

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988 No. 122

*Marilyn and
Billy Leavell
on Mt. Faber
near the
Singapore
Harbor.*



*In this special
Issue:
Billy and
Marilyn
Leavell's
trip to
Southeast
Asia*



Exalting CHRIST among the Deaf

Personally from Billy

In this special issue, we give our report on our trip to **Southeast Asia**. We hope that it will inspire you and make you appreciate the fact that the gospel of Christ can reach around the world and touch all people, even the deaf in whose small field we are working.

In our trip we reached four different cities-- **Manila** and **Bacolod City** in the Philippines; **Singapore**; and **Hong Kong**. We saw the different cultures and customs in these cities, and yet we also saw how the gospel works on people within these cultures. It was a thrill for us to worship with brothers and sisters in other lands.

We appreciate the efforts of **Sam** and **Ruth Roach** who have been in the Southeast Asia area several times over the years working to bring the gospel to the deaf. They are committed to remain in the Southeast Asia area until early 1990, when they are scheduled to return to the United States. I would like here to personally ask you if you are able to help with Sam and Ruth's support. Contributions have fallen off and it is difficult to keep up the \$1,000 per month to support them. East Frayser Church of Christ is able to keep up \$600 per month for them, but needs \$400 from interested individuals and congregations to make up for the deficit. If you are interested in helping out, please contact R. W. Smith, East Frayser Church of Christ, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38127.

Thank you very much for your attention... and good reading!



Billy and Marilyn Leavell



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A Report on our Southeast Asia Trip

by Billy Leavell



September 12, 1988

Marilyn and I took our final typhoid and cholera shots at the **Shelby County Health Department** in the morning. Then after finishing up some other business, we rushed home to complete our packing. Our daughter **Pam** and a friend, **Warren Felts**, rushed us to the airport. We just barely caught the plane for Dallas, Texas! **R. W. Smith**, elder at East Frayser Church of Christ, and his wife **Edith**, were there to bid us farewell. Also at the airport to say good-bye to us were **Duane** and **Margaret Morgan**, two other missionaries supported by East Frayser; **Johnny** and **Cindy Hinton**, who work with the youth at East Frayser); and **Becky** our older daughter.

After we arrived in Dallas, we changed to a plane that took us to **San Francisco**. There we had three hours to wait before we boarded a **Singapore Airlines** jet for **Hong Kong**. We found ourselves in a different culture already when we came on this plane! The stewardesses wore lovely robes that reached down almost to the floor. They passed out hot washcloths that we used to wash our hands and faces before eating. They served us a complete meal shortly after we had departed from California. This might not be unusual, except that it was after midnight!

September 13, 1988

We saw very little of this date, because only eight or nine hours after we had left California, we crossed the **International Date Line**. We then lost a day, and it became September 14! But before this happened, we made a brief stop in **Honolulu, Hawaii**. We did not leave the plane, however. We did see the palm trees around the airport though.

September 14, 1988

We arrived at **Hong Kong** at 8:30 A.M. (7:30 P.M., D.S.T., September 13, **Memphis time**). Here we had to wait three more hours before we could get on the flight that was to take us to the **Philippines**. Our luggage was routed to Hong Kong, so Marilyn had to get a guard to go with her to fetch it. This business took longer than expected and I had several anxious moments before Marilyn finally showed up and we practically ran to catch our flight for the Philippines!

Finally, at about 3 P.M. (2 A.M., D.S.T., **Memphis time**), we touched down at the International Airport in **Manila**, capitol of the Philippines. But here we had trouble. The luggage Marilyn had routed from Hong Kong did not arrive! We had only our overnight bags, but we were fortunate in that we

had packed emergency clothes for just an event. After we had passed customs and baggage inspection, we walked out to meet **John Pease**, deaf missionary in Manila. He introduced us to **Junior**, who is mildly hearing impaired and who has two deaf brothers. Junior took our overnight bags along with my briefcase and Marilyn's knitting bag in his pick-up truck, and all four of us squeezed together into the cabin. Marilyn had been prepared for different customs and cultures on our journeys, but here in Manila she **did** experience her first culture shock. Traffic in the Philippines is wild and undisciplined! As John told us, "In the Philippines it's 'Me first!'"

Junior took us to the Domestic Airport, just a little over a mile from the International Airport. Since we had plenty of time before our flight to **Bacolod City** where **Sam** and **Ruth Roach** are, we walked just around the corner from the Domestic Airport to a small cafe. There we had soft drinks. John was telling us about Filipino customs, and warned us about Filipino thieves and pickpockets.

Apparently Junior was afraid we would have the wrong impressions, for he said, "Not all Filipinos are like that!" We assured him that we knew that. About an hour and half before our flight, John told us he needed to leave and open up the room used for deaf church that night. So we bade him and John farewell, thanked them, and we went into the waiting room of the Domestic Airport.

Marilyn and I were tired from lack of sleep and from jet lag. You may imagine we were most eager to hit the sack the moment we arrived in **Bacolod City**. But while we sat patiently there in that waiting room, we had a shock. About thirty minutes before our flight was due to depart, the attendant went to the sign indicating our flight and put another sign over it. This sign read **"CANCELLED"**. Angry Filipinos surrounded the poor attendant and argued in the Tagalog language. Marilyn and I were left out in the cold! But we finally got to speak with the supervisor of the airport, and the airline ended up giving us a free hotel room



Plane landing at Bacolod City airport in the Philippines. Notice tropical trees.



