From Percy A. Carter, Jr.

Carter was a member of the Dialectical Society and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Dixon, Illinois. He refers to Wayman McLaughlin, a fellow member of the Dialectical Society.

The Reverend M. L. King
Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Martin:

Greetings to you and Coretta. We have been in constant remembrance of you and are yet mindful of the rich fellowship which was ours to share together in Christ. How is the work progressing at the church and how are you both enjoying it? We shall be most pleased to hear from you at anytime. I supposed you know that the McLaughlin's have a cute little girl. When we left Mass. the Dialectical Society was still in operation and enjoying good participation. I really miss the fellowship which was ours to enjoy in Boston. But sooner or later, we must leave the mountaintop experiences having received a breath of heaven to go down into the valley and sit where man sits.

We shall keep thinking of you and wish for you the keeping of the Master's love to guide you in all His paths.

Fraternally,
[signed] Percy

TLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

“The Challenge of the Book of Jonah”

No more delightful moments can be spent than those spent reading the book of Jonah. It is one of the greatest books of the Old Testament. Its themes is both arresting and electrifying. Its unknown author appears to have possessed the vision of a Saint Paul, the satiric power of a George Bernard Shaw,
and the delicious humor of a G. K. Chesterton. This book does not represent an actual occurrence any more than the parable of the prodigal son. But who can doubt the accuracy of either as portraits of multitude of human hearts. To often have we spent our time arguing over the historicity of Biblical stories, while failing to grasp the underlying truths.

Let us look at this story for a moment and see what it has to offer us. Recall the story

I Tell the Story

II This story has within it two {three} fundamental truth that I would like to set forth

1. God's love is boundless and Universal
   (1) God loves the Ninevite
   (2) Deal with Jonah's failure to see this and the whole Jewish attitude.
   (3) Deal with Christian view. Love men because God loves them.
   (4) Story of the lost sheep.
   (5) There is no class system. Aunt June is just as significant as the Ph.D. The person who lives in the ally is just as worthful to God as the richest person in the community.

2. All men are their brothers keepers and dependent on each other.
   (1) Deal with Jonah's failure to see this
   (2) We are all involved in a single process and whatever effects one directly effects the other indirectly. So long as there is slavery in the world I can never be totally free.
   (3) Science has made this obviously true. We must have one World or none.
   (4) Quote John Donne¹

AD. CSKC.

¹ The poem from John Donne favored by King was “No man is an Iland, intire of it selfe; every man is a peecce of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Mannor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee” (“Devotions upon Emergent Occasions,” in John Donne, Selected Prose, comp. Evelyn Simpson and ed. Helen Gardner and Timothy Healy [Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967], p. 101). See, for example, King, “Facing the Challenge of a New Age,” 3 December 1956, MLKP-MBU: Box 89.

“"The Bigness of God"

[1951–1955?]
[Boston, Mass.?]

Int—The great danger facing religion is not disbelief in God, but a too narrow estimate of the God believed in.