SERMON OF THE WEEK

Vital Message of Christian Church Gives Assurance in Difficult Days

(Editor's note: Following is an abridged text of a sermon by the Rev. Harold J. Lorimer, pastor of the First English Lutheran Church of San Bernardino.)

Difficult circumstances often give birth to men of sincere optimism. And so we are not entirely suprised at Ezekiel. The city had been overthrown and its walls broken down. The glorious temple lay in ruins. The people had been deported, and solaced their lonely hearts as best they could in a distant land.

As long as they had fed illusion with false hopes, Ezekiel had been a stern and remorseless prophet of gloom. But now that the worst has come, now that all the false foundations have crumbled, Ezekiel begins to tell of a structure soundly built which shall withstand all the destructive forces of time and circumstance.

He sees a restored people.

He sees a rebuilt city.

He sees a glorious temple once more standing splendidly upon the heights.

The climax of his triumphant faith is his vision of the life-giving stream flowing down from the sanctuary. As it dashes downward to the Dead Sea it brings life everywhere, sweetening the waters so that they swarm with fish, filling waste land with trees whose exhaustless fruit provides food for men and whose very leaves heal their diseases.

So the great churchman of Israel saw the glory of the Church even in decadent days.

REV. H. J. LORIMER
... Gives Sermon

FLOWER OF HOPE

The Christian Church, we like to say, is the consummation and the flower of all the wistful hopes which are found in the Old Testament life.

If this is true the Church ought triumphantly to rise to the occasion when dark and decandent days make hopeful words difficult.

There is no doubt about the world-wide uneasiness and gloom. Few thinking men are undisturbed by the appearance of things today.

The suggestion of a larger Christian fulfilment of Ezekiel's ancient vision of healing waters coming from the Sanctuary, so that even dead seas shall be changed, will seem unrealistic to many. The emotions of our age, weary and worried, may find this claim wanting proof.

But the verdict is in its survival, as if by Divine approval, all other things having passed away; the verdict is in its potency for good in every test, in the moral vigor, spiritual splendor and energy that have undeniably issued from it.

No measure can be made of the healing waters that have come down through the centuries from the sanctuary of the renewal of the life of man.

CONSCIENCE OF WORLD

In the most notable way the Church has been the conscience of the world. And this is a story which only volumes of careful narrative could tell.

It is Christian faith that has nurtured those who have given the noblest sort of social conscience to the world. That men are uneasy in the presence of a thousand wrongs they would like to ignore or tolerate is the outcome of an attitude toward life which is the product of Christian training.

And today as men battle for truth and justice and mercy, even when they are not understanding of it, they are investing a moral capital which the Church has put into their hands.

No wrong is securely on the throne when the moral life of a righteous people runs deep and true. The upright community is first of all a prophetic dream, then a Christian hope,—and the unappeasable moral expectation upon which that hope is based is kept alive in the world by forces inspired by the Christian faith.

ALL MAY NOT BE RIGHT

All may not be right with the world, but God is in His world. And the Church is invested with the certainty and the proof of His presence.

Her prophets and her ministers have without ceasing proclaimed this and have patiently and pleadingly pointed to One who is the incarnation of God among us.

This Christ has been offered to the world these 19 centuries as its true hope and defense, the dependable source of peace and good-will for all mankind. Happy,

The Sun
A Newspaper for San Bernardino County

CITY SECTION

life-giving waters have tumbled effusively from the Sanctuary, but men have seen it as a trickle, of no real consequence to their life, or relevance to their need.

Thus the state of restless anarchy that defines the tenor of our day has come to exist as men have ignored the witness of the Church to sanctions which have given unity and harmony to our distraught and broken world.

It is noteworthy—and here we take courage—that many searching thinkers of the most recent time are adding their voices to that of the church in recalling us to those sanctions which lie deepest in the life of soon 20 centuries of Christian history—for the healing of the disease which afflicts the world.

KNOWLEDGE VS. WISDOM

There is so much knowledge and so little wisdom in the world.

There are great and powerful areas of thought and truth from which men have shut themselves off almost entirely through their personal frames of reference; through their preoccupation with physical forms and energies; through their inability to imagine the nature and quality of life in the spiritual.

To these there is no meaning, coherence, direction or purpose in existence. Or at best there is deadening curtailment.

Life is fragmentary, unsatisfying and unpromising.

Now, for those who are convinced of the relevance of Christ—His teachings, His life, His power—to the critical need of our time, the challenge certainly is here.

