

OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1987 No. 118



Personally from Billy

This issue we look at **Baptism**. Too many religious teachers have neglected this subject. In fact they often ignore it when they invite people to accept Christ as their Savior. It is dangerous to ignore the teaching on baptism when you invite people to accept Christ (Revelation 22:19)!

But at the same time it is also dangerous to put too much emphasis on baptism, because baptism itself is not what saves you. As you will see on page 12, the apostle Peter explains that baptism is **not** a "bath to remove bodily filth" (1 Peter 3:21). The **English Version for the Deaf (EVD)** translates this, "not the washing of dirt from the body." Peter continues on to say, "It (**baptism**) is the answer of a good conscience toward God." The Greek word translated "answer" means "**plea**" or "**appeal**". The meaning is asking God for a cleansed conscience. The **EVD** hits it on the nail when it translates, "Baptism is asking God for a pure heart."

The idea is that when you are baptized, you do so because you believe in Christ and have reached out your arms to Him to cleanse you of your sins. Ananias told Saul not to delay, but to get up and be baptized, **calling on the name of the Lord.**" (Acts 22:16)

So a trusting faith in Christ is most important in baptism, which is why small babies cannot be baptized. (We hope to cover that in a future issue.) Read this issue's comic strip on **Baptism** and then ask yourself-- have you been baptized into Christ?

I love you in Christ,

Billy
Billy Leavell
Editor



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Editor.**

BAPTISM



IS BAPTISM
REALLY
IMPORTANT?

IF IT IS,
THEN **WHY?**



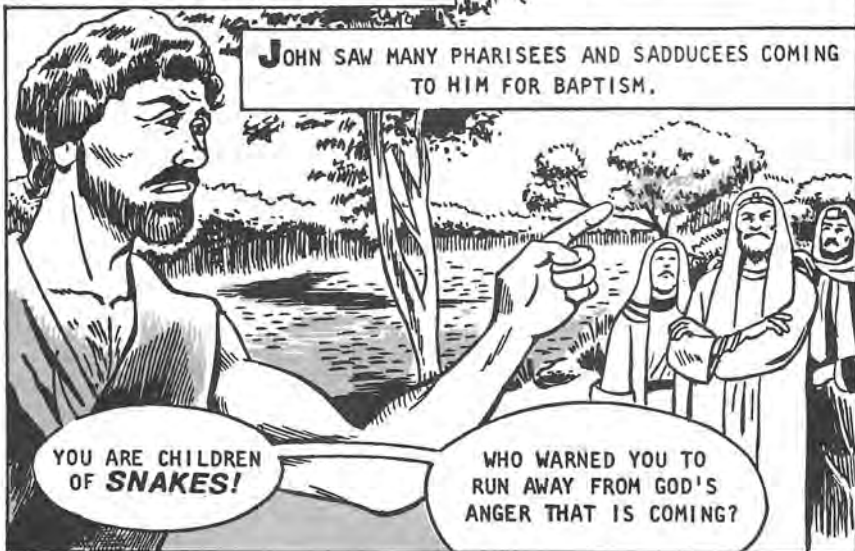
SINCE THIS IS A
BIBLE SUBJECT,
IT IS ONLY RIGHT WE
USE THE **BIBLE**
TO ANSWER OUR
QUESTIONS ABOUT
BAPTISM!



THE FIRST THING WE LEARN ABOUT
BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
IS WHEN WE READ ABOUT **JOHN
THE BAPTIST** OR **BAPTIZER**.
(MATTHEW 3:1-6)

A BAPTIST, OR BAPTIZER, IN THE NEW
TESTAMENT, IS **NOT** THE NAME OF A
RELIGIOUS GROUP. A BAPTIST OR
BAPTIZER MEANS A **PERSON** WHO
BAPTIZES PEOPLE.

JOHN SAW MANY PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES COMING
TO HIM FOR BAPTISM.



YOU ARE CHILDREN
OF **SNAKES!**

WHO WARNED YOU TO
RUN AWAY FROM GOD'S
ANGER THAT IS COMING?

YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SHOW **FRUIT** OF YOUR REPENTANCE!

