

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark
THE NEGLECTED BRIDE

Text: "As His Custom Was, He Went to the Synagogue." (Luke 4:15)

DR. E. STANLEY JONES, in his devotional booklet, "The Way to Power and Poise," has written: "The fellowship of the group is one of the most freeing things known, provided it is the right kind of fellowship. The church is designed to provide that fellowship. It is the corporate expression of the Christian life. The idea that you can be a solitary Christian without corporate relation with the church has been proved false by the facts. I have watched it across the years; those who try this soon have Christianity fade out of them, and then they fade out of the picture. Strong, outgoing, contagious character is nourished within the church even with all its faults. I have spoken to thousands of service clubs across the years, particularly in America. These service clubs contain the cream of the business and professional life of a city, the people who have risen to the top. From 80 percent to 99 percent of them are members of some church. The general average of church members in a community is 53 percent. But the average of the successful is 90 percent. There is something in corporate religion that makes for stronger, more dependable character.



REV. D. M. CLARK

"Moreover, it not only makes people more successful, gives them power; but it makes them inwardly steadier, gives them poise. They take calamity better. A mortician told me that Christians take the death of a loved one much better than non-Christians. A doctor told me that Christians face an operation more quietly, go under the anesthetic sooner, recover more quickly. The head of a Japanese internment camp in America during World War II said: 'If I had no other proof of the truth of Christianity, I have it here. Those who are members of churches take this uprooting in a superior way to the non-Christians. They can take it--easily and happily. The others go to pieces.' The Church helps to poise and power."

If this is so--and, of course, it is--why is the Bride of Christ, His Church, so sadly neglected? If, next Sunday morning, I were to ask all who are members of any church to rise and be counted; and then if I were to compare the total with the names on the church roll, what would those figures show? They would very likely show that less than one-half of the enrolled members of that church were present.

Now, we are not going to say that people SHOULD go to church regularly. It would seem almost sacrilegious and thoroughly unnecessary in view of our text! Instead of condemning folks (and particularly Church members) for not attending church--their church--we raise the question, "IF the church--if corporate fellowship and worship--contributes to peace and security, why do so many folks FAIL to attend church regularly? To draw an analogy, here is a family into which discord and strife have crept. There is distrust, suspicion, quarrelling and strife. A divorce seems inevitable. Someone makes the suggestion, "Why don't you both go to a psychiatrist who is experienced in marital problems?" So they go to such a psychiatrist, and he strives to help them within the limits of his learning and experience. If he is a truly Christian psychiatrist, one of the first bits of advice he will give them is: GO TO SOME CHURCH--TOGETHER. SIT IN THE SAME PEW. TRY TO BE A PART OF THE CHURCH AND TAKE PART IN ITS ACTIVITIES. The Christian psychiatrist knows that the Church is a great help in achieving power and poise. Unfortunately, there are so many with problems who seek competent advice and then, like Naaman, dislike or distrust the prescription and proceed to ignore it.



Church Directory

DEADLINE for church news and photos is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Clark's home, 1676 North 'E' St., phone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and (if available) phone number.

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

NEW MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
505 1/2 Jackson 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

Almost everyone knows that there IS a source of power in the Church--but some try everything else and finally give up the struggle without having tried the answer which they should have found in the first place.

Is the Church itself at fault? Let us first ask ourselves if OUR church is a source of power in fellowship and worship? Do those who enter OUR church immediately feel that this is God's House? Do we provide the spiritual food which they crave? Do we offer them the fellowship which they need?

Let us now examine the questions: In what ways can the Church give me a sense of peace and security not obtainable elsewhere? Is it not true that I can go up into the mountains and worship God there, without attending a crowded church?

To answer the last question first, it is true that you can go into some isolated place and find God--worship Him there. But, HAVE YOU TRIED IT? Honestly, isn't it just an alibi that you are offering? And while it is true that you can worship God in the mountains, it is just as true that you will NOT obtain, in isolation, the same sort of help that you may obtain in fellow-

(See PULPIT, page 15)

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
2029 Travis St., Las Vegas

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

CARVER PARK C. of G. in C.
Eld. C. Parson 642-3967
Carver Park Adm. Bldg., Henderson

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, 9:45 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPWW: Sunday, 6:30 pm

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

Ministers, Please Note!

WE ARE REVISING our Church Directory in order to add churches not now included and to up-date information on churches listed above. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church is not listed above, please let us have the DENOMINATION of the church, the NAME of the church, the NAME of the pastor, a PHONE NUMBER where the pastor may be reached, and the ADDRESS of the church. If your church is incorrectly or incompletely listed in any of these respects, please send the necessary changes or additions to: Las Vegas VOICE, 958 West Owens Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. Thank you.