

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

## WHEN PENTECOST RETURNS

Text: "And When the Day of Pentecost Was Fully Come!" Acts 2:1

There is a thrilling note of suspense in the above words. They furnish the introduction to one of the most amazing incidents in the life of the infant Church. Before His ascension, the Lord had promised the Comforter, the Divine Guide and Inspirer, to his disciples. They were to wait till they were endued with power from on high. Then, spiritually invested, they would accomplish the incredible. That glad day, which marked the true birthday of the Church, arrived. Mere disciples became apostles. And the incredible--at least to the world about them--was accomplished.



REV. D. M. CLARK

It is the custom in these comparatively tame and tepid days to relegate the event of Pentecost to the past. "Such things don't happen any more," we say, and then settle down again in our rut of impotence. It is the deliberate purpose of this message to challenge that bland and unbelieving assumption! For Pentecost, with its downpouring of spiritual power, will return when, like those first disciples, we obediently enter the Upper Room of faith, and expectancy and prayer. Pentecost is not just something that happened once. The Pentecostal phenomena are reproducible of the conditions of faith! Like parched ground and wilting crops in the midst of drought, the modern Church awaits the visitation of the Spirit, that she might be clad with new power.

Let us look at some of these Pentecostal phenomena and prayerfully ponder them in the light of our present need.

Notice first that that group of halting and doubting disciples became a disciplined body of Christian believers, after the advent of the Holy Spirit! This above all else happened. A rather disheartened, vaguely trusting handful of disciples were transformed into flaming apostles because they realized that their Lord had kept His promise to them and, far from being absent, was in their midst, a living working presence.

Again, at that first Pentecost, that motley crowd which had gathered together from all parts of the earth--men out of every nation under heaven--were taken and, through the wondrous ministry of the Holy Spirit, welded into a composite fellowship, a brotherhood of the Spirit. The event was phenomenal, to say the least. They weren't afraid of honest enthusiasm as so many within the modern Church appear to be. They were literally in God, "all filled with the Holy Spirit," and discovered in their midst a spiritual vernacular which completely leaped across the ordinary boundaries of class, color, and nationality. A common identity is discovered. Foreigners became brothers on that memorable day! Let us get it into our consciousness, we moderns who talk so much about the need for unity in the Churches, that it is only as the Church becomes Apostolic and Pentecostal that men are truly one in Christ. Real Christian unity, spiritual ecumenicity (so well known to the first Christians!) is not so much a human achievement as it is a divine bestowal. Only the Spirit of the living Christ can draw men into Christian fellowship, and then hold them together.

When the day of Pentecost was fully come, that infant Church was stirred with a compelling sense of mission. It became aware that the Good News entrusted to it was for the redemption of all humanity. It ceased to be like so much contemporary Christianity, bogged down in a round of petty, parochial duties. Rather was it a Movement of the Spirit, sweeping the then known world into its orbit. Indeed, had not the risen Lord given commandment, "Wait till you be endued with my living Spirit," then beginning at Jerusalem, reach out and penetrate



### 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

the world with the Good News? And they did, their Lord working with them.

History records that newly born and inspired fellowship went out from that Upper Room, fired with a universal sense of mission, bringing that sick and sinning and unbelieving world of the first century under the spell of the Christian movement. There can be no sufficient or lasting help from any other quarter! The world in its desperate need awaits the power of a spiritually reborn Church; and the Church in turn can be reborn only from a Source beyond itself.

Once more, at that first glad Pentecost there was a sense of spiritual opulence releasing a generosity in the hearts of the disciples which in turn overflowed every need. "And all the believers kept together, and had everything in common" (Acts 2:44, Weymouth). This phenomenon marks the emergence and pattern of the redemptive community of which the living Christ is head. Poverty and wealth alike were pooled in the new life, and distribution made according to need. And there was enough for all. When Pentecost returns, we shall have a renaissance of Christian giving--and sharing.

Out of sheer joy and gratitude for their newfound life, those early disciples brought their worldly goods and laid them at the feet of the apostles. It wasn't a collection. It was an offering of love, coming direct from the heart. Let Pentecost, with its visitation of spiritual power, really come to a church. Then, not only will its local needs be met, but an opulence will stream out from that church to bless all mankind. A Pentecostal Church is a generous Church.

### 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  
1155 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)

### 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

## St. James Altar Society Slates Monday Meeting

NEXT MEETING of the newly organized Altar Society of St. James Catholic Church has been scheduled for next Monday, May 24, with all interested persons invited to attend.

Officers of the new group are Mmes. Richard Smith, president; Lloyd Hamilton, secretary-treasurer; Thelma Brown, ways-and-means committee chairman, and Sammy Travis, social committee chairman. Advisors are Msgr. Thomas Devlin and Bro. George Barton.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hamilton represented St. James at the recent Archbishop Mitty Deanery meeting in Boulder City. Mrs. Effie Conway and Mrs. Smith are taking care of the altar during the month of May. (See photo page 10)