DON'T THINK TO YOURSELVES THAT **ABRAHAM** IS YOUR FATHER!

GOD IS ABLE TO RAISE CHILDREN FROM THESE **STONES** FOR ABRAHAM!

BY "**TREES**" JOHN MEANT **PEOPLE**. BY "**FRUITS**" JOHN MEANT **GOOD WORKS** THAT WILL NATURALLY GROW OUT OF **FAITH**, AND BY "**REPENTANCE**" JOHN MEANT THE **CHANGE OF MIND** THAT LEADS TO A **CHANGE OF LIFE**.

NOW THE **AX** IS LAID ON THE ROOT OF THE TREES.

EVERY TREE WHICH DOESN'T GROW GOOD FRUIT IS **CUT DOWN...**

AND THROWN INTO THE **FIRE**.

MATTHEW 3:7-10

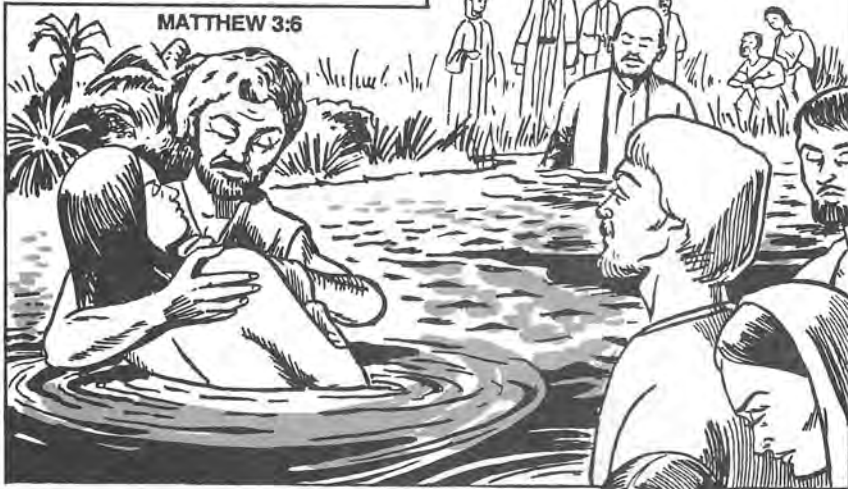
TRUE, I BAPTIZE YOU WITH WATER TOWARD REPENTANCE...

HERE JOHN MEANT THAT HIS BAPTISM REPRESENTED A **CHANGE OF LIFE**.

BUT THE PERSON WHO WILL COME AFTER ME IS MIGHTIER THAN ME-- YES, I'M NOT EVEN WORTHY TO CARRY HIS SHOES-- THIS PERSON WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE **HOLY SPIRIT** AND WITH **FIRE**.

MATTHEW 3:11

THE PEOPLE CAME TO BE BAPTIZED
IN THE JORDAN RIVER, CONFESSING
THEIR SINS...

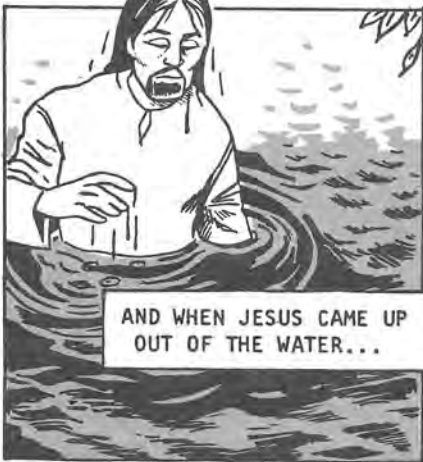
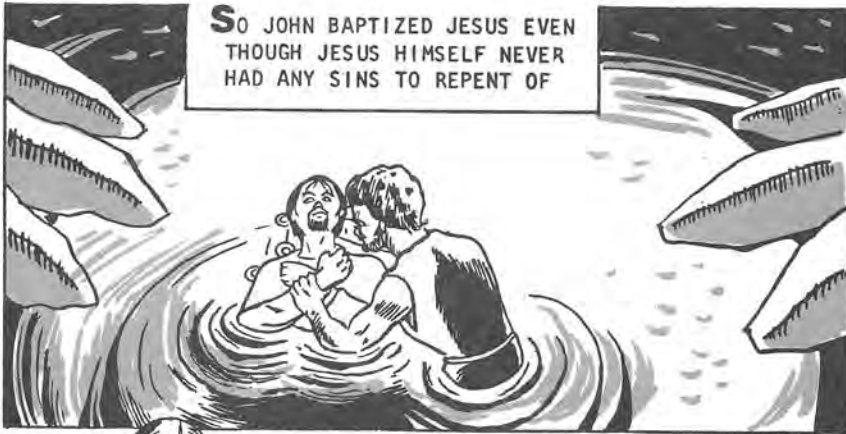


