

Jerry & Jean Visit Yvonne in Vegas

February 2013, after a couple of weeks of checking into various flight prices and schedules, the email came from Jean with the subject line: Vegas, Here We Come! Their flight was booked on Frontier Airlines.

Tuesday, April 16: depart 3:41 p.m. from Indianapolis on Frontier 551 to Denver

depart 5:00 p.m. from Denver on Frontier 787 to Las Vegas, arrive 5:53 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23: depart 11:10 a.m. from Las Vegas on Frontier 784 to Denver

depart 2:50 p.m. from Denver on Frontier 1608 to Indianapolis, arrive 7:11 p.m.

The day finally arrived; however, lightning and thunderstorms delayed their departure from Indianapolis. As a result, they missed their connecting flight in Denver and had to spend the night there. From a list of hotels provided by Frontier, they found a room at Country Inn and Suites about ten miles from the airport. A shuttle was provided but they were responsible for the bill as the delay was due to an act of Nature. Before they left the airport, Frontier arranged for them to take a flight out of Denver to Dallas the next morning with a connecting flight to Las Vegas.

Wednesday morning they took the shuttle to the airport and once again Jean checked with Frontier to see if there was any way they could get on a direct flight to Las Vegas. With a little help, they were able to make the change. Due to the snow in Denver and the need to de-ice, this flight was delayed approximately one hour, but they arrived in Vegas before noon.

I picked them up at the airport and we came to the house and had some sandwiches for lunch and talked. Afterwards, Jean and Jerry got unpacked and settled in their room; then we all took a nap. For dinner, we had baked spaghetti and garlic toast, with cookies for dessert. After dinner, I went to the airport to pick up Caroline who was coming for a music conference at UNLV.

Thursday
April 18

Breakfast on our own. J & J had cereal and yogurt. We headed for UNLV where we dropped off Caroline for her conference, then J & J and I headed for the Las Vegas Strip. First, we went by the historic sign and took pictures. From there, we went to the **Luxor** where Jerry would get his first opportunity to try out the motorized wheel chair Emily (Jean's former roommate) had rented for him. They had delivered it to my house Tuesday noon. We had **lunch** in the Food Court at the Luxor. From there, we went to **The Paris**. There Jerry had a mishap with the chair as he tried to go under a bar that separated lines in the ticket center. The chair jammed and left the bar at his throat. Six men appeared from nowhere and picked up the chair with Jerry in it and moved it back. He was fine and didn't appear to be injured. Whew! PTL! From there we took the glass elevator to the top of the **Eiffel Tower**. Back down, we had ice cream in the sweet shoppe; then we picked Caroline up from UNLV and came home for a nap. We slept long. After dinner, Caroline brought out the wedding pictures and we spent a couple of hours reminiscing.

Friday
April 19

Breakfast on our own. Caroline dropped J & J off at Emily's house and went on to UNLV. Emily took J & J to **Boulder City** where they had **lunch** and then drove on to **Hoover Dam**, taking a drive on the new bridge across the Dam, then coming back to drive around the Dam and stop off for pictures at the State Line-AZ/NV. She brought them back to my house about 3:30 pm—and again it was naptime. For **Dinner** I had smoked pork chops, cooked apples, baked sweet potatoes, & almond/bacon green beans. Brownies for desert—with a candle as I had invited Sandy Hagreen for dinner and it was her birthday. After dinner, we again brought out the wedding pictures... but Caroline also played parts of the wedding tape. We heard Jean's solos and parts of our vows. More reminiscing. And we sang parts of a few of our Church of God songs.



Saturday
April 20

Breakfast – Scrambled eggs/cheese/sausage free-style omelets, yogurt, fruit, toast. Piled into van and headed for The Strip with Caroline chauffeuring. Used Valet parking at the **Wynn** and spent a couple of hours looking through the entryway flowers, floors, displays, and went to some of the exclusive shops and checked the prices. Jerry could have bought a silk tie for \$200 to \$350. Saw dresses for up to \$6000. Jerry found gelato, so we stopped briefly for a treat. From there we walked over to the **Encore** (through the Wynn) to see the red curtains—but they have been removed for security reasons. The red chandeliers are still there. On the way, Yvonne checked out a \$10,000 dress in the Chanel Shoppe.



We left the Wynn/Encore and drove north on Las Vegas Blvd stopping at **Denny's** for a late lunch. Afterwards, we drove up Las Vegas Blvd past the **Pawn Shop** which is featured on the TV Antique Road Show, and past **Fremont Street**. We circled back around and paused a moment to look down the crowded Mall. Back home, we were ready for a nice, long nap; then we all took Caroline to the airport to fly back to Reno. On the way home we picked up Pizza Hut pizza for a late dinner. I made rollups for our picnic tomorrow.

