

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

PREVIEW OF THE FUTURE

Text: "A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the Year even unto the end of the Year." Deuteronomy 11:12.

IN THE BOOK of Deuteronomy, the writer presents a bold outline of the future of his people. He possessed insight, knowledge of human nature, and spiritual faith. He knew the contrast between life on the flat, rainless delta of lower Egypt and the hills and valleys of Palestine.

What would the future for his pilgrim people be like?--It would be different from anything they had known in the past. From the point of the Hebrew farmers, there would be drastic changes in methods of agriculture. Egypt, with a mighty river to irrigate land, provided control of seed, soil, water. In the land of promise, there were hills and valleys; rainfall was not under subjection to man.

The "country" we enter will be different, too. Change will be on the daily program. Life is dynamic. Stagnation in this living universe means death. This disturbs us. It annoys some, saddens others, excites the adventurous.

THINK OF the immense changes within our lifetime. The fission of the atom, two world wars, global depression, blasted away National boundaries, destroyed previously accepted procedures. The land whither we go is vastly different. We must change our ways of thinking--living. We may find keys to unlock doors into vast new opportunities for human beings. When fire was first discovered, our ancestors wanted to destroy it.



REV. D. M. CLARK

The future brings with it new responsibilities. Life in the Year ahead will have hills as well as valleys. It was true of the ancient promised land; it is true of every land of promise. To create a home, to make a living, to be a responsible Christian citizen in the Year ahead will involve hard going. No detours from tough duty are available for man, made in God's likeness, captured by vision of Christ.

DON'T TRY to hug the past; you will never get it back. We shall get tomorrow, not yesterday.

Hills are made for climbing. We are made for climbing too. Said our Lord Jesus Christ: "In the world ye shall have tribulation... John 16:33. In the human situation there will be pressure, obligation, urgency "but be of good cheer..." says the Lord. This is what makes the valley fruitful. We can go back, not to yesterday, but back to God's dreams for His family.

The future will be marked by the only true security man can know. "A land which the Lord thy God careth for". God cares. A man on top of the Empire State Building looking at people one hundred stories below mused: "I guess that's the way God sees the world." It is not, Christ gave us God's view of man: "Doth he not leave the ninety and nine--and seeketh that which is gone astray?" (Matt. 18:12). We think of God searching for one little person.

TOMORROW will be guarded and guided by the great God whom today we learn to love and trust. God's steadfast care, His dependable unchanging love and wisdom will be ours in all the tomorrows as we commit ourselves to Him and to His program today.

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Powell Charms Bahamians

BIMINI, BAHAMAS - (NPI)--You'd never know that this was a man in trouble to see him. He led a group of fisherman in singing "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow." And when it was over, he led them in singing "Amazing Grace," another spiritual.

"I once was lost, But now I'm found, Was blind, But now I see..." the group sang. The place was a bar called "The End of the World." The people's clothes were rough, their hands calloused, and their voices loud. And the man leading them in song had only the highest opinion of them. "They don't take no stuff off nobody," he said.

"AIN'T THIS something else?" he asked, as the singing got louder and more spirited. The "choir leader" was Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., a man in legal trouble in New York--but also one who couldn't care less about it.

Rep. Powell seemed unconcerned about the possibility of returning to the United States, where he faced the prospect of jailing and being unseated in Congress. "When are you going back to the U.S.A.?" he was asked. "Maybe never," Powell replied, then turned his attention to more pressing matters--pretty girls, walking the King's Highway, and kidding with local residents.

He also had some spiritual counsel for his friends in the outside world: "Keep the faith, baby; spread it gently, and walk together, children."

POWELL POINTED to an attractive young woman and observed that she walked very nicely. "Is that what you mean by, walk together, children?" he was asked. "Not quite, but she is 'together,'" he answered.

Powell was too busy to hate his enemies. His only comment about them: "God bless them." But he had plenty of time for dominoes and acting as a "poor, humble parish priest of this beautiful island."

Legal troubles? Being unseated in Congress? Jail sentences? Rep. Powell couldn't care less. The name of his yacht, "Adam's Fancy," described the state of things in Bimini.

ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D. D.
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW ALTARS FOR '67

Two white ministers--unknown to each other--speaking to different audiences, espoused the prophesy that the United States, and its inertia in the racial struggle, would, in not too many years, become like Nazi Germany and the Jews prior to World War II. What a horrifying thought--extermination by gas, or some newly-discovered annihilator.

Viewing and anticipating the beginning of another year, is such a thought utter pessimism or is the true trend in Negro-white relations?

ONE MINISTER pastors in an all-white upper-middle-class "ghetto" and the other minister to a mixed congregation in a slum area--he calls it a concentration camp from which there is little or no escape. What is it they see in the mind and reaction of white America, that we, the more optimistic, do not see?

Were the open housing marches in Chicago, resolved at the conference table with the birth of the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, the end of mass demonstrations?

Is the character of the recently-elected U.S. Congress promising to be less concerned with America's Number One problem--Negro-white relations?

Is the conference table the answer or will there be more destructive violence in the streets during 1967?

AND THEN, the foreboding question: Will the Negro become so estranged from white America, that white America will harbor thoughts of extermination?

Though we're only 10 per cent of the population, perhaps it would be more difficult to dispose of 18 million Negroes here than six million Jews in Nazi Germany.

The task for Negro America in 1967 will be to keep a watchful eye open and an ear to the ground to determine the shaping of attitudes in the mind of white America.

The last battlefield (at least for the time being--open housing) will be fought at the emotional level before it is ever won in legislative halls. Irrational emotional reactions on the part of either whites or Negroes could well become the schism that alienates--the seed that germinates thoughts of overt violence and racial war.

WE WILL need New Altars in '67 psychological, rational, unemotional, creative Altars--all dedicated to uniting ALL humanity, and the abandonment of those idolatrous altars that divide.



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