

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #29]

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COMMENTS

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Paper No. 29

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Interview with

Vito Cacciola

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by

Merton R. Lovett

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“As well as remembered.”

INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

by Merton R. Lovett

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(from memory)

“Thanka you, my eye, it is no different. It preventa me from reading de fine print.

“Yes, some day de doctor will cuta off de obstruction. Then I shall see clearly once more. I trya not to worry. I maka thanks that I got one good eye.

“Last summer in de morning I woulda go to de Dane Street Beach. Does you knowa de rocks there and de tree? There I woulda sit. With de Bible and de notebook I would maka study. I also studied de nature which is de worka of God.

“On gooda days the view it is beautiful, almost so pretty as is de ocean by Sicily. There is de sailboats which reminda me of de swans. De islands are washa by blue water. De white waves, which breaka on them, look lika they is suds of soap. There is million sparkles on de ocean.

“One Sunday I go to sleep and geta a vission. I dream I has become blind. Nothing can I see. Without sight I must walka to home, de shop. It is terrible feeling. In 2 my dream I feara much de autos. I know not which way I go. I heara de children talka and laugh, but I cannot see them. De birds singa, but they is undiscovered because everything is dark.

“Then I waka up. By gracious, is I glad? I seea de beach and de peoples who maka fun. It is a most wonderful. I feela so happy, I pray and giva thanks. Yes, one eye is not to be despiced. No eye at all is most awful calamities.

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“Calamities? That meana unfortunateness. See, I writa it in my book.

“No, I does not swim. I goes to beach to maka meditations. How you thinka I look in swim suit? Hah! I am no longer so young and handsome. De childrens woulda think I was de little whale.

“Sometimes now I go to mass. It maka happy my brother Peter and my smalla niece.

“But I discover-ed the powers of prayer and de goodness of God in de Methodist church. Does you beliva me, Mr. Lovett? I became a chang-ed man in one day. I was what you calla born once more.

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“No, I hada been mucha sinful. Yes, I had twenty-four bada habits. They prevent-ed me from knowledge of de grace of God.

“When my eyes wasa open-ed, I maka end of those bad habits. It wasa in 1926.

“Sure, thanks to de blessed Lord, I losa them all. My heart is a purified. I am a greatly happy.

“You is right. It is harda to live good life. You must hava de strong will. I hava it. You must praya much for help. I geta it.

“Why, Mr. Lovett S I do not thinka you has more than twenty-four de bad habits. You also can geta new heart. You must first trusta in God. You must talka to Him often. You must hava de will of iron.

“Well, you can exercisa de will. If you wisha hard you can change yourself.

“Does I thinka there is hope for everybodys? De grace of God and de love of Jesus is mucha great. I tella you story.

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“There was a policeman. He was nam-ed Curry. Does you remember him?”

“That's a right, Jim Curry. He was bada egg. He does monkey work. In de stores he getta bribe. One night you remember 4 he was drunk, and maka smash-up down by bridge. Then he getta fired.

“Yes, he goes then to work at United Shoe. But he hasa no brains. He drinka much. He losa his job soon.

“Now, he becomes de bum. His wife must leava him. He bega de money. He drinka de poison alcohol, de varnish, everything. Sometimes he sleeps by railroad.

“Sure, he was a tougha guy. Sometimes he come and aska me for dime. One night he wasa almost sober. I talka to him. I tella him de good Lord can take away his bad habits, I showa to him how I has chang-ed and has eras-ed twenty-four sins. I maka picture for him of Jesus. I praya with him.

“No, he did not geta de good life quick. But he begins to understand a little. His heart it is touch-ed.

“Bye and bye he listens to me some more. He stopa drinking. He getta job. De Lord shaka his heart. He is chang-ed man. The Lord has cleans-ed his soul.

“Now you see, Mr. Lovett, you has gota de good chance. You can cura de bad habits also, if you lova de Lord much and hava de will.”