

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

TRUST IN GOD ETERNAL

Text: 90th Psalm.

IT IS ESSENTIAL to remember that the 90th Psalm is a prayer.

In the first two verses, those who offer the prayer set themselves in the eternity of God, their eternal dwelling place. It is not as though the prayer were directed to God; it is the utterance of those who were within the encircling everlasting arms of God.

In the presence of God, within the divine embrace, the pray-ers become aware of their own littleness and transitoriness in contrast to the greatness and everlastingness of God.

In the measure that God is for them a dwelling place and by the measure that they discover the purity of God as well as His eternity; they find themselves full of inequity and beset with secret sins.

This does not lead these worshipers to pessimism or despair.

"The more severely a man judges himself when that severity is rooted upon an awareness of God's glory and care--the more actively he serves this world and the more hopefully he works for the present."

"THE WORK of our hands receives its significance. Nothing is lost from the fleeting moment. In the context of God's eternity and by His grace, the deeds of the Church receive the seal of approval.

The Hymn. The first part of the Hebrew Psalm is the basis and inspiration of the Christian hymn. In the hymn, as in life, God is "our help," "our hope," "our shelter," "our guide," "our home."

HE IS all these through the "endless years" of the everlastingness of God.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Israel Support Urged By "Pacifists Leaders"

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., showed his concern about a civil rights issue on the other side of the globe when he called on Americans to "support the independence, integrity and freedom of Israel" in the current Middle East crisis.

The civil rights leader-peace advocate joined seven other prominent Christian leaders in urging U.S. action to support Israel's right to passage through the Straits of Tiran, at the head of the Gulf of Aquaba.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser has ordered the straits blocked--and has dared Israel to do something about it.

Describing the straits as "Israel's sea lane to Africa and Asia..." the leaders noted that President Johnson has called the Arab blockade "illegal and potentially disastrous" to world peace.

"We therefore call upon the U.S. Government steadfastly to honor its commitments to the freedom of international waterways. We call on our fellow Americans of all persuasions and groups and on the Administration to support the independence, integrity and freedom of Israel.

SIGNING THE statement, in addition to Dr. King were Drs. Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor-Emeritus of Theology, Union Theological Seminary; and Franklin Littell, President, Ohio Wesleyan College; the Revs. Alexander Ohmemann, Dean, St. Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Seminary; Robert McAfee Brown, Professor of Religion, Stanford University; and John C. Bennett, President, Union Theological Seminary; Fr. John Sheerin, editor, Catholic World; and Methodist Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood, Washington, D.C.

NLV Immunization Clinic

The first Immunization Clinic to be held in the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Council Office will be Tuesday, June 13, 1967, at 1901 White Street.

The Immunization Clinics are offered in an effort to assure proper immunization levels to children in that community. This program is sponsored in cooperation with the Clark County District Health Department and the North Las Vegas Neighborhood Council, and is located in the heart of the Model Neighborhood for Demonstration Cities.

The Immunizations offered between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., June 13, will be DPT (Baby Shots), Oral Polio Vaccine, and Smallpox Vaccinations. This clinic will be available to all young people under 21 years of age, with parental consent.

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ALTAR CALL

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

PASTORING OUGHT TO BE EXCITING

The experience of a minister in Mr. Vernon, N.Y., reveals the continuing light being spotted upon the church as an institution. Fortunate for him, a majority church vote gave him the assurance he most certainly deserves.

The Rev. Martin Duffy, pastor for three and a half years of a Congregational church--70 per cent Negro; 30 per cent white--had its relevancy challenged. Rev. Duffy is white.

He was accused by a Negro church-officer-led group "of devoting too much time to civil rights work outside his parish, while neglecting church activities."

FOR FIVE and a half hours, nearly 100 members debated whether to retain the activist minister. One accuser said that Rev. Duffy had thrown 17 poinsettia plants into the garbage rather than deliver them to shut-ins. Apparently this was the task for the women of the church, although the reverend admits he delivered eight of the \$10-apiece plants to as many shut-ins.

Another accuser's evaluation of this minister's ministry struck a familiar chord: "He should do God's work first and then get into outside activities," charged one of the church's deacons.

I, too, had heard a similar accusation prior to my own resignation from the pastorate. Perhaps, it's a matter of definition. Who determines what is "God's work?"

It seems to an increasing number of clerics that God's work is not so much what church members--minister and church members--do for each other, as it is what pastor and people do "for the least of these, my brothers" brothers, meaning those outside the so-called "family of God"--the church's members.

ALTHOUGH Rev. Duffy won by a slim margin of 10 votes, a more vibrant future is forecast for his church. A Negro surgeon, member of the church, said of Rev. Duffy, "He has made this the most exciting and enjoyable church I have found in 15 years."

The essence, then, of an active, effective and exciting church, is not the drab Sunday sermons, the meaningless pastoral visitations, the cleric doing the trivial work of the laity, the laity doing nothing but sitting, waiting to be spiritually entertained and cajoled; but the Church at work in the world, confronting and challenging human injustice wherever it exists.

"Blessed are ye," Pastor Duffy, for you now are among those who have "been talked about"--whose name has "been cast out." Great! shall be your reward.

There is an Altar called The Exciting Ministry, that needs to be put into many dead churches--if the church is to live.



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County Social Security Benefit Figures Listed

AT THE END of 1966, 13,800 men, women, and children of Clark County were receiving benefits at a monthly rate of \$1,054,244, Ed Cocks, social security district manager, reported today. 9410 were older people, he said, receiving benefits as retired workers, the wives and husbands of retired workers and as the surviving widows or aged dependent parents of workers who have died.

"But social security is not just for older people," Cocks pointed out.--3034 young widows and children in the Las Vegas area were receiving benefits amounting to \$197,924 at the end of December. 1356 disabled workers and dependents were receiving benefits at a monthly rate of \$103,918.

The Las Vegas Social Security Office is located at 601 South 13th Street, and the telephone number is 382-6771. The office has extended hours, Monday--opening at 8:30 a.m. and closing at 7:30 p.m.

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