



We read in John 20:29b, *"Blessed are those who have not seen yet believed."*

In many of our churches, the story of "doubting Thomas" might have been featured in last Sunday's Gospel reading. From this account might likely have come the adage "seeing is believing." Jesus' comment to the Eleven, and to us, is that seeing is not necessarily believing; in fact, He states that the converse is the more blessed state of faith.

That is good news for us and for every would-be believer who might cross our path at one of the missions that our dollars support. We all have to live and be declared righteous through our faith, which can only come through our baptism and the hearing of the Word. And in this way, once again, we see the dual purpose of our Mission 1-1-1 efforts: baptizing and preaching.

We know that there is no other way forward, because Jesus tells us so.

He tells us in John 14:6 *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; nobody comes to the Father but by me"* and in Matthew 16:17, after Peter's confession, He says, *"Blessed are you, Simon, son of John, for this [truth] was not revealed to you by man but by my Father in Heaven."*

All of us believe without seeing, and through the gift of faith for now we receive our sight.