

God Will Send His Holy Spirit
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A bruised reed He shall not break, and the smoking flax He shall not quench.
Isaiah 42:3 and Matthew 12:20

I suspect most of those who will read this devotion are familiar with Concordia University, formerly Concordia Teachers College, the name it had when Dr Arthur Klinck was its president. Most of you may know the name Klinck only because the library there bears his name. He was president until 1954. This pastor does remember him not as President of Concordia Teachers College, but as professor at Concordia Seminary, St Louis from 1954 until 1959, the very years this writer was at the seminary. The last sentence of the chapter describing the presidency of Dr Klinck in the book, "College with a Cause," the history of Concordia Teachers College, has these words: "He was noted throughout the church...for constructing a series of dioramas depicting life in Biblical times."

It wasn't so only at Concordia Teachers College. The lower floor of Sieck Hall at Concordia Seminary, St Louis also contained many miniature scenes in three dimensions depicting life in Biblical times. Whether there was one of a man strenuously blowing on what would appear to be a smoldering spark, or of a man holding a damaged cattail and seeking to attach it to another rod of sorts, I cannot remember. But I can still vividly remember a scene whenever I read or hear the words of Isaiah 42:3 or Matthew 12:20. I see Dr Klinck, holding what he wanted us to see as a smoking flax, with what appeared to be almost dangerous physical effort, blowing on what he held in his hand. And then he vividly portrayed how an animal running through the garden could have caused what you had planted and nourished to be broken and now was dangling. He portrayed the farmer finding another rod to support the damaged one.

And then his words: When our faith is weak and seemingly ready to go out as a smoking flax, God will blow and send forth His Holy Spirit to give life and light to that which appeared to be dying. God would send into our broken and damaged lives another Christian to support and strengthen us when we have been crushed, or if not a believer, He would place us next to the cross and attach us to it.

There may be many who know of and where the Klinck library is, but "Klinck" always brings to this pastor's mind a "bruised reed He will not break," and "a smoking flax He shall not quench." What a wonderful Gospel.