Ruth Roach, Marilyn Leavell and Sam Roach just outside the house where they stayed. They are preparing to hail a taxi downtown.

for the night along with two meal tickets. We were promised that we could get on the 12:20 P.M. flight the next day to Bacolod City. We were too tired and sleepy to eat supper that night. We just removed our clothes, put on our pajamas, and plopped down on the bed for the night's sleep we so badly needed! What we later found is that the runaway lights at Bacolod City were not functioning to adequately guide the plane to a landing. Thus the cancellation.

September 15, 1988

We awoke refreshed and had breakfast in the lobby. Then a hotel attendant took us to the International Airport where we found our luggage from Hong Kong had finally arrived. We then took a taxi to the Domestic Airport at about 8:30 A.M. We were prepared to wait about four hours for our flight to Bacolod City, but to our delight we learned the airline also had a 9:20 A.M. flight to Bacolod City! So we quickly got boarding passes for this flight. In about an hour later, we arrived at

the Bacolod City Airport. The palm trees and dilapidated shacks round about made us feel like we were somewhere in South America. But this wasn't South America, it was in the midst of the Philippines!

Since we had failed to arrive in Bacolod City the night before, no one met us at the airport. I had forgotten to bring the telephone number Sam and Ruth Roach were using! But fortunately the airport had a telephone book, and I found the number for **Alvin Luthor**, hearing missionary in that city. When Marilyn called Alvin, he agreed to meet us at the airport in about fifteen minutes. Well, he did come to the airport—on **Filipino time**. That is, he arrived about an hour later! We packed our luggage in his trunk and he took us to the house where the Roaches were staying. There we had a joyous reunion with Sam and Ruth.

Sam and Ruth were renting a house, or rather half of a house, from a retired U.S. Navy sailor who had married a Filipina. Sam and Ruth introduced us to their helper, **Rose**. They



Household helper Rosie plays a Philippine game called "Sunka" with Marilyn.

preferred to use the term "helper" rather than "household servant". Ruth had been quietly teaching Rose Scriptural truths, and she (Rose) was now attending services at the congregation where Alvin Luther preaches.

Marilyn and I were tired, but Ruth advised us that in order to overcome jet lag we should stay up until evening before we even lay down to sleep. So we patiently stayed up until 7 P.M. that evening when we finally retired for the evening! (It was 6 A.M. D.S.T. Memphis time then!)

September 16, 1988

That morning the Roaches took us to downtown Bacolod City. Fruit, meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, etc., were laid out in open market on the sidewalks. Transportation is plenteous and cheap. A ride on one of the many jeepneys that passed the Roaches' house cost only one peso per person, which in U.S. currency would be only 5¢! (A **jeepney** is something like a cross between a jeep and a pick-up truck. There is a roof over the rear, and there are two benches in the rear that can

hold eight to ten people. But the Filipinos seem fond of squeezing as many people possible onto the jeepneys-- and the buses also-- so that sometimes we had as many as 12 at a time on the jeepney!)

The department stores in th downtown district are operated differently from those in the U.S.A. If you had a package with you, you had to check it with an attendant. Then after you had finished your business, you could come back to the attendant and claim your package. The department stores feature merchandise from several different nations, among them New Zealand, Japan, China and the U.S.A. These department stores also have sections devoted to groceries.

While we were downtown, the Roaches took us to the Plaza at the park where the deaf operate a stand, selling soda pop and candy. There I met my first deaf Filipinos. Sam introduced us, and we enjoyed learning some Filipino signs. Actually, the Filipinos use many of the same signs that American deaf use, so it is no problem communicating with them. The

only differences are several regional signs. Also, the deaf Filipinos are taught English in their schools, and are not taught in their native languages. They either know very few words of Tagalog or none at all. One humorous thing happened while we were talking with the deaf Filipinos in sign language. The hearing Filipinos were curious when they saw us using sign language. So they gathered round about us to watch. I didn't know if there were any deaf among them, so I turned to some of them and said in sign language, "Are you deaf?" The embarrassed Filipinos would quickly walk away. They understood nothing of what I had just signed to them!

September 17, 1988

This was Saturday morning, and Sam took me to the church building. There the Filipino brethren were painting the pews and claning up the place for tomorrow's meeting. I also met Fe, Alvin Luthor's wife. She smiled at us, apologizing for the mess. During this time Sam called one of the Filipinos from the street. This one-legged Filipino was a barber by trade,

and he hobbled in on his crutches. He had his handy bag strapped over a shoulder. Sam took out a stool so that he sat in the front yard of the church building while the barber gave him a haircut right out there in the open. The haircut cost Sam five pesos, which means 25¢ in our U.S. currency!

A little later we had a Bible class with the deaf which Sam taught. There were about nine present. I was observing during most of this class, although I did add a comment here and there. We later went to the Plaza again to visit with the deaf. That evening Sam, Ruth, Marilyn and I all went together to the Luthor's house where some hearing members participated in an hour-long Bible study. Marilyn interpreted for me. It was an enjoyable experience.

September 18, 1988

Sunday morning, when the gospel meeting was supposed to start! However no deaf showed up. Two boys and a girl, all hearing, did come and practice their sign language with us. Sam said they were not Christians yet, but I could see the possibili-



Alvin and Fe Luthor. Alvin is the missionary working with the natives in Bacolod City. His wife Fe is a Filipina.

ty of these youngsters helping with the deaf work someday since they made very good advances in the sign language. We met with the hearing for their worship services, and that morning a guest Filipino preacher from the south islands was speaking. He spoke in English but with phrases from the native language sprinkled here and there, so Marilyn found it difficult to interpret for me. Also, the hymns were in the dialect, so unless we knew what song they were singing from our songbooks, we didn't understand them. But it was a thrill for me to be sharing the Lord's Supper with brethren in another land for the first time.

