

Easter Message of Christianity Misunderstood by 'Modern Man'

Editor's note: Following is the second in a series of four articles by leading Protestant and Catholic theologians on the meaning of Easter to modern man.

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By DR. ALBERT T. MOLLEGEN
Written for United Press
Alexandria, Va.—(U.P.)—The "modern man" tends to misunderstand Christianity's Easter Message, the resurrection of Christ.

He becomes involved immediately in questions about the historical details, the manner of the resurrection, the credibility of the testimony about the empty tomb. Since these were not the primary interests of the authors of the New Testament, the New Testament does not seem to meet and answer the questions of the "modern mind."

The New Testament and the Christian churches are primarily concerned to witness to their continuing experience of the risen Lord and their accounts are to be understood as that witness.

The first resurrection experiences show their unique power in at least three ways. First, there is the existence of the Christian church. Without the resurrection event Good Friday would be a bad Friday and there would be no New Testament (new covenant of God with man through Christ) and no Christian folk. At best, Jesus would be understood to be a great Jewish prophet who suffered martyrdom and whose vindication awaits the end of the world. The New Testament as a literature, as a record of the new covenant and as the Christian portion of the Bible, together with the great Christian people (all the Christians in all of history, past, present and future), shows the incredible power of the resurrection experience.

Secondly, this decisive event created a completely different and new relationship of man to God, to himself, to society, to time and space. A simple illustration of this is the Christian calendar with its years before Christ and its years after Christ. Christ in the power of His resurrection brought all time into

unity and single meaning. Time and history are either before Christ or are His time and history, B. C. or A. D. Furthermore, the power of Christ's resurrection created the Lord's Day (Sunday) and supplanted the

U. S. To Report on Suez Negotiations

Washington—(U.P.)—The United States has informed Egypt it plans to report to the U.N. Security Council on the stalled Suez Canal negotiations, officials revealed today.

The American move, supported by Britain and France, probably will be made today. It would be initiated by an American request to Sir Pierson Dixon, Security Council president, for an early meeting of the council to consider the Suez Canal problem.

President Eisenhower is expected to shed some light on the American strategy at his news conference today.

The State Department was reported ready to explain the purpose of the move soon after U.N. machinery is started.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles returns from a 10-day Lake Ontario vacation to direct strategy on the stalemated Suez talks.

By taking the issue to the Security Council, the United States hopes to highlight the differences or stumbling blocks standing in the way of a satisfactory Suez agreement.

Klamath Falls Group May Operate Bus Line
Klamath Falls—(U.P.)—Local merchants and citizens today were working to organize a corporation to take over operation of the local bus company which is scheduled to suspend service April 10.

A spokesman said monetary pledges from merchants and other prospective corporation members were being accepted. The bus firm said increasing costs and decreasing passengers would force it to shut down.

Jewish sabbath (Saturday) and all pagan central holy days. The very pattern of the Western week manifests the transforming power of Christ's resurrection.

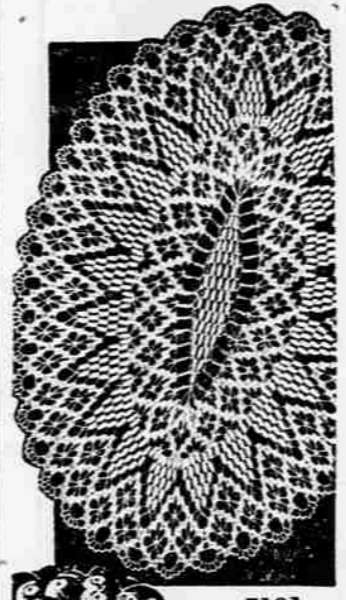
Thirdly, the new life of countless millions, who receive that life from the risen Lord through their communion with Him in the context of the word and sacraments, is a clear manifestation of the truth of Christ's resurrection. This newness is written into the quality of Western culture, the conception of justice in our laws, the structure of our political and social institutions. Sometimes a Westerner comes to realize what Christ has brought the world only when he contrasts Christian civilization with a non-Christian or an anti-Christian (Nazi for instance) civilization.

Transforming Power
The "modern mind" should reflect upon the fact that it is quite possible to believe that Jesus of Nazareth, a first-century Jew, was born of a virgin, worked many miracles and taught great religious and ethical truths, was put to death, brought back to life and ascended into a cloud in the sky without believing anything that is especially Christian. To prove that these things are true does not convert the unbeliever. Belief in them could be belief in Jesus as a prophet or a magician. Once this is seen, perhaps modern men can look for the right element in the Eastern proclamation, the transforming power of Christ which is dependent upon no particular theory of the mode of His resurrection.

In the New Testament, the risen Lord always evokes commitment to Himself. He appeared to nine who were not prepared to receive Him as Lord. This can be put in a negative way. It is the implication of the New Testament that seeing Jesus as a resuscitated dead man or a ghost would have had no religious significance.

Easter proclaims Christ as victor over sin, the anti-godly and anti-human powers, and death itself. Anything less than this is futile argumentation.

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Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

BY SID HOLLINGSWORTH

Jackson County Chapter Disabled American Veterans is observing its 25th anniversary as a service organization in Medford, having started its work in 1932. The event was celebrated at the Roseburg district meeting last Sunday.

Rehabilitation and welfare of disabled veterans are the objectives, Pat Graham, service officer and commander of district 5, said. The district Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Roseburg and Oakland, and Medford.

"Our purpose is primarily to assist in legal work and care for veterans with service connected disabilities, and that is made the condition of eligibility in the DAV. But we extend our services to all veterans or their widows and dependents, whether service connected or non service." Graham said.

Concerning participation in the VAVS, Graham pointed out in his review of activities that the local chapter and the ladies auxiliary, as well as the honor degree of National Order of Trench Rats, have taken part in volunteer work ever since the domiciliary has been activated.

"Hospital welfare work, added to the already mentioned claims service, is the topmost purpose of Disabled American Veterans," He declared.

"An interesting point in the history of this national veterans organization is its transition from a World War I status to include disabled veterans of all wars and military actions of the United States. This step was taken during World War II.

A large representation of VFW officials and auxiliary ladies was present for installation of officers of Post 6412 in the veterans hall Tuesday night.

Kathleen Classick, with her Kadets from Rogue River and Caren Britten, heading a group of accordiana girls from Medford and vicinity, entertained following the exercises.

The American Red Cross has scheduled a boxing match for Wednesday evening, April 24. The Pal club of the Medford police department will furnish box-

ers for the show.

The Talent Garden club took a group of gardening enthusiasts to Rogue River Tuesday to a Flower Show there.

Chaplain Samuel Feller happened to pick up a copy of Life magazine and was startled to find on the cover the picture of two old friends, Neal and Linden Blue, who flew their "blue bird" plane 25,000 miles over the Andes and South America in 110 days.

The Blues were members of the chaplain's church in the little town of Meeker, Colo., at the time the two Yale men were born. It was he who baptized them and he has kept in touch with the family ever since.

Grace Stuhr, chief nurse, and Christine Bates, of the nursing staff, attended an institute meeting on Team Nursing Friday at Salem as representatives of the Oregon State Nurses' association. All nurses, both profes-

sional and practical, were invited. Present day problems in the care of patients were discussed.

The death of Bill Keizur of the Myers Holland Post of the American Legion, Central Point, recalls his contribution to the festivities at Camp White. He was the organizer and promoter of the Veterans Hour, a combination radio and stage presentation based upon the quiz formula, which has become popular nationally.

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