AND JESUS CAME FROM GALILEE
TO JOHN TO BE BAPTIZED.



MATTHEW 3:13-15

SO JOHN BAPTIZED JESUS EVEN
THOUGH JESUS HIMSELF NEVER
HAD ANY SINS TO REPENT OF



AND WHEN JESUS CAME UP
OUT OF THE WATER...

THE SKY OPENED, AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT CAME DOWN IN
THE FORM OF A DOVE ON
JESUS...



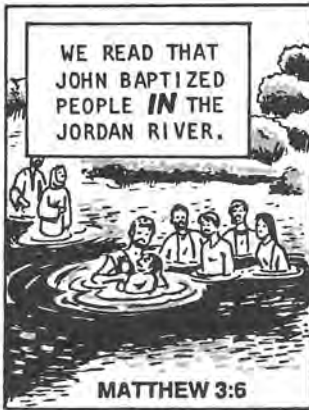
AND A VOICE FROM HEAVEN
SAID--



**THIS IS MY
BELOVED
SON. I AM
WELL
PLEASED
WITH
HIM.**

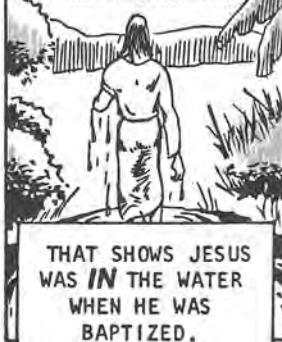
MATTHEW 3:16-17

HOW WAS BAPTISM DONE?
LET'S GO BACK A MOMENT.

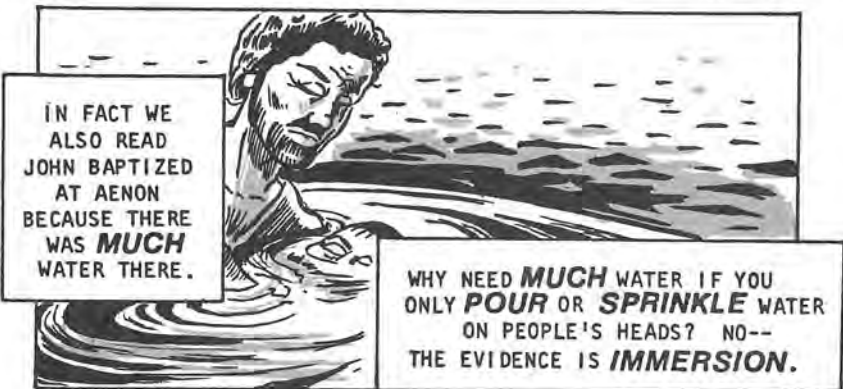


AND WHEN JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, HE CAME **UP** OUT OF THE WATER.

MATTHEW 3:16



SOME PEOPLE THINK THE JORDAN RIVER IS TOO SHALLOW TO BAPTIZE (IMMERSE) PEOPLE IN.



JOHN 3:23

THE GREEK WORD WE TRANSLATE 'BAPTIZE' MEANS TO **IMMERSE** OR TO **DIP**.

Baptizo

DIPPING A
TEA BAG
IN WATER!

NOW LET'S GO ON WITH OUR STUDY. WHEN JESUS' WORK GREW, HE BAPTIZED MORE FOLLOWERS THAN JOHN DID. JESUS HIMSELF DID NOT DO THE BAPTIZING, BUT HIS DISCIPLES DID.