After services the Roaches and we went to an American-type restaurant for lunch. The hamburgers we ordered tasted different from those in the U.S.A. The salad we had ordered was not what you would think of in the U.S.A. It was macroni salad! But the onion rings, although different from those in the U.S.A., were delicious!

That evening the gospel meeting finally got underway, with six deaf attending. Some

of them had gone to denominational services and some of them had to work. But they enjoyed my sermon. So did the hearing Filipinos, for whom Marilyn translated my sign language into spoken English. (Sam at first interpreted for me, but his voice began to fade, so Marilyn took over!) As Fe Luthor later told Marilyn, the hearing Filipinos enjoyed my sermons because my lessons were simple and just right for the Filipino mind. In fact they came every night of the meeting.

September 19-25, 1988

There was a flurry of activities this week! On Monday Sam and I made a very brief stop at **Bacolod High School** and promised the students we would be back at the school on Thursday and Friday. Later that evening I was asked to come by the church building an hour earlier so we could have a question-and-answer session with the deaf. This was held every night of the week and the deaf seemed to love it!

Thursday morning we kept our promises to the deaf students



Snack bar operated by the deaf.



Students of the deaf program at Bacolod High School pose for the camera.

of Bacolod High School. Ruth, Marilyn, Sam and I came to this school and I spoke to two combined deaf classes. It was an enjoyable hour, answering their questions on the U.S.A. Sample questions were, "How many children do you have?" "Does the U.S.A. have deaf?" "Are there very many deaf in the U.S.A.?" "When is your birthday?" "When is your wedding anniversary?" "What is your address?" "Can we send you a letter?" Etc., etc. They also asked me if I had met one of their fellow students who was now in the U.S.A. Of course I replied no, that I had not met this student, because the U.S.A. is a large country and I don't know every deaf person there. I also used my artistic abilities to make a few drawings on the chalkboard.

It was just like any American school setting, though of course a bit more primitive. Hearing students on their free time were staring curiously at us in the doorway. (During classes the doors are never closed. And the deaf students were enthusiastic and interested. Mari-

lyn afterwards made the comment to me that she thought the Filipino deaf students showed more understanding than the deaf students in some of our schools back home!

Friday morning Sam and I returned to this school where I taught a lesson from Genesis. Apparently our Thursday and Friday visits did the trick, for on Thursday night and onward, we had much more deaf at the church building than previously! We reached a peak of 22 deaf on Friday night, but we still held pretty well the rest of the weekend. Even on Sunday morning, when we could expect no deaf, we did have four to six deaf! And that morning I had a very interesting experience-- I preached in sign language, Marilyn interpreted me in speech, and a Filipino brother then translated into his native tongue for those brethren who understood their own language!

After the services we had an old fashioned church potluck dinner. Sound very American? Yes, but they served Asian-type food! It was good, though, and we all enjoyed the fellowship.

Immediately following this, the hearing pupils from kindergarten at the Christian school that this church is operating put on a program for us. They sang both the national songs for the Philippines and the U.S.A. and ended singing a blessing to us! The brethren requested I do a few of the pantomimes I had often done back in the U.S.A., and I did so, but I nearly wrecked the stage doing so. Seems worms had eaten through the wood on the stage!

However one incident had us all scared; that morning we had held a Bible class upstairs for the few deaf who came. When we were on our way back downstairs, Marilyn slipped and fell down the steps for about six feet before a couple of the deaf Filipino boys stopped her. She was bruised, sore and her dignity a bit marred, but she was all right.

Sunday night we had our final meeting, with about 18 deaf who came. No outward response was had, though one lady told me she found it difficult to decide. She has been given the facts, and hopefully she will make a favorable decision

not long after we have left the Philippines. But Sam did agree to hold a Bible class for the deaf each week and to conduct Sunday night services, a time when most of the deaf are free. At the final service, the hearing congregation gave Marilyn and myself tokens of their appreciation. It was Filipino cloth that Marilyn can make into blouses.

September 26, 1988

Our plane to Manila was supposed to depart at about 7:30 that morning, so we came out early to flag down one of the many taxis that pass the house. These taxis, while more expensive than jeepneys (one peso per person), are very cheap by U.S.A. standards. A taxi usually costs 20 pesos, which is \$1 in our U.S.A. currency! But that morning, a jeepney driver saw us with our luggage sitting by the roadside. He stopped to dislodge his two only passengers and pulled over to us. He offered to take us to the airport for 30 pesos. That is \$1.50 in American money, so we accepted. All six of



Yes, even the Filipinos enjoy church potluck dinners! But the dinner is Asian-type.



Don Williams, Ron Holland and John Pease grin at the camera at the Bible Study Center in Manila. Williams and Holland handle World Bible School material.

us-- Sam, Ruth, their two household helpers, Marilyn and myself rode the jeepney to the airport. Gurley, the other household helper, had never been at the airport before, so she was wide-eyed as she looked at the planes.

But we found our flight had been delayed to 9:10 A.M.! The Roaches and their helpers bade us farewell and left. A few minutes later we saw that the flight had been delayed again, we weren't leaving until 9:45 A.M.! Talk about "Filipino time"!... And about fifteen minutes before we left, a hard rain poured over the airport! But it cleared up just before we were to board the plane, so we didn't get wet. The flight was uneventful, though we did pass over some lovely islands on our way to Manila.

