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Sunday Sermonette
A Continuing Series by Local Religious Leaders
More Than We Are
By the Rev. John D. Rose
Pastor, Townside Community Church

Marguerite Bro has recounted for us the story of Cabeza De Vaca's journey from Florida to the Pacific between the years 1528-36.

De Vaca tells how the Indians came to him and his companions, asking them to cure their sick. The two white men were themselves half starved, lost, and filled with blank despair. But the Indians felt that being white men they had superhuman powers. Cabeza De Vaca felt they had no such power.

"But we had to heal them or die," he wrote. "So we prayed for strength. We prayed on heaped knees and in an agony of hunger."

Then they blessed each other. The Indian and saw that the sick were being healed.

"Truly it was to our amazement that the ailing said they were well. Being Europeans, we thought we had given away to doctors and priests our ability to heal. But here it was still in our possession."

"It was ours after all; we were more than we thought we were... To be more than I thought, was a sensation utterly new to me."

I—Surely there is truth here for the church. Life-long church members have been grateful that religion has reinforced their lives. By working with other like-minded people, they have found that they were more than they thought they were.

RECENTLY, Ralph A. Ward returned to this country from China, where he has been a missionary for the Methodist church since 1909 and a Bishop since 1937. He, and others, have asked some searching questions about the whole missionary enterprise.

He recalled that as the Communists advanced south through China, many discussions were held as to how the new Communism would affect Christian work.

In these tense meetings it was common prophecy that Christian hospitals and medical workers stood the best chance of long survival. There were similar expectations for schools and teachers. Frequently it was said that the local churches with small congregations and isolated pastors had the poorest chance of survival.

"HOW WRONG they were!" says Bishop Ward. "The institutions for social service have been taken over by the Communists but the churches continue. In many places membership has grown and become spiritually more meaningful. Chinese Christians are coming through this time of testing. They know to the depths of their souls why they are Christians and why they want others to be Christians."

The truth is that churchmen, not only in China, but in all lands, have made their lives count. Their efforts have been more significant because they join with others who back up their lives with eternal purposes.

Unfortunately, we Americans attempt to become more than we are by parading before others our material possessions. Here lies the source of much of our haunting sense of failure. This makes victims of the privileged as well as the downtrodden.

We are the victims because of our false sense of values. Many live in the daily shadow of defeat because they do not have social position in the degree which they think it is necessary for community prestige. We constantly criticize and compare ourselves with others and thus become less than we are.

HERE A TIMELY WORD should be said to parents: Fear of failure may go back to one's childhood when overly critical parents made unfavorable comparison between them and others. Such criticism, even if indirect, will lead a child to feel a sense of inadequacy which he will find difficult to overcome upon reaching adulthood. He may always think of himself as being less than he really is.

The Christian faith proclaims that each of us has certain skills and endowments that are the gifts of God. It reminds us that however meager our talents, they are to be used for the strengthening of one's life and for benefit to others.

Let us then, with prayer and faith, apply our limited abilities with a sense of dedication. Use all our available resources, then we shall find both contentment and satisfaction in our achievements.

III—Come now and see that we are more than we are when we have learned to walk humbly by faith. Consider the Christian's life. Such a man will find that his business may be built upon principles of integrity. At home he discovers that forgiveness makes the bonds grow stronger. Help and power and strength are available when tragedy comes. He learns from the Bible "they that are with us are more than they that are without."

YOU REMEMBER the story in the Old Testament where the enemies of Israel coming up to battle found the Plain of Esdraelon soaked with water, and the chariot wheels of the enemy mired in mud. The army of Israel was victorious. When the Hebrew singer went to tell this story, he sang, "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera."

Christians find the truth of the prayer "Thou art able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think."

Christians find their lives reinforced with the fellowship of kindred minds.

Christians are aided with noble ideals and goals which lift them to higher manhood.

Christians are able to say: "We are more than we are."

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

Sunday, Mar. 30
Set for Canvass
By Lathrup Church

"Every Friend and Member Canvasser" will be observed by the Lathrup Townside Community Church Sunday, Mar. 30. For the time being, the church will seek to raise its entire annual operating budget.

N. H. Kimberly, board of trustees chairman, said that the church has been granted the Townside church of the Congregational association.

"Without this support," he said, "it would have been more difficult to build our own church and provide service to the community. Now we are of age and are on our own. This is why it is important to get the help of every individual and family in our community, to meet our needs and goal for the coming year."