The coming world society requires men and women who know Christ and what He can do, and whose own lives are entirely identified with Him.

No others can succeed. No others can evoke the qualities and attributes required to stem the moral recession, to preserve and advance life to its true fulfillment.

No others can bring the hearts of nations, creeds and races together than those who stand ready to proclaim the forbearing love of God as the common denominator to eliminate national pride, selfishness and antagonism. There is no other way to peace.

WORLD THEIR PARISH

The Christian faith has had a word for every age and for every condition. From the very earliest its disciples made the world their parish, setting off in all directions with the gifts of God's grace.

They believed to the death that what they had was meant for the healing of the nations, and as waters from the sanctuary there came renewal of life to every level of need.

Life has been sanctified and the world has been saved again and again by those who were "ready to serve or to be offered up" for the sake of Christ and His righteousness and peace.

We cannot forget them. We cannot ignore them. We cannot live as if they had never lived. We cannot bear to enjoy the fruits of their faith without seeking to perpetuate that faith in our readiness to serve and be offered up.

There is optimism for these times. We stand with Ezekiel in viewing the possibilities. It is for us also to stand with him to tell the world of a structure soundly built—"a building of God, a house not made with hands."

Soon we should have done with false foundations and the feeding of illusion with false hopes. Soon the voice of the prophet calling men to repentance and righteousness should be no longer a dreary intonation but a welcome summons to life and real fulfillment.

In any event, in any test, the Christian postion stands vindicated. But it is significant to know that today men who know the human story best and have surveyed it with most critical attention should find themselves moving toward the position the Church has all this time made the center of its witness.

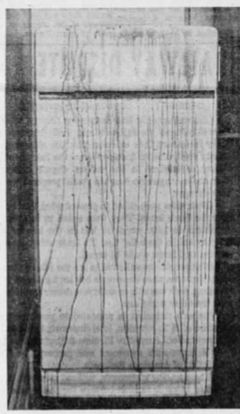
The vital message of the Christian Church, which it is high time for the world to heed, gives positive assurance in these difficult days—that in the stream which flows from the sanctuary is all the potential for the cleansing and healing of the nations, for the renewal of life in every area of difficulty and need.

And if we are worthy successors of those who made the Christian faith a splendid, saving thing in other days—we will go forward with confident expectation in our days to the glory which the Christian Church is to give to the life of man in the years to come.

Then, "forgetting those things which are behind us, and reaching toward the things that are ahead," let us "press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Vandals Cause $2,000 Damage at S.B. School

SUPPLIES FOR THE SICK—George Sallay, principal, of the vandalized Mt. Vernon Elementary School, sits in sea of medical supplies strewn by vandals in raid at the school. (Sun-Telegram photos)



PAINTING: VANDAL STYLE—This is an ink splattered refrigerator at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School where vandals left an inky trail as they looted and ransacked room after room.

HALLS OF LEARNING—Dejected George Sallay, principal of Mt. Vernon Elementary School, views ink smeared books and message splattered table in library—one of rooms hit by vandals. Damage may reach $2,000.

CLASSROOM PAPERWORK—Maintenance worker David Flores begins slow job of picking up scattered school records thrown from desk drawers at Mt. Vernon Elementary School.

FIRST DISASTER DRILL SET BY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

San Bernardino Community Hospital has scheduled its first civil disaster drill for today, Virginia Henderson, hospital administrator, said yesterday.

The drill will be part of the hospital's continuing training program.

Approximately 200 nurses and nurses' aides are being trained in basic hospital procedures, fire emergency, disaster procedures, techniques to be used in special departments, and attitudes and responsibilities toward patients, doctors and co-workers.

The program also serves new employes who have come to the hospital from various other systems.

The in-service program is taught three times per week for an hour each by Mrs. Fern Warren, R.N., program coordinator who also handles the Pink Ladies Auxiliary program for a group of 142 social and civic volunteers from the San Bernardino Area.

Doctors and other hospital personnel teach the trainees how to deal with special cases. For example, Dr. Julian Zelman, chest surgeon, lectures on chest surgery.

In the December disaster drill, the hospital will test its staff and facilities to see how many people could be handled adequatley in case a catastrophe should occur.

Pioneertown Cafe Damaged by Fire

About $2,500 damage was suffered at the Red Dog Cafe in Pioneertown at 8:20 a.m. Sunday.

The cause of the blaze was not determined. It was put out by fire fighting units of the State Forestry Division and three cooperating units from the Yucca Valley Fire District.

RESTROOM DOOR TRAPS PURSE IN, OWNER OUT

This is one of those stories you hear about sometimes.

