

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

GETTING DOWN To The MAIN BUSINESS

Text: "We Come Therefore As Christ's Ambassadors. It Is As If God Were Appealing to You Through Us: In Christ's Name, We Implore You, Be Reconciled to God!" (II Cor. 5:20).

A new bi-monthly church publication, on the first page of its first number, has these words:

"You Must Therefore Be Like Men Stripped For Action," (I Pet. 1:13). Our calendars have become cluttered, our lives jammed with much busyness. In this desperate age, so full of peril and promise, is there one thing our Lord summons us to do above all else? How do we strip for action?

These are incisive questions. Turning over the pages of the pamphlet, it would seem that the answers to these questions lie in more promotion by

boards and councils and committees, in other words more "clutter," more "jam," more "busy-ness." Is stripping for action tinkering with the organization of the Church, revising the by-laws, paying homage to ecclesiastical dignitaries? Is it overconcern for political and social issues, not realizing that it requires new men to bring in a new day? Or do we strip for action by holding bigger and better Church parties, more profitable rummage sales; by seasonal changes of color in the chancel?

What is getting down to the main business? Let Paul tell us, for he was a Christian who never became sidetracked.

Getting down to the main business is accepting a commission. Christ gives it. He said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:18-20). He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). He said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

Paul said that we are Christ's ambassadors. When we get down to the main business we shall take that assignment seriously.

Getting down to the main business, we shall open up our lives to the power and the Spirit of Christ. An ambassador makes sure to keep the lines of communication open between himself and the sender. The sender keeps the lines open toward his ambassador. This is a matter of mutual concern. Prayer keeps the lines open so that power and inspiration are received. Action keeps the lines open as when Peter put out his hand to a cripple and lifted him up in Christ's name. The proclamation of the message keeps the lines open as when Peter's sermon is given the power to persuade.

When we get down to the main business we take the power of the Spirit seriously.

Getting down to the main business is channeling the grace of God. It is as if God were appealing to you through us. The Church is a task force to bring men and women into a living, personal relationship with God. When the Church seriously accepts that responsibility, it will scrutinize its methods and activities, discarding the useless and unrelated. It will study to show itself approved. Channeling the grace of God is much like the irrigation of land--there must be contact with the source, no obstructions in the channel, an outflow upon the land. Getting down to the main business is taking God's grace seriously.

"In Christ's name," wrote Paul, "we implore you, be reconciled with God!" Getting down to the main business is accepting the trust of a message of reconciliation with God. It is knowing what that message of reconciliation is. It is actually proclaiming the message to others. It is intelligent and responsible and heartfelt witnessing for Christ, in the name of Christ, by the followers of Christ.

All else is as "a tinkling cymbal and a sounding brass."



REV. D. M. CLARK

GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE



BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Mary Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. H St., Las Vegas

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C. L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Heights

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
D & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. A St., Las Vegas

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Heights

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. E St., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. E St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays

STURM AT MATT KELLY

RAYMOND STURM, director of adult and vocational education for the Clark County School District, will outline courses to be offered and registration requirements at the new vocational-technical school soon to be constructed here at tonight's (Feb. 11) meeting of the Matt Kelly School PTA. Mr. Sturm also will explain the adult education program.

Mrs. Grace McGlothen, program director, has arranged for several choral numbers to be presented by Matt Kelly students at this evening's meeting, scheduled for 7:30.

SYMPATHY APPRECIATED

LOCAL CLUBWOMEN. Mrs. Jelline Scott Irvin and Mrs. Virginia Collins wish to thank their friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended them following the loss of their aunt, Mrs. Tressie Foster. The funeral was held at Delhi, La.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. F St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington 642-5675
Henderson

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Heights

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Heights

ST. PAUL C. of G. in C.
Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm
*Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm
Sunday School: Sunday, 10 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPW: Sunday, 8 pm
(*Inspirational at Progressive)

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. G St., Las Vegas

PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH of the LORD JESUS
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

Virginia Abandons Segregation Policy

RICHMOND, Va.-- Virginia's State Board of Education has voted unanimously to abandon a policy of segregation by complying with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is the second Southern state board to publicly agree to sign the nondiscrimination pledges required for continued federal financial aid, joining Georgia. Numerous Southern colleges also have complied.

Desegregation of Virginia's Department of Education administrative staff apparently is now assured, including the six Negro supervisors and their secretaries who are housed in an antiquated Richmond building separate from white officials.

Board chairman Mosby G. Perrow Jr., in announcing the decision, declined to go into details, but it was understood that a plan accompanying the signed statement to be submitted to federal authorities includes programs of desegregation in the following state activities:

(See VIRGINIA, page 11)

History Week Program

MADISON SCHOOL students will present a varied Negro History Week program tonight (Feb. 11) in the school's multi-purpose room starting at 8 o'clock. The public is invited.

A short play, recital, two creative dances and Negro spirituals by a 30-member chorus will be offered.