Kimberly said the church must raise \$6,000 more this year than in the past.

"This is not entirely because of increased cost of growing church service but partly due to the fact that the church has become independent of special outside support granted to new churches."

'Pilgrimage Play'
The Waltham League of Redeemer Lutheran church will sponsor the showing at 7:30 p.m., Sunday of "Hollywood Pilgrimage Play", a two-hour, full color motion picture. The program is open to the public, with tickets available at the door.



REV. JOHN D. ROSE

What's Being Planned By BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES
Copy for the church page must be in The Eccentric office, by 3:30 p.m., Thursday.

First Methodist
Luncheon meetings are scheduled for 1 o'clock on Mar. 26, by the various groups of the W.S.C.S.

The Sarah Allen group will meet with Mrs. Hugh Hemphill, 32400 Mayfair Lane, Beverly Hills, with Mrs. R. E. Dalbey, Mrs. W. J. Smith and Mrs. J. V. Martin assisting her.

Mrs. Raymond Hayward, 18720 Melrose, Detroit, will be aided by Mrs. Blythe Jones, Mrs. Melvin David and Mrs. Herbert Taylor when she entertains the Anna Bird group.

Mrs. Henry Anderson, Mrs. Wesley Staehler and Mrs. Don Swartz will assist Mrs. Blanche White, hostess of the Hattie Evans group at her home, 950 Henrietta.

The Carrie Murray group is meeting with Mrs. Frank Hirsch, 1757 Sheffield. Her assistants will be Mrs. Tom Harris, Mrs. Donald Bovey and Mrs. Robert Bovey.

Mrs. A. P. Wagner of Lowell Court, is hostess for the Mary Utter group. Co-hostesses are Mrs. Evert Clark, Mrs. C. L. Beck and Mrs. Moore.

The Kate Wagner group is meeting with Mrs. John Maynard, 919 Mohegan, who has Mrs. Edgar Coleman, Mrs. William Ferguson and Mrs. Louis Brungaber on her hostess list.

The hostesses for the Susanna Wesley group will be Mrs. James

Ball, 666 Lakeview, with Mrs. Harold Stockwell, Mrs. Parke Smith and Mrs. E. L. Berger.

Newell, 436 Park, will entertain the Cora Simpson section, assisted by Mrs. Roger Hutchinson and Mrs. Wylie Groves.

First Presbyterian
The next meeting of the supper club will be held at 7 p.m. on Mar. 25 in the church parlors. Guest speaker will be the pastor, Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D. Hosts of the evening are Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Kinnison.

The seven women's divisions have planned 1 o'clock meetings for Wednesday, Mar. 26.

Division I will meet with Mrs. E. J. Barney, 977 Brookwood; Div. II, Mrs. T. A. Henshaw, 860 Edendale; Div. III, Mrs. Clifford Dunn, 1666 Birmingham boulevard.

Div. IV, Mrs. C. S. Kinnison, 1338 Latham, for a pot luck luncheon; Div. V, Mrs. A. C. Berge, 1880 West Lincoln; Div. VI, Mrs. George Limp, 1830 Covington and Div. VII, Mrs. C. M. Knight, 220 Larchlea, also for a pot luck luncheon.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties, are all new—call the society editor about them.

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SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS
Sunday, Mar. 23
Unity Center
Frank C. Glabach, leader, will speak on "Unity Viewpoint—Healing" at the Center's 11 o'clock service Sunday morning in the Theater building.

Christian Science
The Birmingham church will join others in a lesson-sermon on "Matters" Sunday morning. The text is taken from Colossians, 3:3; "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."

First Presbyterian
"Jesus Heals Men to Know Him," will be the sermon of the Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D., at 8:30 and 11 o'clock services.

First Baptist
The Rev. Emil Kottke will observe Dedication Sunday when he speaks on "The Longing to be Useful" at the 11 a.m. service. For the 7:30 p.m. freewill vespers service he has chosen "Through the Cheering Crowd," fourth in the series on "The Final Journeys of Jesus."

Redeemer Lutheran
"When I Worship," will be the sermon topic of the Rev. Theodore Wuggazer at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services. On Wednesday evening the Lenten meditation topic will be "Joseph, the Pivotal," by Vaughan Heald. Will be solist at this service.

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