

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

THE ROOTS OF PRAYER

Text: As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. Ps. 42:1.

THE ROOTS OF PRAYER are found deep in the needs of our nature. This must be said at once because prayer is sometimes thought of as something that has no essential relationship to our life. It is thought of as something that may be resorted to on occasions if one chooses, rather than something that has an integral relationship to our nature. Let us consider four assertions about the roots of prayer.

Prayer is rooted in our need of hope for the mind. The 42nd Psalm speaks to God out of the turbulence of human experiences. The Psalmist has no doubt that prayer is a deep-rooted need of his nature; as deep as the thirst of a hunted deer, who, stricken and panting, seeks a stream where it can quench its thirst.



REV. D. M. CLARK

There is no need more fundamental to any living creature than that indicated by thirst. If this need is not met, nothing else can matter. As fundamental as the deepest need of our nature is prayer—as the hart panteth for the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Prayer is rooted in our need of affection for the heart. The Psalmist speaks about his disquieted spirit. He speaks of his soul as cast down "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" These words strike an immediate response in all of us. We know what it means to be cast down in soul. We know what it means to be dispirited, discouraged, disquieted. These are needs in our nature that cry out for understanding and affection.

There is something very central about the need of the heart. Indeed, very often if the hurt of the heart is eased, the problems of the mind cease to seem important. There is a loneliness in everybody's nature until he finds some companionship that will bring affection into the heart. Prayer opens the way to find our best friendship and our truest affection in the living God. It belongs to the very deep-rooted needs of our nature to pray. It is not a superficial option; rather, it is one of life's imperatives.

Prayer is rooted in our need of peace for the conscience. Prayer gives us the peace that comes by way of pardon, and not the peace which is the evasion of a problem. It is only the peace that comes through pardon that has any permanence. It is only the peace that is beyond pardon that has any significance.

THE PROMISE to us is that when we are suffering from anxiety, then in prayer we can reach out to God who gives us peace through His pardon. The Psalmist keeps reminding himself that although he is cast down, there is a way out. He keeps talking to himself, asking, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me", but always he finds his answer, reminding himself that he can hope in God and continue to praise Him who will be his true giver of health and help.

Prayer is rooted in our need of power for the will. Very deep in everybody's nature is the sense of weakness, and frailty.

We seek all manner of ways of overcoming our weakness and achieving power. Prayer sends its roots deep into our life and meets us at the point of this need for it opens up a channel between us and God. The strength of God becomes available to us, and what we cannot do through ourselves, we can do through the power of God.

AND SO THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION becomes a very buoyant religion. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Jesus taught in very optimistic terms, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth".

You may feel weak and inadequate, but if

Farewell To Prayer Band Co-Chairman



MEMBERS of the 2nd Baptist Church Prayer Band gathered to pay tribute to Sister Annie Burch (3rd from left - front row). Lauded as a faithful worker, Mrs. Burch the group's co-chairman is leaving the area to live in San Diego, Calif. Other members (front row, from left) Sisters Irene Clark, Josephine Tony, (Burch), Addie Mae Blake, and Mary Isaac. Youngsters shown are Stanford Griffin, Willie Hooker, and Dorry Griffin... Back Row from left: Sisters Olivia Brown, Mary L. Burton, Alice Singleton, Virginia Griffin, Nancy Grove, Early Mae Perkins, and Beatrice Jackson. Sister Griffin is the Prayer Band's founder - Sister Addie Blake, its teacher. Not shown is Sister Cora Davis, Chairman of the Prayer Band.

Acknowledgment

The family of the late Josie Johnson wish to express their deepest gratitude for the kindness, comfort, and sympathy extended them in their late bereavement to the following friends.

- Mrs. Deola Owens and Family
- Ken, Rose, and Della
- The Cantrell Family
- Rose Dollar and Family
- Mrs. Lillie M. Bowens
- Mary W. Strong
- Mr. and Mrs. Turner and Family
- The Taylor Family
- James and Ethel Washington
- George Jessie Taylor and Family
- Mr. and Mrs. George Block
- Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Washington
- E. M. Owedia and Family
- The Lanier Family

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you can open your life in prayer to God, you find the adequacy which comes from God and which answers the need deep-rooted in your nature. Prayer does make possible power for the will.

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YOU NEED ME
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Jimmie B
"JIMMIE B." BOJDZINSKI
Assembly District 4
Republican**

Welfare Bd. Appointment To Rev. V.C.L. Coleman

Mrs. Lillian Kaercher, chairman of the Clark County Child Welfare Board, today announced the selection and appointment by the board of county commissioners of Reverend V. C. L. Coleman, 1648 North 'L' Street to fill the vacancy on the Child Welfare Board as a result of Mr. Alfred Becker's resignation recently.

Reverend Coleman, minister of the Second Baptist Church in Las Vegas for the past 17 years is also a graduate of Conroe Industrial College in Texas. He is President of the International Baptist Convention of Nevada and heads the Ministry Conference of West Las Vegas.

Reverend Coleman received his Doctorate degree from the Baptist Theological Center in Houston, Texas.

He is married to Ida Mae Coleman and is the father of one child.

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