JOHN 4:1,2

AND AFTER JESUS HAD DIED ON THE CROSS AND CAME BACK TO LIFE, HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES--

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY PERSON. THE PERSON WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED. BUT THE PERSON WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE WILL BE DAMNED.

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

MATTHEW 28:19

MARK 16:15,16



THE DISCIPLES OBEYED
JESUS' WORD.

REPENT AND BE
BAPTIZED EVERY
ONE OF YOU IN
THE NAME OF
JESUS CHRIST!

THEN YOUR SINS
WILL BE **REMOVED...**

AND YOU WILL GET
THE GIFT OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

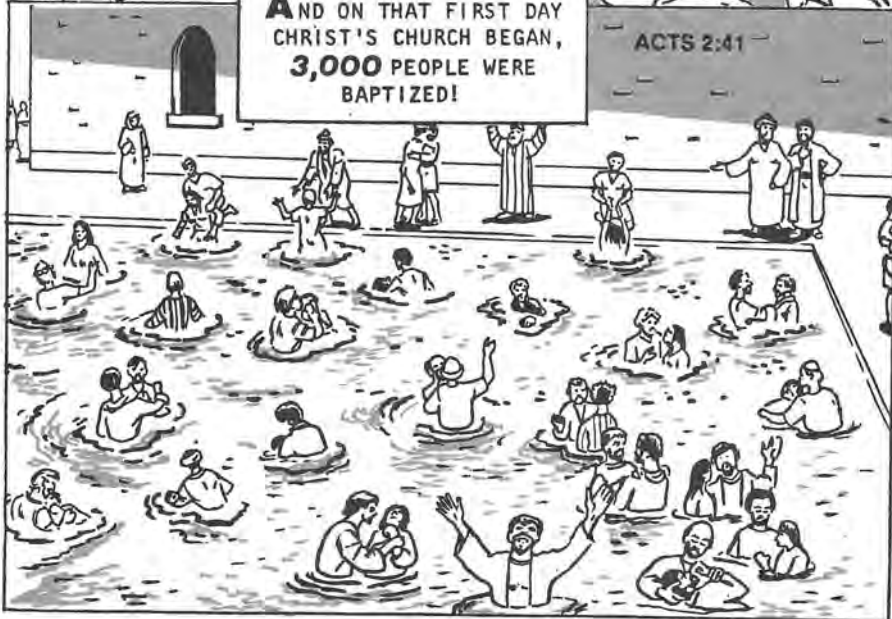
PETER

ACTS 2:38,39

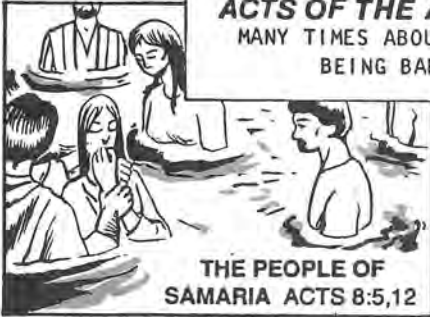
THE PROMISE IS
FOR YOU AND FOR
YOUR CHILDREN,
AND FOR ALL WHO
ARE FAR AWAY,
AS MANY AS THE
LORD OUR GOD
WILL CALL.

AND ON THAT FIRST DAY
CHRIST'S CHURCH BEGAN,
3,000 PEOPLE WERE
BAPTIZED!

ACTS 2:41



As we read the amazing book of the **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**, we read many times about believing people being baptized...