John Pease and Junior met us at the Domestic Airport, and once again we piled our stuff in Junior's pick-up truck. This time, because Marilyn was still sore from her fall the day before, she sat on my lap as we all sat together in the cabin. Junior took us to a hotel where John had reserved a room for us. We left Marilyn in the room so she could rest up (she

was still sore) so John and I could go out and buy some drinks and food. When we returned, we found Marilyn was uneasy because she heard gunshots while we were gone! I told her I saw no alarm among the people on the street. We later found what had happened, it was just a celebration. The N.P.A. had nothing to do with the gunshots! They are the Communist insurgents that are angry with the mess left by former President Marcos and that wish American visitors to get out of the Philippines. Most of them are hiding out in the countryside, but all through our stay in the Philippines we never had any trouble with them.

September 27, 1988

That morning John took Marilyn and myself to the Bible Study Center. There he introduced us to Ron Holland and Don Williams, both hearing missionaries. They are using World Bible School materials, and in fact told us that just the week before, they had a seminar for those correspondents who were interested in deeper Bible study. They said they had contacted over 9,000 Filipinos and of this



A visit to the offices of P.A.D. (Philippine Association for the Deaf) in Manila. Billy Leavell is second from left and John Pease is second from right.

over 800 came to the Seminar. They told us that they are hoping that Filipino Christians will become more involved in the work here. Ron also showed us the desktop publishing program on their computer that they use for printing materials.

Then John took us to **Philippian Association for the Deaf**, just a few blocks away. There we had a nice visit with the deaf officials, two of which are members of the church.

After lunch, John took us to the park where **Philippian Association for the Deaf** is operating a coffee shop for the general public. We were court-

eously invited into the kitchen to talk with the manager. This manager and a secretary are the only hearing personnel at this coffee shop. All the other employees are deaf. Marilyn formerly interpreted vocational training classes in restaurant work for deaf students, so she was familiar with sanitation procedures. She afterwards told me she was impressed by the fact that this coffee shop did observe these procedures!

September 28, 1988

Marilyn was feeling bad. The day before, in our visits



The P.A.D. operates this coffee shop in the city park at Manila. All the employees except the manager and secretary are deaf.

to the **Bible Study Center**, to **P.A.D.**, and the coffee shop, we had ridden jeepneys and buses that insisted on finding all the potholes and bumps in the road. This was certainly no help for Marilyn's sore side from her fall the Sunday before! So we let her rest in the hotel room while John, a deaf Filipino woman and I went to **Philippine School for the Deaf**. We had an enjoyable chat with one of the teachers and I spoke with some of the students. I did a magic coin trick for some of the younger pupils, and they quickly crowded around us! We then stopped by a market where our Filipino sister helped me bargain for a souvenir for Marilyn to take back to her boss at work in the U.S.A. (Filipinos will jack up their prices for Americans, but not fellow Filipinos!) When we returned to the hotel, Marilyn had recovered enough to go out with us for lunch and afterwards to walk to John's office which also doubles as **United Nations Church of Christ for the Deaf**. (It is located on United Nations Avenue, hence the name.) This office is located in a medical building

which rents out extra rooms to various organizations. However the medical building wasn't as clean or nice as its counterpart would be in the U.S.A. In fact, as we passed a rest room, there was the strong odor of urine. In the room that serves as church for the deaf, we met the deaf Filipinos who came in for Wednesday night Bible class. We had an enjoyable visit with them all. There were about 18 deaf that night, not counting John or myself. John asked me to preach to them, and I did. After the class, we chatted with each other like we would back in the good old United States!

September 29, 1988

The ever faithful Junior came by our hotel in his pickup truck and took us to the International Airport. John had warned us that we had to pay 200 pesos for our departure tax, but I did not realize that meant 200 pesos for each person! We had only a little over 200 pesos left, so I had to rush and cash a traveler's check to get the needed extra 200 pesos. (I asked for the rest of the money to be in U.S. currency,



Marilyn and Billy Leavell pose with the United Nations congregation for the camera. The congregation gets its name from the street it is on (United Nations Avenue).

So we were able to pay the total 400 pesos for Marilyn and myself. That isn't really a lot of money in U.S. currency--only \$20! But our troubles weren't ended there. Our baggage was inspected three times as we progressed along to our waiting room. Marilyn insists it was four times!

We soon were airborne and bade farewell to the Philippines. A couple of hours later, we passed over **Singapore**. As we looked at the island from the air, we were struck by the contrast between Singapore and the Philippines. In the Philippines we had seen deep poverty. But now as we came to Singapore, we saw great prosperity. Apparently Singapore is a very successful nation in commerce.

Patrick Ong and I had never met before, and as he told me later, I didn't look like my photograph! But he had no trouble spotting us-- he and his wife **Judy** saw Marilyn signing to me! As we were passing through customs, Patrick at the gate outside caught my eye. He fingerspelled "**Billy?**" I nodded **Yes!** and we had our first meeting.



Pasir Panjang Church of Christ of Singapore, where the deaf group meets.

Poor Patrick and Judy, on their way to the airport to meet me, the church van they were driving in broke down! So they had to hail a taxi and rush to the airport to meet us. They also had to have a taxi take us all to Patrick's flat (**apartment**). It was a novelty for Marilyn and myself to be riding **British style**, that is, traffic is on the "wrong side" of the street! We could see as we rode down the parkway that Singapore is a very clean city. Our American cities certainly could take lessons from Singapore!

When we were settled in the Ongs' flat, we asked them about two Americans we knew were in the area. First, I asked about **Don Green**, who is our hearing missionary to Southeast Asia from East Frayser Church of Christ in Memphis. Then I also asked about **Cliff Holladay**, whom I had first met at **David Lipscomb College** (now **University**) in Nashville, Tennessee, when he was involved with the college's Dactylology Club. Cliff at one time was full-time minister to the deaf at Louisville,



From left to right: Joseph Lee, Cliff Holladay, Patrick Ong, unidentified lady, unidentified man, Henry Kong, Marilyn Leavell.

