil is so strong that I cannot get a prayer to Jesus. Father, I have never in my life called on you for help, but I do now and I hope you can help me. The dear Lord is talking to your sinful son I know I have sinned against my God, and you too, and now I am going to quit serving the devil and serve the Lord, the rest of my days.

Now if you can get me out of this place, I will give anything, are do anything that I can for you and my Lord. Papa, I wrote three letters, but the devil was so strong on me I tore them up, but this one I am going to send you I hope you will do all you can

for me. but I know I dont deserve it, but do get me out of this place, Papa. I never had anything to trouble me more than this has for the last fiew days, I cant sleep at night. I have cried all night long thinking of the way I have done you and the Lord. Now Papa, if you can't get me out one way: get me out some other way .I want you to pray foa me, for I am lost I hope the Lord will spare my life untill I get home one more time, in that little prayer meeting. Now Papa, I am in earnest about my soul, if I could have you and mother to get around me and pray I would give anything.

Pleas let me here from you and tell me what you are going to do.

Well I must close for this time. From your lost son, without help and with prayer.

Send my mail, Tensin, China, D, Company 15  
Infra. V. B. Stan'ey.

I recieved an answer to my prayers and my letter (co. Feb 5th, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the sergeant in charge of Quarters, came and told me to get up, I got up and sat on my bunk, and said, "It is not time for Retreat yet, is it?" and he told me it was not, that he had orders to put me in the guard house. of course it shocked me at first I knew that I had not done anything to be put in there for In a few miuntes the officer of the day came in and called for me, and said "Is your name Vernie B Stanley." I told him it was. Then he said, "All right, the commanding officer has given me orders to confine you, but dont be excited, for we are not going to hang you. You will be sent back on the next boat and discharged," well I had a hard time in the guard house, but the dear Lord was mindful of me, and carried me through. I worked every day with the guards over me, but the Lord will change our station after a while. praise his holy name. I was in the guard house fifty days but the chain was broken at last I was in chains March 9th. Another man and myself were hand-cuffed and chained together. That was the worst night on earth to me. On the boat they chained us to our bunks. I want to say that I had never thought that I would ever be chained, but this is just the way the devil pays you for serving him, we arrived at Nagasaki, Japan, the 13th of March, and was there untill the 21st. there was not a happier boy living than I was then. I walked the floor night after night praising the Lord, He would bless me untill the tears would run down my checks for joy for I was coming home to see my dear old father and mother who Prayed for me when I was lost wandering the world over, serving the devil.

On the evening of March 21st, we went on board the ship and at twelve o'clock that night sailed for the United States. we were twelve days out of sight of land from Nag-

asaki to Honolulu. We had good weather until the ninth day out from Honolulu, that evening the wind began to blow and about ten o'clock that night I thought my time had come. Two mothers said that they would give \$2,500.00 each if the ship did land at Sanfrancisco, for they had two sons on the Sheriden. It was a serious time, some were praying and some swearing, the ship would roll from one side to the other, then stand on one end and then on the other, the men falling out of their bunks, the old ship cracking and popping and it was so dark that we could not see anything. The ship was fifty miles off of its course. We were due in Sanfrancisco, on the morning of April 14th, but did not arrive until the next morning. Thank God that he was mindful of us, Psalm, 115:12: "The Lord hath been mindful of us: he will bless us," He is mindful of you when you are not thinking of him, he is the only friend in time of trouble, praise his holy name forever and forever.

We were taken to Fort McDowell, the morning of the 15th, and were put in the guard house until the 17th, when I was discharged and again started for home. This was my last start. I caught a tug boat and went over to Sanfrancisco Cal, and when I arrived there did not know where to go to get my ticket that had been sent for me. I went to one place and asked, but they did not know anything about it, the devil said, "Now, you will never get home for you don't know where to get your ticket." I went to a policeman, and he went with me into the Southern Pacific station and asked them if there was a ticket for Vernie B. Stanley. They looked and said, "Yes, but it is up town." he ask me if I could go and get it. I told him I did not know where to go. Then he said to them, "You can have it sent down here." They talked a short time and said, "Yes, we can have it down here in the morning." I spoke then, and said I did not want

to wait long. He told them to get it up right then, and in ten minutes they had it for me. He went out with me, and said, "If you have any more trouble, come to me and I will help you." Then the devil was defeated again, praise the Lord. I received my ticket and at nine o'clock April 17th I started for High Point, N. C. and was traveling until the 23d, I reached old High Point, one more time. Friends, I want you to notice the coming of the 24th, of April: my Father came after me that day, and I will never forget that time. I was at D.O. Frazer's, and when my father came in I was sitting facing the door with a cigarette between my fingers, I felt very bad about it, but he never mentioned it to me and I know where I had my last one. We came out and I threw it away. I thank my Heavenly Father that was my last cigarette. Some say, "Well, you wanted them bad enough, But I did not, for Jesus said in the good old Bible, "If ye shall ask anything in my name I will do it," Jh 14:14. I asked Him to take away the appetite, and I thank his holy name for answering my prayer. Well, some may say, "thou- you were saved in China " Yes I was, but if some of you had been in my place, you would probably have done as bad if not worse, than I did; for some professed Christians are still holding on to their tobacco. My salvation keeps me from them all, thank God. He did not stop at saving me; He sanctified me wholly: "How did you get sanctified? he first saved me from all of the sins that I committed, but after this there was something in my heart that would not keep sweet, 1 John 1 7-10 We have here, two propositions: first Sin explained, in the 8th and 10th, verses, then we have to confess our sins and the second If we walk in the light, then we have fellowship one with another, and we are cleansed from inbred sin, or the carnal mind, the sin that doth so easily beset us, or the root of bitterness.

This blessing of holiness was mine on the 10th of May 1915 at Mr James Taylor home while in prayer meeting, I testified and sat down. Before the meeting came to a close I arose to close it and said, "If any one wants to be saved are sanctified, kneel at your seats." and I was on my knees before I knew it, and thank God the blessing came and the Holy Ghost filled my soul.

On May 15th 1915 God gave me a definite call to preach his word and very soon afterwards he gave me opportunity to preach my first sermon in a little colored church. and the Lord did bless me, many seekers came to the altar

It seemed to me a hard thing to give up everything, and say, that as long as I live I will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Dear reader, if I never get to see you in this world, I want to meet you over on the other shore with Jesus, where there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more death to come and part our loved ones from us, no more fighting with sin and satan, when the last battle is fought, we will go and live with him forever and ever.

May God bless you all, is my prayer, and may he make this little book a blessing to each and every one who reads it. Amen.