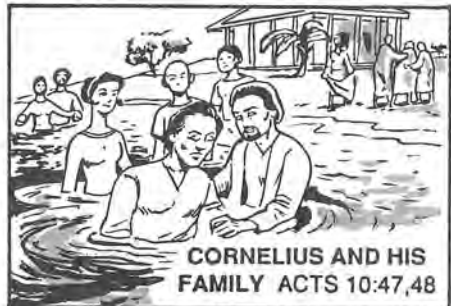
THE PEOPLE OF SAMARIA ACTS 8:5,12



THE OFFICIAL FROM ETHIOPIA ACTS 8:26-39



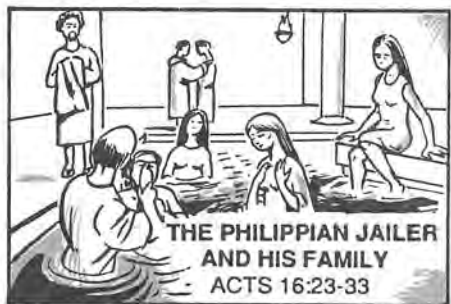
SAUL OF TARSUS (LATER CALLED PAUL) ACTS 9:17,18; 22:16



CORNELIUS AND HIS FAMILY ACTS 10:47,48



LYDIA AND HER FAMILY ACTS 16:14,15



THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER AND HIS FAMILY ACTS 16:23-33



THE CORINTHIANS ACTS 18:8

WHICH CLEARLY SHOWS BAPTISM WAS **IMPORTANT** IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES!

BUT WHY
BAPTISM?

BAPTISM DOES ALSO
NOW SAVE US--

BUT IT IS **NOT** A
BATH TO REMOVE
BODILY FILTH

IT IS THE
ANSWER OF
A GOOD
CONSCIENCE
TOWARD GOD.

PETER

THIS ANSWER
COMES BECAUSE
OF JESUS'
RETURN TO
LIFE!

1 PETER 3:21

HOWEVER, BAPTISM DOES **NOT**
HAVE POWER IN ITSELF TO
SAVE--

ONLY JESUS SAVES.

IT IS **FAITH** IN JESUS
THAT SAVES YOU. ONLY
WHEN YOU HAVE FAITH IN
JESUS, DOES BAPTISM DO
ANY GOOD!



PAUL

FOR YOU ARE ALL THE
CHILDREN OF GOD
THROUGH FAITH IN
CHRIST JESUS.

AS MANY OF YOU AS
HAVE BEEN **BAPTIZED**
INTO CHRIST HAVE
PUT ON CHRIST!

GALATIANS 3:26,27

WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED, YOU WERE **BURIED** WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM.

AND IN THAT BAPTISM YOU WERE **RAISED UP** THROUGH YOUR **FAITH** IN GOD'S WORK. (GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD).

YOU WERE SPIRITUALLY **DEAD** BECAUSE OF **SINS** AND BECAUSE YOUR SINS WERE NOT **REMOVED** FROM YOU.*

*THE GREEK LITERALLY SAYS, "THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR FLESH."

BUT GOD MADE YOU **ALIVE** WITH CHRIST.

HOW?

HE **FORGAVE** ALL YOUR SINS!



COLOSSIANS 2:12,13



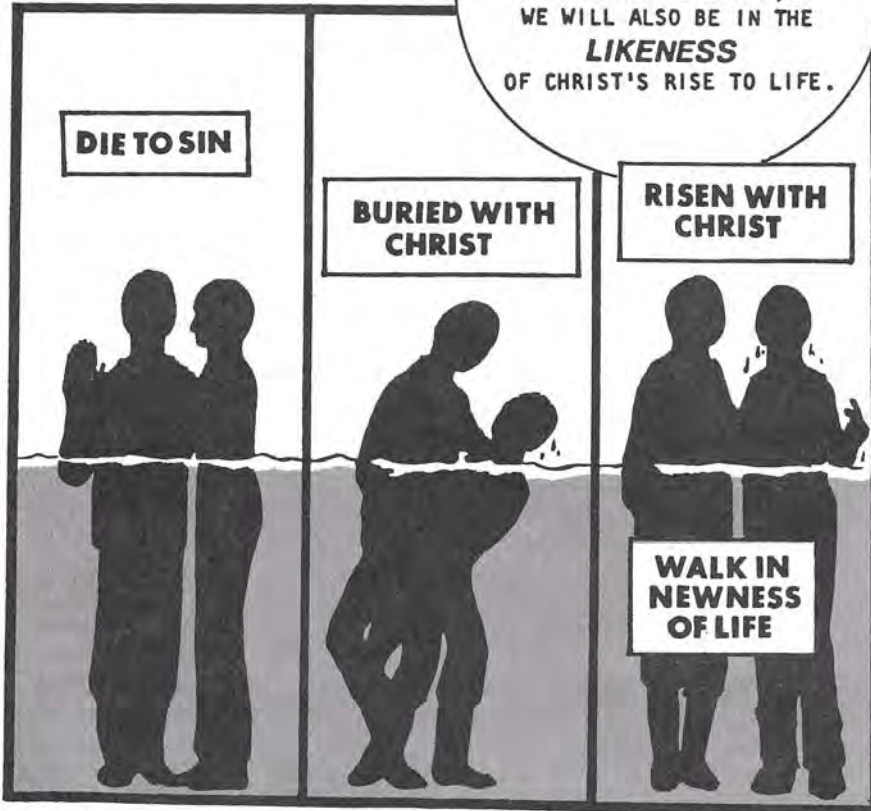
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS **DEATH**?