Kentucky. He later attended **Harding School of Religion** in Memphis and graduated with a Master's degree in Counseling. He is now a counselor in Michigan. Patrick made some phone calls and found that alas, Don Green had departed for Indonesia just a couple of days before. But Cliff was still in town, though he was preparing to depart for the U.S.A. on the morrow.

September 30, 1988

The next morning we had a breakfast of hot dogs with jelly on bread and English tea. The English tea was delicious! And while it was different for us to be eating jelly on hot dogs on bread, I can tell you we enjoyed them! After breakfast Patrick took us in the church van (it was finally fixed!). I felt funny sitting where in the U.S.A. would be the driver's seat! But remember, Singapore uses the British way of traffic. So Patrick very properly was seated on the right side of the van when he drove! After he dropped his wife Judy off at work, he took us to the church building. He showed us around the building and introduced us

to **Henry Kong**, hearing minister for the congregation. A few moments later **Cliff Holladay** came by, and we had a joyous reunion. We were also introduced to **Joseph Lee**, one of the hearing members involved with the deaf. Joseph also has been leading singing for the deaf. Cliff had to go to a mental health class that morning, so our reunion was brief. We were left at the building, but Henry Kong took us into his office and gave us a wonderful demonstration of the desktop publishing program the church computer has. It certainly made me wish East Frayser Church back in the U.S.A. had such a program, we would make **Light for the Deaf** look so much better!

A little later Patrick took us downtown where we made a brief visit to a museum and learned a little about Singapore history. Then we went to a shopping mall where we met Cliff and Joseph, and we went to a Chinese restaurant. There we dined in Chinese style. (This includes using chopsticks!) It was an excellent dinner but it gave us the opportunity to visit with Cliff a few hours



After services at the Singapore Y.M.C.A. deaf young people walk around and chat.

before he had to go to the airport for his return flight to the U.S.A. After our lunch, we took him to the airport and bade him farewell.

Later that afternoon Patrick drove us to the Y.M.C.A. where the weekend gospel meeting was to be held. We went downstairs to eat at **McDonald's** (yes, **the** McDonald's!). There we saw many young deaf who had come in to eat. We found that they like to come by there as a rendezvous.

That night I preached my first sermon in Singapore. Some members from **Moulein Road Church** were there, as well as those from Patrick's congregation, **Pansir Panjung Church**. We had several deaf who seemed to like my sermons. In fact one deaf young man had several questions to ask me after the services.

October 1, 1988

This was Saturday morning, and Patrick took Marilyn and



Marilyn and Billy stand behind a fascinating art exhibit in front of the Singapore museum.



Marilyn and Billy pose with Foo Sek San.

myself to Mt. Faber just half a mile from his flat. On one side we had a splendid view of the harbor where we saw many ships from all over the world. On the other side we saw a stunning view of downtown Singapore. Following this, Patrick took us downtown to a hotel complex where we met **Foo Sek San**, a member of Moulein Road Church who has been active in the deaf work. I spoke with Sek San for about an hour and then we all had lunch at a Chinese restaurant.

That night at the Y.M.C.A. I preached on **"God and the World"**, explaining how God saves us from the evil world and places us in His special group (**the church**). It was well received, though one young deaf man tried to challenge me after the services. I kindly replied to him by using the **King James Version**, because he was from a group that believes only the King James Version is the correct (and inspired) translation. Hopefully my time with him helped see some of the errors he had held to.

October 2, 1988

Our Sunday morning services were held at the church building on Pansir Panjung Road. In the Bible class I taught on 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and 2:15. Then in my sermon I preached on **"God and Your Life"**. Again, we were well received. At noon, Henry Kong and his wife took Marilyn and myself to a restaurant where we had a surprisingly good Texan-type steak dinner. After lunch they returned us to the church building. There we met the deaf who themselves were returning from lunch. For an hour we chatted, comparing signs and telling of our visit to the Philippines. Then we had our workshop for the hearing, and this time the deaf helped me! These deaf were proficient in the Singapore Sign Language which is very similar to ASL. We found that the Singapore Sign Language does not have many of the idioms that American deaf use.

Later that afternoon we all went on the church van to the East Coast, where the church had rented a beach cottage. There we had an old fashioned outdoor barbecue along with tossed salad and soft drinks. Their version of soft drinks are **not** the carbonated soda pop drinks we are accustomed to here in the U.S.A. What they use are fruit-flavored drinks in boxes much as **HI-C** here in the U.S.A. sells. This is very common in Asian countries.

While we were talking, eating and enjoying ourselves, one deaf young man, **George How**, did some serious thinking. And after about an hour he finally announced he wished to be immersed into Christ for the remission of his sins. So



George How just minutes after his baptism.

we joyously went to the seaside where we watched one of the hearing brethren lower George beneath the waves.

After this joyous event, the deaf presented Marilyn and myself with tokens of appreciation --beautiful Chinese jars for Marilyn and two shirts for me, along with a souvenir plate of Singapore. Patrick took some of the deaf home on the church van, but that night the van decided to stalk again! So we had to push the van until finally it started again. Not much different from the U.S.A.!

October 3, 1988

We had a much easier time getting through immigration at the Singapore airport than we did in Manila. We bade farewell to Patrick and Judy Ong and Joseph Lee, and boarded the plane for **Hong Kong**. The flight was uneventful, though we had a spectacular view of the city from the air as we prepared for a landing.

