

From The Pulpit

By Donald M. Clark

FOUR ANCHORS THAT HOLD

Text: "They cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day." Acts 27:29.

THESE WORDS come from the story of St. Paul's shipwreck--From the outset the trip was beset with difficulties, then and there, things began to go wrong in earnest. The wind blew steadily from the wrong direction. "The south wind blew softly." The accounts of how many disasters can be begun with those words!

And then one night at midnight toward the end of the second week, they heard a sound more ominous than the shrieking of the wind and the crashing of the waves. Over the noise of the storm there came the booming of surf on a lee shore.

There are any number of anchors that people have used when they have found themselves drifting on a lee shore, but since the story of St. Paul's voyage mentions four, let me limit myself to that number in speaking of the anchors which not only I, but many other people, have found to be capable of holding through the night.



REV. D. M. CLARK

The first anchor is light in weight. By itself it will not hold for long. But because it is light in weight, it is the easiest one to throw overboard and, therefore, it goes first. It consists of reminding yourself that no matter how dark the night may be, the day is bound to follow it. The blackest nights of suffering are not endless, they are followed by the day. That is, as I have said, a lightweight anchor and it will not hold indefinitely. Many of the nights through which we struggle seem endless and some are too long to be endured by optimism alone. But this kind of hope is only the first anchor.

THE SECOND anchor is much heavier in weight and it holds much longer. It is forged of the kindness of people. I wish I could count the times when someone has said to me, after a time of trouble, "I can't get over it; people have been so wonderful."

Trouble of course, teaches us two lessons about people. The bitter lesson is that some of the people who you think are your friends can let you down. That discovery can be the heaviest blow imaginable. But it is far outweighed by another discovery--that quite ordinary men and women are capable of love and loyalty and self-sacrifice for which they ask nothing in return except the knowledge that they have been of help to someone who needed them. The story of the shipwreck provides a beautiful example of just this.

There is no end of the love and concern and self-sacrifice of which ordinary men and women are capable when the occasion demands. People are a strong anchor.

THE THIRD anchor is the knowledge that God remains the same, steadfast and immovable. The sailors of Paul's ship could not see the stars above the clouds. All around them was raging water. Beneath the churning sea there was something steadfast in which to take hold.

Just as the stars keep shining above the clouds of the worst storm, so the God who made the stars remains the same above the changes and chances of this mortal life. And underneath the waves on which we toss, the ground is firm.

THE FOURTH anchor is the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The longer I live the more obvious it is to me that to come to know the story of Jesus is the most wonderful thing that can happen to a man or woman. That story says two things; first, that God cares enough for men to have sent his Son into the world to die for them; and second, that a human being can suffer the worst misfortunes that life can bestow and still turn defeat into victory.

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IN FINE FETTLE



MRS. MATTIE MCKINNEY subscribes to the adage that "one picture says more than a thousand words" and uses this means to let alther many friends know that she is back in the swim and feeling better than ever after recuperating from major surgery. Mrs. Simmons who lives at 524 Leonard wants all the many people who remembered her with so many lovely cards during her illness to know how much they meant to her and how deeply appreciated they were...As was the affection felt for her among her co-workers as displayed by the hugs and kisses bestowed upon her when she returned to her job as an inspector at the Flamingo Hotel. Mrs. Simmons, a member of the Powerhouse Church of God in Christ expresses special gratitude to Supt. J. W. Logan under whose leadership she serves in the Church.

Important NAACP Meeting Sunday WASHINGTON OFFICIAL TO EXPLAIN BUREAU'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PLAN

Rev. Marion Bennett, President, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced this week that the regular monthly meeting of the organization to be held Sunday afternoon (Oct. 9) at 3 o'clock in the Kit Carson School Auditorium is one of vital importance to the community.

REV. BENNETT disclosed that representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation have recently been in Las Vegas to make evaluation of the Bureau's Regional working standards in order to implement the Bureau's "PLAN OF

ACTION" for more minority employment in the Department.

Target Date for Action Items of the Bureau's program to achieve and insure equal opportunity employment in the Department is October 28. These Action Items, as enumerated on the "PLAN OF ACTION" Project will be supervised and carried out under Regional Directors.

At the Sunday NAACP meeting, a Bureau representative from Washington will be present to spell out the plan of action to members of the community. The NAACP President urges everyone to attend this meeting if at all possible.



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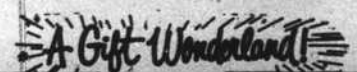
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