FOR THIS REASON WE ARE **BURIED** WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT LIKE CHRIST WAS RAISED UP FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE FATHER'S GLORY, WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN **NEWNESS** OF LIFE.



IF WE WERE PLANTED TOGETHER IN THE **LIKENESS** OF CHRIST'S DEATH, WE WILL ALSO BE IN THE **LIKENESS** OF CHRIST'S RISE TO LIFE.

ROMANS 6:3-5



KNOW THIS: OUR OLD SELF IS CRUCIFIED WITH JESUS. WHY? THEN THE BODY OF **SIN** COULD BE DESTROYED--

AND FROM NOW ON, WE WILL NOT **SERVE SIN!**



ROMANS 6:6

Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
ACTS 2:38

"REMISSION" MEANS "**REMOVAL**". SO YOUR SINS-- THROUGH YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST AND OBEDIENCE TO HIM-- WILL BE REMOVED FROM YOU.



He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
MARK 16:16

And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
ACTS 22:16



IF YOU HAVEN'T PLACED YOUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS-- WHY NOT DO SO TODAY?... AND BE BAPTIZED INTO HIM!



Light on



In our last issue we mentioned that one of our readers, Jimmy Bailey, requested we ask our readers what they think of the amount of pages we give over to comic strips in LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. Jimmy himself didn't like these comic strips. He preferred we use only a few pages like we did in the early days of LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. (We used only two or three pages at that time.) He preferred that we use most of our pages for text articles. Below is our feedback from our readers.

Please continue comic strips because lots of deaf people can't write or read. They love your Christian comic strips and they will be disappointment if you cut down your use of comic strips. They understood the pictures-- want more comic strips and less text, or 50% of comic strips, 50% of text-- fair 100%.

—Judith M. Lusk, Hanford, CA

I'm your reader. You asked how big or little their comic strips are. I would say of between big and little. At least, seven pages, plus texts. Known as halves. This may please you and your work for the Lord as far as this toward average deaf Christians.

—Bob Long, Canton, OH

Thank you, Bob. But we have 20 pages per issue, so 7 pages isn't "one-half" our page count. But we understand what you mean. In fact some of our comic strips are only seven pages or even less. Sometimes we need more than seven page to

cover a subject satisfactorily, as you can see in this issue's 13-page coverage of baptism.

I am concerned that Jimmy Bailey probably doesn't realize some deaf have poor education so they cannot read and easily misunderstand. Remember I myself wrote you about two years ago asking you to publish "One Church". I would prefer you to continue using comic strips and text and let the deaf choose what they can understand than to throw away an all-text issue because they can't understand the text very well in the English language.

—Cecile Rhyndar, Denver, CO

You are right, Cecile, we did publish the "One Church" comic strip upon your request in the April/May/June 1986 issue. And you are also right in that we do try to balance LIGHT FOR THE DEAF between comic strips and text. See our comments immediately after Randolph J. Grossman's letter.