Shortly after a taxi had taken us to the hotel where we had already reserved a room weeks before, **Bruce Au** came by. I had met him about four years before at **Gallaudet College** (now **University**), when I held my first gospel meeting for the deaf in the Washington, D.C. area. I had heard that he had returned to his home in Hong Kong, and I felt that we should make a special effort to visit with him as he is the only deaf New Testament Christian in the area. He had with him a deaf friend who knew no English, **Philip Chua**.

Bruce and Philip led us to the nearby bus stop where we boarded the bus and rode



Billy and Marilyn smile at the camera with their gifts from the deaf group of Singapore.

downtown. We had a wonderful view of the many shops and neon signs that dominate the night sky. Bruce and Philip led us to the harbor where we saw thousands of lights aglow over the hills and reflected in the water. It is a sight hard to forget! Bruce and Philip also led us to a ship at the dock where we found that an international religious organization was selling wholesome books in many lands. Naturally I browsed through and found a few books at a very reasonable price! Bruce introduced us to a hearing lady who worked on the ship who knew sign language. This lady, **Ruth**, was from Singapore. We all went out to a nearby restaurant where we ate some Chinese food. (Yes, we used chopsticks again!) Then Ruth returned to the ship and Bruce bade us good night as his home was not in the **Kowloon** area where we were now, but over on **Hong Kong Island**. Philip led us to the proper bus and rode with us back to the hotel. Philip and I were able to converse as he knew a small amount of American Sign Language and we could find signs that we both understood. He was a likeable fellow, but I was sorry when Bruce told me Philip does not believe in God. I was wishing I had more time and ability to communicate the living Christ to him. I can only hope that the bond of friendship which we forged may later close the communication gap and lead him to Christ.

October 4, 1988

In the morning Marilyn and I went downtown, riding the bus that Bruce had told us to catch. We had lunch at **McDonald's** (this time the food tasted more like American food!)



Bruce Au and Billy in Hong Kong.

and then we browsed in many shops. At 2:30 P.M. we had our rendezvous with Bruce Au. Philip could not be with us because he had to work. But Ruth from the ship did join us, bringing along a lady, who to our surprise, was from Memphis, Tennessee! We all caught a bus where we went to the school where Bruce works as a teacher of the deaf. The deaf children there use both the oral method and Hong Kong Sign Language. They do not know English! But I had learned a few Hong Kong signs from Bruce, so I could say a few words to these children. The principal led us around the different classes and was so proud of his work he tried to keep us longer to show us videotapes of the deaf school and elementary school just a few blocks away! But we didn't have time for all that, so after we viewed the tape several minutes, we politely told the principal we needed to go, and he let us go with a smile.

Shortly after this, Ruth and her companion parted from us, saying they needed to be back at the ship by 6 o'clock. Bruce led Marilyn and myself to a cafe where we had soft



Deaf pupils at Mongkok Lutheran School for the Deaf in Hong Kong. They do not know English but their smiles show they are just like other kids everywhere!

drinks. Then he bade us farewell as he had an appointment shortly after 6 o'clock. He showed us where our bus stop was, and left us. We spent a couple of hours touring the shops of the area. But when we were ready to go back to the hotel, we almost couldn't find our bus stop! After we walked several blocks, we finally found it and had a safe ride back to the hotel!

October 5, 1988

In the morning we had a call from **Jack McGhee**, missionary in Hong Kong. He apologized for not contacting us earlier, but we had come at a bad time. He had to renew his visa and was not able to meet with us. We discussed Bruce with him. Then we completed our packing and caught a taxi back to the airport. We found that there was a passageway from the airport to an elite hotel nearby, so since we had plenty of time before our flight, we went over to the elite hotel and explored their shops and ate in their restaurant. Then we returned to the airport and waited for our flight. But to our horror before we boarded the plane, the authorities would not let us bring our overnight bags on

board. I could bring my briefcase on, and Marilyn her knitting bag, but the overnight bags had to be checked. So we had to beat a hasty retreat back to the ticket counter and check our overnight bags. Then we went back and soon boarded the plane for home!

When we flew to Southeast Asia, we had lost a day. But now, coming back over the **International Date Line**, we regained a day. It is weird to realize that we left Hong Kong at 9:30 P.M. Wednesday and arrived at San Francisco at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday night! After we passed through customs, we had to wait nearly 7 hours before we could board the plane that



Magnificent view of the Pacific from the plane window.



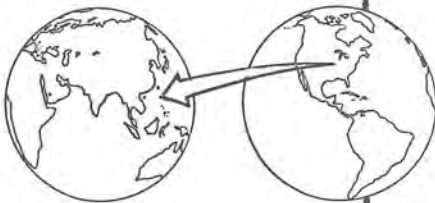
Billy grabs a few minutes to nap while waiting 7 hours in San Francisco for the flight that is to take him and Marilyn home!

took us to Dallas, and in the wee hours of the morning we boarded the plane that took us back to Memphis at 8:30 A.M. Two of our children, **Becky** and **Marty**, along with Marty's wife, **Danica**, were there to welcome us back home at the airport.



Billy and Marilyn grin as they arrive at the Memphis International airport!

Simplified map of Southeast Asia, that part of the world where Billy and Marilyn Leavell traveled.



Preaching Christ in Singapore and Malaysia

by Cliff Holladay



I am excited to tell you about the work I have been doing in Singapore and Malaysia as a result of a trip that I made last year into this area of the world.

