

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

LISTENING TO HIM  
(Emphasis on Passion)

Text: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." (Daniel 6:10)

THE PASSION to win souls to Christ is born from our passion to keep in lively contact with God in prayer. Carelessness in maintaining such contact daily spells defeat and retreat.

The Listening Post is a daily necessity. Daniel was in listening distance and God was in talking distance. Divine communications over the prayer channel are constantly promised. Communion in prayer is a two way communication lane just as Jacob's ladder, where angels descended and ascended. In communion, the heart of the saint goes up to God and the heart of God comes down to man.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Dark clouds of persecution were gathering about the soul and life of Daniel. One hundred and twenty princes and two presidents were seeking an occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom of Darius.

They could find no occasion or fault in as much as he was faithful. Neither was there any error or fault found in him. He passed the test of the critical eye and tongue, but the evil in man formed a further conspiracy.

Satan heads a destructive conspiracy against us all. He walks about as a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" and he appears as an "angel of light" to deceive and destroy. Satan's conspiracy creates other conspiracies in human beings against other human beings as is shown in this section of scripture.

BECAUSE DANIEL was preferred above the princes and presidents and because an excellent spirit was in him he became the target of man's bad nature. Evil men feel bad in the presence of such an excellent spirit.

These one hundred and twenty-two men set about to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whosoever petitioned any God or man for thirty days, save the king, he should be cast into the lions' den.

Any man would need plenty of courage to face such a combination of evil intentions. The open window reaching out to God supplied this inner courage. Daniel received the courage and demonstrated the courage.

To most professing Christians of today, the decree to ask no petition of God for thirty days would not affect the daily routine much. There are not many homes that have any kind of family devotion and the habit of seeking God daily on bended knee is not observed by many, but by a few. Daniel was among the few. He had the grace in the crisis. He did not bend, budge or break. Grace gives us enduring backbone. Grace runs strength down through one's backbone. We need

## 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 previously. We would appreciate all ministers in this area with predominantly colored congregations to assist us in this endeavor. If your church has not been listed, 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.

## Named Chairman 16th Time



REV. SIMMONS' BAPTIST CONVENTION COMMITTEE AIDES--Rev. J. L. Simmons of Las Vegas (seated fourth from left) is shown with past and present members of his National Baptist Convention Enrollment and Finance Committee. Local preacher was reelected chairman of important body for 16th straight year at recent 85th annual conclave in Jacksonville, Fla. Seated (from left) are Revs. P. H. Baker, Calif.; H. B. Brown, Ark.; C. B. Burns, Ga.; Simmons, J. L. Vaughn, Ga.; G. C. Pruitt and M. L. Turner, Ala. Standing (from left) are Revs. J. A. Palmer, Ala.; L. W. Lightfoot, Wash.; J. D. Montgomery and J. S. Sanders, Ga.; J. S. Lacey, Ala.; L. G. Gibbs, Miss.; C. H. George, Ala., and C. M. Mangum, Ohio.

the Christianized backbone in hours of severe trial. Most of us today have never gone through an experience as is described in this chapter.

Daniel manifested his grace in his reactions. You will not find anything in this chapter that indicates Daniel retaliated in any way whatsoever. He showed a good spirit all the way through the experience. He did not develop the attitude of resentment. He did not sow discord against the 122. He did not grow cold-hearted toward God and give up his prayer life. He did not become unreliable. There was no evidence that he was carrying a grudge because he was hurt. His countenance did not show a discontented and unhappy self. He was not sick inside. HE WAS TRIUMPHANT INSIDE. The outside was dark but the inside was shining with a divine brightness.

"WHOSOEVER SHALL smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also and if any man will sue thee at law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." HERE IS REAL DIRECTION FOR TODAY. Daniel took that direction in his day. He was kept sweet by grace.

When Darius realized that he was an inno-

cent party to a murderous conspiracy set against Daniel, he was deeply grieved. "He was sore displeased with himself, and he set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him; the king passed the night fasting; neither were there instruments of music brought before him; and his sleep went from him.

"Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually, able to deliver you from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: Forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me, and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."

So we learn that the open window of communion is one of the main WAYS OF WINNING. Up through the window goes the cry of a sincere soul; down through the same window comes the Spirit with a five-fold ministry.

MURL RICHARD, 34, is one of the skilled FULL-TIME NEGRO Funeral Directors and Advisors on the experienced staff at BUNKER BROTHERS. Educated in Arkansas and a Korean War vet, Mr. Richard, a Baptist, served eight years with the Pine Bluff mortuary of ROBINSON and SON. He lives with his wife, Ceola, and their four children in West Las Vegas at 613 Alexander. Murl's three brothers, James Earl, Boisy and Elton also live here.

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