

Brother Artemis Cook

Fire and Brimstone Preacher, Stalwart Watchdog in the Name of the Lord

You have been chosen, by your superiors within the Church, to travel from congregation to congregation. At each town, you dispense mail and news, baptize children in the name of God and you help each town sort out its moral troubles. This is how it works, when the community is good and lives by the Good Book.

In some places, though, they have forgotten the words of the Lord. When this is the case, it is up to you to dispense the swift and certain judgment of the Lord. Sometimes, that means enforcing your moral beliefs at the end of a gun. Violence is sometimes the only way to quiet the protests of heathens and atheists and the like. And in those cases, you relish the violence: seeing sinners punished is the best thing about being a Dog. Occasionally, an unfaithful local sheriff gets in your way: you don't have any sanction from any earthly government. Your authority is handed down to you from Heaven above, via the elders of the church. If that means you come into conflict with the law, then you accept that on your conscience, as you remind yourself that Jesus was an outlaw, too.

Once you were nothing more than an outlaw. Before you were a righteous warrior in the Lord's army, you were a no-good two-bit bandit. You have since found religion and repented, but the guilt still haunts you sometimes. A large part of your actions now are trying to assuage that guilt or hide it behind a veneer of righteousness... maybe a larger part than you're willing to admit.

This is the path that has brought you to **Providence Junction**. There is a small contingent of the faithful in this town, though there are just as many folks who don't recognize the Good News when they hear it. You had expected to try to sort out their differences, but you find the town is currently embroiled in a large poker tournament. Now, gambling is an abomination in the eyes of the Lord, so right here you have the first Sin you must judge. You are staying in **Bedelia Derrick's Lucky Saloon** because it is the only inn in town. Not because you condone the gambling.

Chosen to accompany you on your journey is **Sister Fidelia Baum**. She seems like a good enough girl, and has helped so far with minor duties so far. But she hasn't really proven herself up to the harder tasks being a Watchdog for the Lord may require, as you find in towns as rife with sin and villainy as Providence Junction appears to be. Her mettle is as yet untested.

Speaking of sin and villainy, you recognize your old partner in crime **Hannah Brownfield**. Is she still living a life of crime and sin? If so, is she planning some wicked plan here - perhaps robbing the saloon

owner? Could you convince Hannah to renounce her wicked ways and join the legion of the faithful?

You are surprised also recognize "**Caleb Morner**" the card shark over there as **Pastor Solomon Crosby**. When you first met Pastor Crosby, he was a Watchdog for the Lord, and you were a sinner looking for a purpose. He showed you The Way, and his influence made you convert. Now that you meet again, the roles seem to have reversed: you are the wandering preacher of God's word, and he is the sinner in need of redemption.