Ever since I was a young boy, I had a desire to do mission work in the Orient. While I attended Harding Graduate School, I met a missionary couple who were working in Thailand. They were the **Thweitts**. They encouraged me to continue my dream in this endeavour. After talking with **Sam** and **Ruth Roach** about their plans to do overseas mission to the deaf, my desire was re-kindled.

I had Christian friends in Singapore and Malaysia, though I had never met them face to face. I had planned last year to visit these two areas with several reasons-- to see the culture, the people, and the work being done in this area of the world. From that time onward, I made plans to return this year for a month and teach in Singapore and Malaysia.

My focus, with the help of the **Pansur Panjang** congregation in Singapore, was to hold a workshop with an emphasis on parenting, strengthening Christian marriages, and conducting a discussion on mental illness and Christianity.

I also wanted to teach lessons in the congregations and on the campus of Singapore University. My focus on Christians was to strengthen them. And my focus on non-Christians was to help them know about the true and living God. Another emphasis was to work with the deaf congregations in Singapore and Malaysia. **Billy Leavell** was to be in Singapore for a gospel meeting later that month, thus giving **Patrick Ong** (minister for the deaf in Singapore) and myself an opportunity to visit the deaf community, have Bible study with a few deaf, and to let the deaf community as a whole know about the gospel meeting.

In Malaysia, I met with a deaf congregation located

in Kuala Lumpur where I taught the Bible class, interpreted, and preached for the deaf congregation.

One thing that I learned how to do quickly while teaching in this part of the world was "adaptability" or learning how to change lessons or material to fit the needs and desires of the people. One thing that impressed me about the Christians in this area of the world is their desire to let Christ be known to their friends and neighbors. Some of our missionaries have carried Western church problems into the Eastern churches, yet there seems to be a strength in these brethren that focuses on unity and love for the Lord. And this love for the Lord keeps them growing in their faith.

I have watched young people who did not own cars, but who knew the bus routes in their city. By this method they met together for prayer and then either walked or used the buses

to visit contacts they received through World Bible School. I met a young man who used his scooter to visit people. In fact he was described as a person who would go to the ends of the world for one lost soul. Praise God for such people who have truly made their lives a living sacrifice for Jesus Christ!

I pray that the work in this area of the world may continue as a result of congregations supporting American missionaries as well as local people who have decided to dedicate their lives as ministers of the gospel in this country.

When I, as an American and a Christian, go into an area of the world where Buddhism, Hinduism, and the Islam religion are commonly practiced, I think about the blessings that I have in the United States which I frequently take for granted. And then I focus in my own mind and actions on the responsibility of bringing Christ to the world.

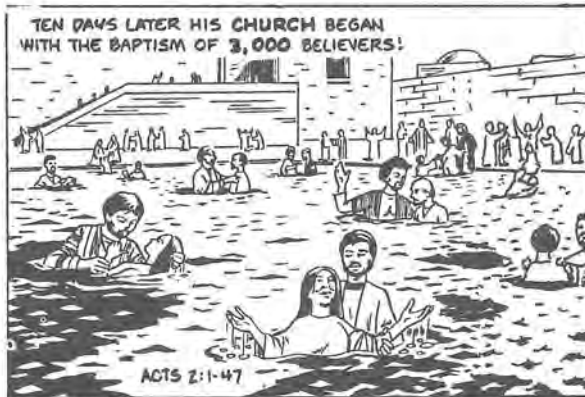
Those same Scriptures tell about Me!
--JOHN 5:39 (EVD)



But these things are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through His name. --JOHN 20:31 (EVD)

The Gospel

"FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH." -- ROMANS 1:16



How can you be saved?

Believe in Jesus.

ACTS 16:31

Repent of your sins.

LUKE 13:3

Confess your faith.

ROMANS 10:10

Be baptized for the remission of your sins.

MARK 16:16, ACTS 2:38

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The answers given to the questions below are the responsibility of the Editor. You may direct all queries to LIGHT FOR THE DEAF, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38128.

Q

Does the past mean trouble for the Christian?

A

We are not sure just what you mean. But perhaps our answer will give you the information you are looking for: Paul persecuted (did bad things to) the church of God before he himself was converted to Christ.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the group of believers there. But they were afraid of him, because they remembered his past when he did bad things against them. He probably felt heartsick when these brothers and sisters in Christ were afraid of him and refused to accept him as a true follower of Jesus. Barnabas finally convinced the Jerusalem church to accept Paul (Acts 9:26-27), but we are not told if Paul still had trouble with **some** of these brothers and

sisters because they still remembered Paul's past. It would seem to us that these brothers and sisters were uneasy around Paul for a while, but began to warm up to him when they realized that he really was now a follower of Jesus. However those who helped him persecute God's people before were angry against Paul and made trouble for him. They even tried to kill him (Acts 9:23).

There is one way that the past may be trouble for the Christian. No matter what our past was, God forgives us of all sins (1 Corinthians 6:11). But sometimes we will suffer in our bodies from something we did wrong in the past, like for example if a person was a heavy drinker or drug user before he was converted to Christ. Even though that person's sins are forgiven, he will suffer from the **effects** of his drinking or drug use. The same is true if a person had heavy sex with different people and suffers from a disease (like AIDS) although he repented of his sin and was converted to Christ.