It's a tale about:

A woman in a restroom at a laundromat in San Bernardino.

How she came out.

How she forgot her purse.

How the door slammed shut and locked.

How she called Police Officer Wayne Sweaney. How he opened the door by taking the lock apart with a screwdriver.

How everything was fine on his departure.

Christmas Spirit Dwindles Fast, Police Blotter Shows

The Christmas spirit disappears fast, report San Bernardino police.

Eddie Dennis, 808 24th St., told police he was playing with his basketball when two other children walked up to him and took it away. The basketball was valued at $8.

J. P. Senkint, 827 G St., reported to San Bernardino police that a rock was thrown through the window of his car while it was parked in a Highland Ave. drive-in restaurant.

Patricia L. Beadin, 300 Pico St., reported to San Bernardino police that a spare tire, a wheel and tools valued at $20 were taken from her car parked at San Bernardino High School.

L. W. Rimer, 364 Mill St., reported to San Bernardino police that five gallons of gasoline were siphoned out of his car's fuel tank while the vehicle was parked near his home.

James Uhler, 1126½ LeMoyne St., reported to San Bernardino police that someone broke in a window of his car parked at Rialto Ave. and K St. and took a record player and clothing valued at $57.

Alan Walters, 496 48th St., reported to San Bernardino police that a spare tire was stolen from his car parked near his home.

Louis Larras, 71, 716 5th St., was arrested by San Bernardino police for investigation of petty theft in connection with the shoplifting of a pound and a half of butter from a downtown market.

Robert Ellis, 244 H St., reported to San Bernardino police that a suitcase with clothing in it valued at $332 was taken soon after he dismounted from a bus.

Traffic Signal Out, Cars Hit

Two cars collided about 4 p.m. yesterday soon after the traffic signal went out of order at 4th and D Sts. No one was injured.

Traffic officers said Marie I. Richardson, 555 16th St., San Bernardino, was northbound on D St. when her car collided with one eastbound on 4th St. driven by Margaret H. Newman, 25451 E. 28th St., Del Rosa.

The signals became out of order before the accident with the red light blinking for north-south traffic and an orange signal blinking for east-west travel.

Bus Party, Bonus

Some 25 employes and their wives were guests of Kathleen C. Towle, owner-manager of the Highland Patton Bus Lines, at a Christmas party held recently at the Cocky Cactus Cafe in San Bernardino. Bonus checks were distributed to the employes during the party.

KICKS OUT WINDSHIELD

Police Seek Driver Who Dislikes Being Passed

San Bernardino police are seeking a motorist with a strong aversion to anyone passing his car on the road.

Glen A. Cockran, 17, 1288 26th St., told police he tried to pass a car about 5 p.m. Sunday while out for a drive with his parents.

The motorist refused to allow him to pass, Cockran said, as the man alternately speeded up and slowed down to keep Cockran's vehicle behind his own.

Then, Cockran said, when both cars were stopped for a red signal at Highland and Waterman Aves., the motorist got out of his car, walked up on the hood of Cockran's car and kicked out the windshield.

He then got back in his car and drove away, Cockran said.

Driver Held as Auto Hits Cars, Fence, Pedestrians

A San Bernardino woman was arrested after her car struck two parked cars, went through a chain link fence and hit two women pedestrians at 6:55 p.m. Sunday at 6th St. and Mt. Vernon Aves.

Lodged in County Jail was Irene M. Thomson, 47, 1244 Belle St.

Police reported she lost control of her car in a parking lot. The vehicle struck a parked car in the lot, smashed through a chain link fence, struck two women on the sidewalk and finally came to rest after hitting another parked car.

The injured women are Heddy Morrison, 23, reported in fair condition at County Hospital today, and Betty Anderson, 20, who was given emergency treatment yesterday at County Hospital and released. Both women are from Los Angeles.

Peace Pilgrim To Hold Meet Next Sunday

Peace Pilgrim, the woman who walks about the world presenting her ideas on peace to groups and individuals, will make a return appearance in San Bernardino this Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the youth fellowship hall at St. Stephen's Methodist Church, 1140 Mill St.

Peace Pilgrim has been on a fall and winter walking trip throughout Arizona and New Mexico. She will walk here from the Colorado River.

The pilgrim spoke to several audiences at St. Stephen's and at Valley College last spring and made many friends.

Miss Genevieve Walther, 351 S. K St., San Bernardino, who arranged for the visit Sunday, announced that the public is invited to come and meet Peace Pilgrim.