Sunday
April 21

Breakfast on our own then headed to **Hope Church** to join Emily for morning service. Nice service, good sermon, BIG choir—great song. After service, we stopped at a park for a **picnic**. Temperature in the 80's but a nice Bulgarian man was sitting at a picnic table as if holding it for us—and gave it up so we were able to eat in the shade. From there, Emily followed in her SUV and we went to explore the **Bellagio**—conservatory, chocolate factory, and Jean-Phillippe Patisserie, leaving just at the right time to watch the water show. From there we went to the **Venetian**. First stop, rest rooms. Then as we were walking toward St. Mark's Square, we noticed the **Trattoria Reggiano**. A quick look at the clock and it was 5pm—exactly the time they opened. Emily had a gift certificate – a meal for four – that her daughter had picked up at a Charity Auction. Jean had Salmon, Jerry and I had Veal Parmigiano, and Emily? I forgot. It was delicious... and Emily checked out the prices and saw that it was about \$120 for the meal if we had to pay. We pooled our \$\$\$ and left a \$38 tip. Well worth it! And the cameriere was super. After dinner, we walked to **St. Mark's Square** where a unique trio was playing Italian classical music: A violin, an accordion, and a flute. And of course there's always room for Gelato—so we each had some in the Square. From there we walked over to the **Gondola** entrance. Jerry talked to a couple of gondoliers and decided he could take the ride. Tickets secured, Jerry, Jean, and Emily settled into the gondola for a thrilling ride. Yvonne stayed back with the motorized chair and took pictures.

Finally time to head home. I, Yvonne, forgot that the Venetian valet exit drops you off on Koval, so we ended up taking the long way home through the airport—with Emily following! At home we had cookies and fruit and tea, then it was bedtime. (Pictures next page)



Monday
April 22

Breakfast on our own. Took our time this morning and were ready to leave about 11am when it occurred to Jean that she should check in for their flight tomorrow before we left. At 11:20, she tried to check in but her flight was not there. She spent an hour on the phone trying to get their reservation retrieved so they could check in. Somehow, it seems their flight was deleted back in Denver when they had the layover last Tuesday. Eventually it all worked out and she was able to print their boarding passes.

We headed for Red Rock Casino and had lunch at the Feast Buffet there. Lots of good food, so we took our time eating and didn't leave until about 4pm. Drove out to Red Rock Canyon and went through the 13 mile one-way road stopping at the first overlook to view the amazing designs in the Red Rock. Also saw some rock climbers. Left the Canyon and drove through Red Spring, then went back to The Strip via Charleston Blvd. Parked near the Stratosphere. Jerry took a nap and Jean and I watched the rides at the top of the Stratosphere for about an hour while we waited for dark to settle in over the valley. When it was dark, we drove down Las Vegas Blvd (The Strip) so they could see the bright lights and marquis in all their brilliance at night. From there we came on back to the house and had some chicken and rice soup and crackers. By then we were all ready to go to bed. It had been a long but wonderful day.

Tuesday
April 23

Breakfast: scrambled eggs & bacon, yogurt, fruit, Cordon Bleu.

Left for airport at 9:10 am. Dropped them off at curb. Jerry walked with cane into the airport terminal where wheel chair was waiting for him. Jean called to say security was really crowded, but they go through ok. Their plane left at 11:55 instead of 11:10 but they were able to make their connection in Denver and arrived safely back in Indy—with their luggage—about an hour late!





1967



1998



2013

The Karl & Jones Story

Julius Karl and Jerry S. Jones, from Tennessee, were colleagues in Seminary at Anderson School of Theology, Anderson, Indiana 1965-1968, and Julius asked Jerry to be his Best Man for our wedding in 1967.

At some point during those Seminary days, Julius introduced Yvonne to accomplished vocalist Jean Walkof from Morden, Manitoba, Canada. She became a dear friend and was a Bridesmaid and Soloist for our wedding.

A bit of interesting trivia: At our wedding reception, Jean caught the bouquet and Jerry caught the garter. Wonder of wonders, a couple of years later, in August 1969, these two got married. Over the next couple of decades, Jerry pastored in North Dakota then in Maryland before working in pastoral counseling in the Washington, D.C. area. He received a Doctor of Ministries degree from Howard University. Jean was on staff at Anderson University before going to teach in Alberta, Canada, then on

staff at a community college in Maryland during their tenure there. She remains active in vocal groups in Indiana where they retired near their one daughter Jana who is married to Mark, and one grandson Cody, who is 10.

We stayed in touch over the years with cards and letters and occasional visits. Julius and I visited Jerry and Jean at their home in Maryland the summer before he died in January 1999.

This past week they made their first visit to my home in Las Vegas.

One of the songs I had requested Jean to sing in English and German at our wedding turned out to be a prophetic prayer. Thankfully, God is gracious not to show us the road ahead. "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me, over life tempestuous seas; unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treacherous shoal. Chart and compass come from Thee, Jesus Savior, Pilot me." Caroline (my daughter) had the recording of the wedding and played the song for us when Jean and Jerry were visiting. Tears. Nostalgia. Thanks to God for His marvelous grace—and for being my Pilot.

Although dealing with Parkinson's disease, Jerry pushed ahead with incredible optimism aided by a cane, a walker and a motorized chair (provided by Jean's former roommate, Emily). Caroline was in town attending a music teachers' conference and joined us to chauffeur for some sight-seeing.

Emily (in Gondola) took them to lunch in Boulder City and on a drive-around tour at Hoover Dam. At the Venetian

on the Las Vegas Strip, Jerry surprised us all by venturing out on a gondola ride accompanied by Jean and Emily.

Thank You God for a wonderful week with dearly beloved long-time friends.