A CORRECTION

We would like here to make a correction of a statement we made in this column last issue. **Tony Demonbreun**, hearing minister at Highland Avenue Church of Christ in Selma, Alabama, wrote us pointing out that our definition of "**adultery**" was in error. On page 18 we had said that adultery itself means "**breaking up a marriage**". This is an error. A more correct definition would be, as the EVD explains in its footnotes, the **breaking of the marriage vows by sexual sin**. We apologize for our error and appreciate Brother Demonbreun's letter.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

However Brother Demonbreun also challenged another statement that we had made on page 19 of last issue. We had said that the wife has a good reason to divorce her husband if the husband was guilty of **habitual sexual sin**. We are remaining by our statement, however. There are **two** groups with different thoughts on the meaning of **fornication**, or **sexual sin**, that destroys a marriage. One group thinks that just **one** time of sexual sin is enough to break up the marriage. The other group thinks that **a refusal to stop sexual sin** is what really breaks up the marriage. Apparently Brother Demonbreun agrees with the first group, but this editor agrees with the second group. This editor agrees that just **one** time of sexual sin can be damaging to a marriage, and sometimes may even be **enough** to destroy the marriage. But he believes that **generally** the innocent spouse should not rush into a divorce if his/her spouse has done just one time of sexual sin. An effort should **first** be made to counsel both the husband and wife and to restore the marriage as it was before. Sexual sin really should **never** be done at any time, whether inside or outside a marriage. We appreciate Brother Demonbreun, but here we disagree.

The Final Word...

Billy Leavell

Editor

In the March-April 1979 issue of **Light for the Deaf** we gave details of Sam and Ruth Roach's first trip to Southeast Asia along with photographs.

We want to tell you how thrilled we are to hear, about ten years later, that more and more deaf in other parts of the world are hearing the pure New Testament gospel.

Below is a partial list:

Roy Price of Birmingham, Alabama, has converted deaf in **Belize**, a small Central American country, and established a congregation there. He and some helpers, usually students from **Birmingham Bible School for the Deaf**, make an annual trip to this nation for a week or more of mission work.

John Pease of Lubbock, Texas, has succeeded in establishing two congregations in the **Philippines**. One is in Manila and the other in nearby Cabanatuan. When his support ran low last year, he returned to the U.S.A. with a letter signed by members of the deaf congregation begging their U.S.A. brothers and sisters to increase their support and make it possible for him to return to the Philippines. This has succeeded and he is now back in the Philippines continuing his work with the deaf.

David Bush, supported by the church in Abilene, Texas, works with the deaf in **Kenya, Africa**, and has established a congregation among the deaf there. Every two years **Jerry Drennan**, professor from Abilene Christian University, leads a mission group for six weeks of intensive work among the deaf in Kenya.

Bob Anderson of Lubbock, Texas, did some missionary work among the deaf in **India** last summer. **Hollis Maynard**, also of Lubbock, Texas, has visited Mexico.

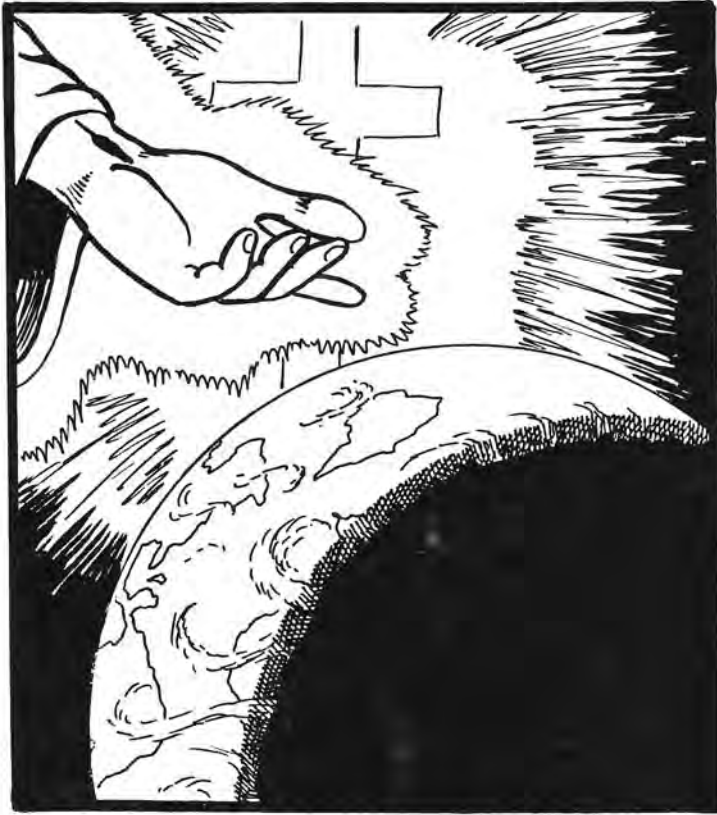
Of course there are many others that we have not mentioned, such as **Dennis Doughtry**, former editor of **Deaf Disciple**, and **Sam Hester**, present editor of **Deaf Disciple**, both making trips to **Singapore** to visit the deaf there. And of course the deaf work in Singapore is served by a native, **Patrick Ong**. There are other native deaf congregations in Australia. Without doubt there are other deaf works we do not know of. **Our Lord knows who are His people among the deaf!**

Hopefully this issue has excited you with the reports from Cliff Holladay and myself. Perhaps you can be the next missionary to the deaf in a faroff country. Or perhaps you cannot leave your own city, but you can still help with literature and Bible study material. We know of at least one deaf congregation (Danville, Kentucky) that is helping grade **World Bible School** study material. As for ourselves, we have contributed several **Light for the Deaf** comic strips with the words removed so that they can be translated into foreign languages. Possibly one day we will be able to set up some foreign edition of **Light for the Deaf!**

In a word: will you help spread the gospel? If not in other lands, then among your own people in your own city!



Sam and Ruth Roach and Billy and Marilyn Leavell before the Roaches left for Southeast Asia.



***Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners. --1 TIMOTHY 3:15 (EVD)***



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