

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

HE DOUBTED IT

"The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe". John 20:25.

It is reassuring to know that the very inner circle of Jesus' friends included a man who struggled with doubt. We find many other types of temperament in this group. It is not strange to find a skeptic, also.

It is difficult to explain the valuable place of the doubters in religion without seeming to laud this negative side of faith, but we must not think of doubt as something disgraceful or revolting.

DOUBT IS AS native to a man as faith is; indeed, it is just as essential. In a sense, doubt is just the other side of faith; they are two faces of the same shield. Before there can be any deep, abiding faith, a certain amount of doubt must precede.

Before Columbus could launch out with a conquering faith that the earth was a sphere, he had to doubt the old theory that it was flat, which was, then, geographical orthodoxy. In order for one to believe in a spiritual philosophy, he must doubt the materialistic explanation of the universe.

To believe in God, you must doubt the atheist's contention for a godless world. Where a man makes his mistake is to believe his doubts and doubt his beliefs, and thus see all the world through the dark glasses of skepticism.

The men, like Thomas, who could not easily believe every tale of enthusiastic believers, have done a real service to the world—even the world of religion. Indeed it is reassuring to remember that among Jesus' friends was one who had to test carefully before he could believe. It assures us that at least one of them could not be easily led to believe just any idle tale. The very fact that Thomas was convinced of the resurrection of Jesus is strong evidence of its reality.

The presence of the careful, probing mind in religious circles today is not a hindrance, but a help to faith.

Jesus' attitude toward this man, who found it hard to accept the testimony of his friends, is instructive. He understands Thomas' difficult situation and goes on to give him opportunity to prove the faith.

There must have been a cause for Thomas' confirmed doubting when his friends were so certain of their faith in the risen Lord. Craving a revelation of the reality of Jesus' resurrection, he absented himself from the place where that revelation was being made.

ALTHOUGH HONEST DOUBT is a normal reaction of every sincere mind, we must be careful how we permit our doubts to control us. It is never honest to retire into our shell of misgivings so that the revelation of truth cannot reach us when it comes.

The hour of doubt is the hour to keep hold of the things that still remain. Although he may have doubted the value of the cause in which he had enlisted, Thomas need not have doubted the value of fellowship with his friends. That still remained. Had he stayed true to them, he would have been on hand when the greater experience came.

DO YOU DOUBT? Then hold firmly to the things that remain. On these things faith may again be built.

If you feel akin to Thomas, the disciple, who said, "I doubt it!; do not make Thomas' mistake. Stay loyally by the appointments of faith, and hold fast to the truth that remains. Then, when the living experience of revelation comes, you will be on hand ready to receive.



REV. D. M. CLARK

Famed Choir Appears Tonight at LV Hi Auditorium



APPEARING TONIGHT in Concert at the Las Vegas High School Auditorium is the Arkansas A.M.&N. College Choir from Pine Bluff Arkansas. Presented by the Las Vegas Alumni Chapter of the College, proceeds from the concert will be used to provide scholarships.

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Expand Nursing Services

GOVERNOR GRANT SAWYER has approved a plan to strengthen Nevada's home nursing program through a grant of \$23,707 from the U. S. Public Health Service. The grant will permit the State to expand its nursing services in several areas of great need, the governor's office said today.

Nevada has approximately 31,000 citizens over 65 years of age. It has been estimated that 10 percent of the people eligible for such care live in Clark and Washoe counties. In both counties there are existing home nursing care programs, and a portion of the new funds will be used to supplement these programs. In Washoe and Clark counties funds will be given directly to the county for the purchase of equipment and the hiring of additional nursing and clerical personnel.

In the fifteen small counties, Public Health Service funds will be used to hire a nurse coordinator at the state level to work with the counties to develop appropriate home health services.

The present grant covers only the last three months of the present fiscal year. A supplemental grant is designed to extend the program through June 30, 1967.

Women's Club Plays Easter Bunny To Rev. Kemp



THE EBONAIR CLUB whose objective is to help the needy and distressed, came to the rescue of Rev. J. L. Kemp and the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of which he is the pastor by donating 20 dozen eggs for the Church's Easter festivities.

The Rev. Kemp, convalescing from a recent automobile accident is shown here with members of the club who called on him to present the Easter goodies--Attending her husband is Mrs. Kemp (l). Club members shown from left are Mrs. Harvey Jones, President, Mrs. Estella Howard, Mrs. Robie Girels and Mrs. Edna Carter. Youngsters shown are progeny of the club members present. Ebonair Club members not shown are the Mesdames Errie Miller, Lessie B. Collins, Josephine Hills, Carrie B. Richards, Vernieta Strickling, Minnie L. Reed, Erma Hunter, Alma Anderson, Sammie Richards, Hazel Crooks, and Katie Edwards.

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