



VAN DEVENTER FAMILY

Judson W. Van Deventer

by Pastor Clinton Macomber

Judson Wheeler Van Deventer was born on a farm near Dundee, Michigan, on December 5, 1855 to John Wesley van Deventer and his wife, Eliza Ann (Wheeler) van Deventer.

In 1870, he was one of four children. His older brother, Virgil, was 18 and attending school. Judson was 14 and also a student. His younger brother, Nelson, was 12, and he had a sister, Fanny, who was five. His family was living on a farm in Dundee, Michigan. His grandmother, Polly Wheeler was 60 and living with them.

He graduated from Hillsdale College and became an art teacher. Later he was the supervisor of art in the public schools of Sharon, Pennsylvania.

In 1880, when he was 24, he married Malissa Miller, who was 21. Malissa's mother, Ivy, had remarried to a farmer, named Oscar Curtis. They lived in Summerfield, Michigan, and had a newborn son, Arthur. Judson moved in with the family and was employed as a painter. A year later, Judson and Malissa had their daughter, Cleo Iva.

He was active as a layman in the Episcopal-Methodist Church, and became very active in the evangelistic meetings held in his church. Seeing his abilities, his friends urged him to quit his job and become an evangelist. For five years he wavered between the ministry and seeking recognition as an artist.

Finally he surrendered his life completely to Christ and travelled extensively throughout the United States, England, and Scotland as an evangelist, assisted by the singer, Winfield S. Weeden.

In 1886, he was living in Sharon, Pennsylvania, and received a passport. He planned to go to the British Isles, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, and Belgium. He was described as being 30 years old, 5 foot 6 inches tall, dark brown eyes, medium nose, large mouth, dark brown hair, with a light complexion and a sharp, angular face. He used the passport to tour Europe, and visit the art galleries and museums, and other resources to study painting.

In 1888, he had a son, Paul Dorel. They were living in Michigan.

In 1902, their daughter, Cleo Iva, died. She was twenty years old.

In 1910, he was 54 and his wife, Malissa, was 51. They had been married for 30 years and were living at 4th Street North, in Saint Petersburg, Florida. Their house was near the corner of First Avenue North. Their son, Dore D. was 21. Judson owned his own photography shop and his son also worked as a photographer.



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In 1920, Judson was 64, and his wife was 61. They owned an apartment house, free of a mortgage and shared it with their son, Dore, and his wife and son, Judson. Dore had the Photography shop. At the same address there were three other renting families and four lodgers: 428 3rd Ave North, Saint Petersburg, Florida.

In 1924, his wife died in Florida at the age of 65.

In 1925, when he was 69, he married a single woman who was 47, with the name of Carolyn, who was a pianist and music teacher.

Judson had a radio program called: "The Gospel in Song and Story."

In 1930, Judson, and his wife, Carolyn, and her sister were living on River Side Drive, in Temple Terrace, Florida. They had \$5000 in personal real estate and owned the house. They had a radio. He was 75 and retired. His wife, Carolyn was 52. His wife's sister, Lottie Lanz, was 75 and widowed.

In 1935, "J.W." was 79 and living in Temple Terrace and Carolyn was 57. They reported they both had gone to college and he was a hymn writer and she was a musician. They owned the house on Glen Arvin Avenue.

In the 1930's he had a home in Tampa, Florida, and was a regular visitor to the Florida Bible Institute. Along with many others, Billy Graham credits him with having influenced him in his preaching, and mentions the great time the students had in the evangelist's home for fellowship and singing.

Judson Wheeler Van Deventer died, on July 17, 1939, in Temple Terrace, Florida. He was 83 years old. His remains were placed in the Maple Grove Cemetery of Dundee, Michigan.

Even though he wrote quite a number of hymns, only a couple remain in use today: "I Surrender All," words (below) & "Sunlight."



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I Surrender All

All to Jesus, I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him ,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:
I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Thee,
my bless'd Savior,
I surrender all.

Refrain
All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

Refrain
All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

Refrain
All to Jesus, I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain
All to Jesus I surrender;
Now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!