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When You Pray, Move Your Feet

By The Rev. Dr. John Price

John Lewis, the Congressman from Georgia until his death in July of 2020, learned this wonderful bit of Christian wisdom from his parents. They routinely reminded John into his adult life that telling a person or community that he was going “to pray for them” was a hollow promise if his actions didn’t help empower them to address the issues on which their lives, and communities, literally depended.

Take a moment to think of a time or two when, heading out the door, you said to someone dear to you who was suffering or struggling, or maybe to a stranger with a family in distress, “Don’t forget, I’ll be praying for you,” but never meaningfully moved your feet on their behalf.

As our family struggled to keep ourselves and others safe during the ravages of the pandemic, I found myself seeking clarity on how I could more closely walk the way of Jesus.

His daily life revealed the values of the reign of God, taking the time to see and respond to those suffering most, those overlooked or ignored on the edges of their first century society. And Jesus was not so often “anti” as “seriously for” something: for the sacred life of all God’s children, for all God’s holy Creation, for seeing others through the lens of our Lord’s self-offering of unconditional and redemptive love for all.

As we join together on this path, we might more fully thank God, not only with our lips, but in our daily lives, by giving up ourselves to the sacred goals of God’s Kingdom, and “moving our feet” when we pray.

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