My heart was once again joyful when I got and read my copy of LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. I enjoyed the lesson on Love. I always enjoy all the lessons in LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. Billy, to your question, should you cut down on your comic strips? Or should you continue as you have been in LIGHT FOR THE DEAF? Billy, I said continue the way you have been printing LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. Please keep up the good work you are doing for the Lord. Billy, please tell all of our Deaf brothers and Deaf sisters in Christ, Hi, I love each of them and their families very much.

—Wayne Bostater, Redding, CA

Wayne writes us often, in fact perhaps about every month. He always expresses praise for our work and tells of his love for his deaf brothers and sisters in Christ. He often encloses names and addresses of his deaf friends as well as a donation for LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. We appreciate his writing and also his input on the "comic strip controversy".

I saw your question on whether you should continue comic strips or cut down and add more text. So here's my reply. Keep the comic strips as there are many deaf people who don't understand text well. Also there's plenty of text books everywhere if one wanted to read nothing but text! Comics make it more enjoyable and relaxing to read so why add more text when we use Bible and other text books and magazines weekly. So I urge you to keep on your present method of using comic strips.

—Rick Grell, Golden, CO

Let's keep the comics in LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. Many people said that it is hard to understand the Word of God. They like the comics so much and the comics help them understand better. As for us we like the comics, too.

—Jim & June Rich, Cheswick, PA

Jimmy Bailey may wish less comic strips and more text, but I prefer that you should continue the many comic strips and some text same as you did before because I can use some of these pictures to make transparencies for the overhead projector. Sometimes I can't find pictures of the story in the Bible so I look at a few books of the LIGHT FOR THE DEAF and find some comic strips. I use them to teach the students of KSD with my lesson. I would like to say to you, thank you for continuing the comic strips. I collect them and they are useful when I need them for the class.

—Jack H. Williamson, Danville, KY

The "KSD" that Jack refers to is Kentucky School for the Deaf. We are glad that Jack has been using our artwork to make visual aids for these children. Read the next letter.

I am not deaf but can interpret, and I was introduced to your LIGHT FOR THE DEAF at your meetings in Tarentum, PA. I thought they would be a very useful tool in teaching my children, as well as the simple enjoyment of studying the Scriptures through another medium. I agree that it is the message conveyed in the comics that is important, not the way it is presented. And if that message is Scriptural then it is good and approved by the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20). Keep up the good work in His name.

—Randolph J. Grossman, Kittanny, PA

So there you have it, the feedback from our readers. Apparently they are satisfied with the amount of comic strips we use. It is still our plan to vary the number of pages used



for comic strips— some issues may have only a few pages, others may have many. We feel that most of our deaf readers learn from visual presentation than from text. It appears that Jimmy Bailey, out of over 2,600 readers, is the only one complaining about the comic strips. We thank you, dear readers, for answering our question. We have one more letter below which we would like to share with you below before we close this column for now.

I have read your July, August September issue of "LIGHT FOR THE DEAF", and want you to know how much I enjoyed it. Several months ago Brad Holt had a class on Agape Love and Phileo Love.

So when I read your publication it really meant a lot to me. Thanks to you and Brother Holt I feel I have learned a lot about both Agape and Phileo Love.

—Joyce Jackson, Memphis, TN

Joyce is a hearing member of East Frayser Church of Christ, the congregation which takes the responsibility of financially supporting and mailing out LIGHT FOR THE DEAF. Brad Holt in Joyce's letter is one of the elders at this congregation. Brad Holt was so impressed with our articles on love that he personally asked us for extra copies to hand out to his class. We are gratified that our publication is of help to the hearing as well as to the deaf.

Hope you enjoy the New Year. If you want to send me your opinions and comments, send them to us at LIGHT FOR THE DEAF, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee 38127. Also, if you move, let us know soon as possible. It now costs us 30¢ for every copy sent back to us by the U.S. Postal Service. Help us save a bit on our money!

"NO TIME"

I knelt in prayer, but not for long,
I had too much to do,
must hurry off and get to work,
for bills would soon be due.
And so I said a hurried prayer, jumped
up from my knees;
My christian duty now was done,
My soul could be at ease.
All through the day I had no time
to speak a word of cheer;
No time to speak of Christ to
friends-- They'd laugh at me, I fear.
No time, No time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry;
No time to give to those in need-- at
last time it was time to die.
And when before the Lord I came,
Within His hands He held a book, It
was the book of life,
God looked into His book and said,
"Your name I cannot find, I once was
going to write it down, but never
found the time."

