

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

JONAH, WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA?

Text: "But Jonah Rose Up to Flee Unto Tarshish From the Presence of the Lord, and Went Down to Joppa; and He Found a Ship Going to Tarshish; So He Paid the Fare Thereof, and Went Down Into It, to Go With Them Unto Tarshish From the Presence of the Lord." Jonah 1:3.

It is believed that Jonah lived in the early part of the eighth century B.C. His home was in the hills north of Nazareth and it is there that the reporter finds him to ask an interview.

"And so you want an interview with me because someone wrote a book about me being swallowed by a big fish and living to tell about it?"

"I'll admit that the story cannot be forgotten, but I would mention it only for the purpose of finding out something more than the details of your interesting experience."

"What do you want to find out?"

"I'm on a quest for big ideas, I would like to know what is your big idea."

"I don't know what you mean by 'big idea.' I've had several ideas in my life. Some of them weren't very big. Some of them were wrong."

"I'd be pleased to hear even about the wrong ideas."

"Like every man, I was a child of my times, and I had the idea that nobody outside Israel was of any worth or consequence. Those were days of comfort and luxury in this land. Though we weren't for God, we rested in the fact that God was for us. Our spirit was ugly and narrow and selfish; I had the same idea as my people, except for an ineffective preacher here and there. It was an idea of narrow nationalism. It was wrong."

What made you change your mind?

"When the word of the Lord came to me to go to the great city of Nineveh and cry against it because of its wickedness, I was shocked. What did I care about Nineveh? No one in Israel had any love for the people of Nineveh, nor did I. But there was no doubt about the call of the Lord to preach in Nineveh. Something was wrong. Then I did have an idea. It wasn't a big one. It was a silly one."

What was that?

"I decided to run away from God. I would take a ship for Spain."

Instead of running away from God you began to run to God. The book says that you prayed. That was very human, Jonah, to pray to God when you were in trouble.

"Yes, I called to the Lord in my distress and He answered me. The Lord said, 'Go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you'. I was given a second chance."

That's a good idea, isn't it?--the Lord gives a man a second chance.

"It's the truth. I went to Nineveh, and I prophesied the city's doom within forty days if they did not turn from their evil ways. God gave me persuasive speech. They believed God. The king, the nobles, and the people turned from evil and violence. Nineveh was saved."

That should have made you very thankful and given you great satisfaction.

"That's irony! I will not reply! Let it go as another of my stupidities. But I did finally arrive at the big idea, as you call it."

What was that?

is this: God cares! God cares for Nineveh and he cares for Israel! God cares for men, and even for the beasts of the field."

That is a big idea. I wonder if there is any greater--God knows and loves and seeks the salvation of all men.

"I learned it the hard way!" said Jonah, ending the interview.



REV. D. M. CLARK



GO to the CHURCH of YOUR CHOICE

Church Directory

DEADLINE for church news and photographs is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Mr. Clark's home, 1676 N. 'E' St., telephone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and telephone number.

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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
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Rev. C. L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

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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

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

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.
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MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
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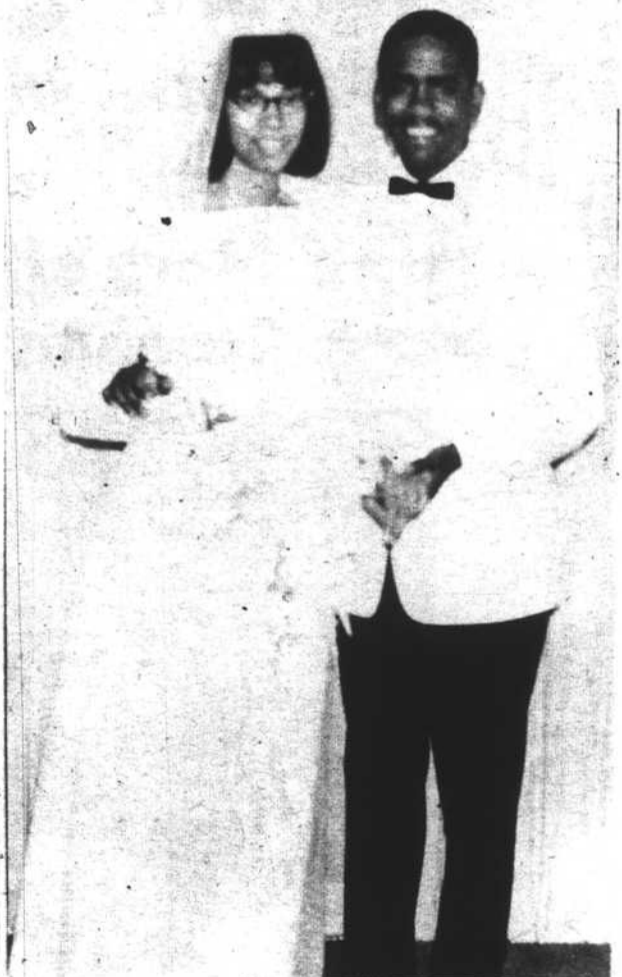
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Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
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Eld. Coruth Hall, 649-1523
301 N. D St., Las Vegas

(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)



NEWLYWEDS--Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ford are shown above following their recent marriage here by Eld. J. W. Logan at Powerhouse Church of God in Christ. Mrs. Ford is the former Gloria Henry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hightower, Las Vegas. Mr. Ford is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ford, McKeesport, Pa.