

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

## FRUIT, FOUNTAIN, FAVOR

Text: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a fountain; his branches run over the wall." Gen. 49:22. Background Scriptures, Gen. 37, 39, 49.

IT IS unusual for a man's biography to be written by his father or, as in this case, spoken by him. Jacob, before he died, described each of his sons in a few sentences. "Reuben thou art my first-born...boiling over as water"; (unstable). "Judan, thee shall thy brethren praise..."; "Issachar is a strong ass, couching down between the sheepfolds;" "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a fountain; his branches run over the wall."

However, it is hardly possible to comprehend the biography of a man in a sentence. But a sentence can probe into a life and reveal its deeper meaning and significance. A sentence can turn the pages of the man's larger biography. A sentence can point to the choices which were made by the man, determining the issues and destiny of his life.

This sentence, spoken by Jacob, reveals his inner thoughts concerning Joseph.

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, by a fountain." It would seem that no vine could grow in that desert country unless its roots could reach water. Joseph was a vine growing by



REV. D. M. CLARK

a spring, a well, a fountain. His life was in touch with a source of life, with sustaining water. The living water of God's favor flowed into the life of the man.

"JOSEPH IS a fruitful bough, by a fountain." Fruitage is assured and inevitable when the vine is planted by such a spring.

"His branches run over the wall." And every passer-by is invited to eat of the luscious grapes. How marvelously Joseph's life had anticipated these words of his father in this summarizing clause. Joseph had fed the people of Egypt, as well as his own family, in time of famine. His fruitful branches indeed ran over the wall.

This sentence biography most naturally directs our thoughts to Jesus' parable of the vine, John 15:1-16 which also speaks of fruit, a Fountain and favor.

IT IS possible for the Christian to send down the roots of his life to the living water of Christ, or, in Christ's own words, abide in Him. By the nourishment of that water the vine will grow, the leaves unfold, the grapes will ripen, the branches will offer their refreshment to him who passes by.

# CHURCH TO HOLD MUSICAL OBSERVANCE



GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH will observe its First Annual Musical Anniversary, Sunday, August 3, at 3 p.m.... Rev. Prentiss S. Walker, church pastor, is flanked by Morris Chapman (left), Musical Director, and Freddie Perkins, a church officer. A portion of the 30-voice choir is pictured in foreground. Guest soloists to be presented are 'His Honor' Judge Robert Reid and Ida Grier, featured female vocalist.

## ALTAR CALL

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

### PRAYER AND PYROMANIA

Before the last "amen" had ascended from the lips of those who prayed on the last Sunday in July at the request and suggestion of the Nation's Chief Executive, the pyro-artists were setting fire to the shameful ghetto in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Newspaper accounts on causes leading to the "riot" (better defined as a form of revolution) indicated the many times Negroes had been "praying" for relief from the ghetto and all its inherent evils and destructive forces.

Their prayers were unanswered either by God or by the Great White Fathers, and so fire became the order of the night and the day that followed.

OPPONENTS HAVE condemned the technique of non-violent demonstrations and marches. Violence by whites inflicted upon Negroes and other whites characterized the Open Housing Marches of Chicago '66.

Cars were burned. Bricks and bottles were hurled. One caught Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the head. There were no echoes from Congress then showing any interest in anti-riot legislation.

What we are suggesting is that there is a TIME for prayer and that there are those who, in addition to the prayers of oh, so many years, have designated a time for burning. At this point most of us would welcome the return of non-violent marches in place of burnings.

There IS a time for prayer and such a thing as prayer purpose. Traditionally most prayer purposes are by persons asking something for themselves. Prayers of contrition and intercession are rarely heard.

A day of contritional prayer--sorrow, de-estation and penitence--for the sins of racism in the hearts and minds of those who are guilty--black and white alike; a day of intercessory prayer on behalf of those victimized by cancerous racism, would be most timely and meaningful.

A POTENT force could be unleashed in our society--more meaningful than the torch or molotov cocktail--that could well be initiated by the Negro church.

Negroes need to STOP their begging, self-centered prayers and start praying with a purpose. Pray that "whitey" will be forgiven for his racism. Pray that Negroes will not emulate racism. Pray that Negroes will become imbued with man's most potent force: LOVE.

## Campaign Launched For Bethune Memorial Statue

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--A \$400,000 campaign is underway to complete installation in Lincoln Park of a memorial statue honoring Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune.

Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president, National Council of Negro Women, announced that a committee of 400 was being called from all over the country to raise the money for the statue.

Each of the 400 persons will recruit 10 persons to help raise \$1,000 toward the statue of Mrs. Bethune, who founded the school that became Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

The statue would be opposite one of Abraham Lincoln with a slave in broken chains. The statue was built by emancipated citizens in 1874. The Bethune memorial, which shows her leaning on her cane and passing on her legacy to a young man and woman, has been authorized by Congress.

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Meanwhile, at Mr. Charley's church, they ought be raising prayers of contrition and confession for their major sin of racism.

Two separate Altars of Prayer that could soon merge into one--an Altar of Mutual Love and Concern--are awaiting those who know when and what to pray for.



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