“PLEASE, SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO ME!!!”

by Allan Qualmann

"Please, someone listen to me!!!"

These words were shared with me a few weeks ago by a young lady who is hard of hearing. With tears in her eyes she explained to me that she was a single parent. A member of the church of Christ, hard of hearing, and in need of someone to talk with. She also had a desire to learn sign language.

I shared with her the openness of our congregation and our Deaf Work, and she was pleased. To my surprise she was in services this past Wednesday night and is willing to make the 33-minute, one-way trip to come to our building because someone was willing to listen to her, to communicate with her, and encourage her in the Lord.

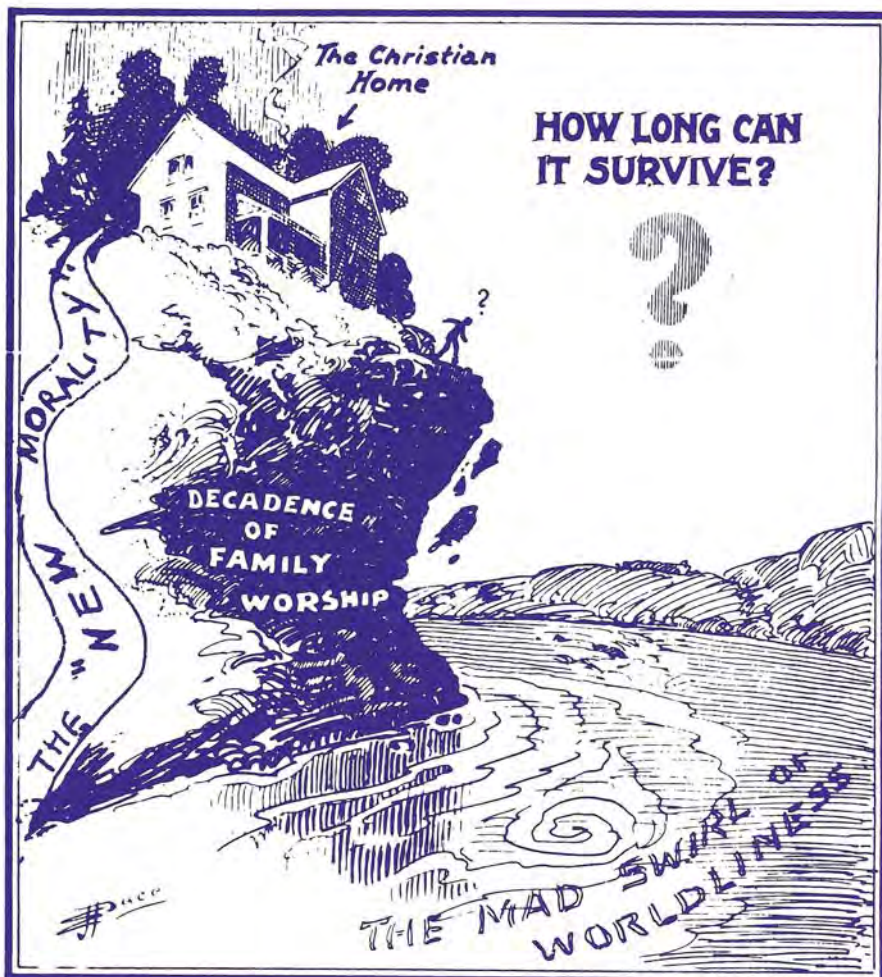
There are so many people out in this world who are screaming, "Please listen to me!" Even in the silent world of the deaf the problem is compounded.

Please realize that everyone needs someone to talk to, to love, to share, to communicate.

The best advice is to listen to our Master Teacher Jesus: **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."**

The next time you see someone in need, realize that they are saying, "Please, someone, listen to me!"

Allan Qualmann is the minister at Sylvan Hills Church of Christ in Sherwood, Arkansas, where H.S. Whittington is minister to the deaf.



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