

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS

Text: "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matt. 6:27)

The crowd must have smiled at these words of Jesus. They do not mean that we should not plan and work for a better future. Yet when we are planning and dreaming it is wise to remember our human limitations. I am not preaching a more pious resignation, but a realistic acceptance of ourselves as we are, that by the grace of God we might grow and develop into fullness of character and life. That surely is the purpose of life--not the accumulation of wealth, but the perfecting of character.



Rev. D.M. Clark

We begin our character training by the acceptance of ourselves as we are. That is not easy to do; it demands fearless honesty and absolute sincerity. What usually happens is that we shift the spotlight from ourselves to others--to this political system or that form of economic insecurity--anywhere, in our anxiety for our failure to make life worth living. Or else we compare ourselves with other people seemingly more fortunate than ourselves.

Henry Thoreau once wrote: "Youth gets together the materials for a bridge to the moon and maturity uses them to build a woodshed." Well, a woodshed can be very useful; it isn't the size of the finished product that matters, but the skill and devotion used in the making, even if it be a small woodshed.

Jesus never sought greatness or power. What did he seek to do? To guide the perplexed and strengthen the weak; to give back to men and women the self-respect they had lost; so to live and to speak that no one should ever say, "I am useless," or "Nobody wants me."

The roll-call of God's heroes in the Epistle to the Hebrews is prefaced by these words: "Those who out of weakness were made strong."

The founder of the China Inland Mission, Hudson Taylor, once said, "When God sought me out to do his work in China, he must have said, 'This man is weak enough, he will do.'" We know what Hudson Taylor meant: that the secret of spiritual power is to be aware of our weakness and cast ourselves upon God. For it is just at the moment that we confess our failings that we are most fully conscious of God's help.

We know from personal experience that when our need was greatest we were not left alone.

It is then in the ordinary everyday life that we are given the opportunity to prove ourselves--just where we are in our particular situation with all its problems--to prove that God's grace is sufficient for all our daily needs.

A famous organist would often remark that he preferred to give a recital on a small organ, where the limitations were very pronounced, than on a much larger organ that offered great scope. "You see," he explained, "playing on a big organ, the man is overshadowed by the instrument, but with a small organ it is the man that is the chief factor in the recital." It is the man that counts; a man with faith in God has boundless opportunities of service, for he has linked up his own small life with the glorious life of Christ.

Perhaps you may ask yourself this question. What can I do, that I may be able to help an individual through his weakness? Permit me to answer your question in my conclusion.

There is not one of us that cannot be of service, that cannot be a friend to some one in need, that cannot say a kindly word in season. These are the gifts of the Spirit that we all possess, and how much more would they all be worth if we asked God to enrich them, that they may become a means of blessing to many! There is an old story of an artist whose eye was becoming dim. Every night when he retired he was more and more depressed with his work. While



AT OUR CHURCHES

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.

NOTICE

Regular meeting of the Federated Church Choirs has been scheduled for Bethel Baptist Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 28.

BAPTIST

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Hts.

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Hts.

Rev. Walker will preach a series of sermons from the theme, "A Wise Investment", Sunday, June 28, through June 30.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
400 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

Rev. Wilson will preach from the theme, "Show Me God", over KLAS Radio at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 28.

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr
723 N. "B" St., Las Vegas

Rev. Granison Carr, D.D., of Tallulah, La., will deliver the communion sermon at the 8 p.m. service on Sunday, June 28.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. M. Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

The annual Daily Vacation Bible School will hold classes starting June 29 through July 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C. L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett, Vegas Hts.

Rev. L. Richards will preach on the subject, "Glad Tidings", at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, June 28.

he was asleep his son would creep downstairs and retouch his father's picture. In the morning the old man would look at the canvas and say, "Well, it is not so bad as I thought." In just the same way, our lives are renewed through the living presence of Christ, our imperfect faith perfected, and the dying embers of our faith fanned into a great flame of devotion and love.

THOUGHTS for the WEEK

Home isn't built in a day.
Easy Street is a blind alley.
Many of our choices are eternal.
Real Christianity is always contagious.
Loose thinking leads to sloppy performance.
If you love each other, don't neglect to say so.
Mix religious faith with marriage for happiness.
You can't give away kindness; it always comes back.
The picture of health requires a happy frame of mind.
The world owes you a living only when you have earned it.

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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. "E" St., Las Vegas

The Mission Dept. is sponsoring the Silver Tone Gospel Singers at an 8 p.m. recital on Sunday, June 28.

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. "G" St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. W. J. Devlin, 382-9953
"H" & Morgan Sts., Las Vegas

Msgr. Devlin again calls attention to the new schedule of services and confessionals as listed below.

Sunday Mass--11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Week Day Mass--7:30 p.m. each evening
Confession--Saturday 4 and 7:30 p.m.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. "F" St., Las Vegas

A revival will be conducted by Bishop Cox starting Sunday, June 28, through July 5.

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

The revival being conducted by Supt. Logan will continue through July 5.

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 384-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

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

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington, 642-5675
Henderson

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Hts.

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Tuesday 8 pm - - - - - Bible Band
Wednesday 8 pm - - - - - *Young People
Friday 8 pm - - - - - Consecration
Sunday 10 am - - - - - Sunday School
Sunday 12 m - - - - - Morning Service
Sunday 6:30 pm - - - - - YPW
Sunday 8 pm - - - - - Evening Worship
*Progressive - - - - - Inspirational

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to Sister Charles of the Divine Providence Variety Day Home on the passing of her brother, the Rev. Charles F. McCarthy, 62, in Ecuador, South America, where he had been assigned to National Relief Service by the Maryknoll Fathers Mission. Sister Charles attended final rites for her brother at St. Anne's Catholic Church in San Francisco last week.