

No. 133 JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1991

25th Anniversary issue



LIGHT for the Deaf

Exalting Christ among the Deaf

1966 * Twenty-five years of service to the Deaf * 1991

Personally from Billy



We're a bit late, but no less excited to bring this special issue to you. With this issue, we reach 25 years of continuous publication! To celebrate this milestone, we contacted several workers with the deaf who have been in the field 25 years or longer and asked each to write a special article for this issue. Unfortunately not all responded, and we lacked an adequate mailing address for one individual or two. But we can say we have Leander Moore, Loyd Williams, Sam G. Roach and W. Gordon Crocker! All are hearing impaired and all have been involved in the deaf work for New Testament Christianity more than 25 years ago.

In fact all were present at the very first Workshop for the Deaf in 1958, eight years before Light for the Deaf was begun! All have been responsible in one way or another for shaping the deaf

work as it is today. All are still active in the Lord's kingdom today and expect to for several more years! We want to thank each of these brethren for his participation. We think you will enjoy reading their writings and realizing that the gospel is the same 25 years ago, and forever will be!

As a bonus, we have another Leavell-Farmer colloration comic strip, this time based on John 9, the story of the blind man that Jesus healed. Emma Farmer has drawn Bible comic strips for over 40 years and is still going strong at 81 years of age. We thank her for giving her unique pen touches on the artwork for the Blind Man.

May God bless you as you read.

Billy Leavell
Billy Leavell
Editor

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THE GOSPEL IS E-T-E-R-N-A-L

by Loyd Williams

Out of the dawn of time, across the centuries of time and on into eternity beyond God decided several things that would happen. He knew in His great wisdom that when He made man in His image and gave man the freedom to choose that man would depart from God. So God in His great eternal love gave man a way out of his sin that would lead to eternal death.

The Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:16, "*I am proud of the Good News. The Good News is the power God uses to save every person that believes—to save the Jews first, and also to save the non-Jews.*"

The Gospel is the GOOD NEWS and the good news is that Jesus came and died for our sins, was buried and arose the third day. When Jesus our Lord died on the cross for our sins this gave us the way to have salvation from our sins.

How do we know that the Gospel is eternal? You can read in Revelation 14:6, "*Then I saw another angel flying high in the air. The angel had an eternal gospel to preach to the people who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and race of people.*" Peter tells us that the words that Jesus speaks are eternal life. (John 6:68).

Jesus says in Matthew 24:35, "*The whole world, earth and sky, will be destroyed, but the words I have said will never be destroyed!*"

CHRIST THE SAME TODAY

by Leander Moore

While I was young, I studied the Bible and found I needed to obey Christ in baptism for the remission of my sins.

In the summer of 1935, on a Monday night, there was a prayer meeting at my parents' house. I told the preacher therē (Brother Herron) that I wanted to be baptized. He asked me why. I answered, "To wash away my sins." Then he showed me some verses and asked if I believed them. I replied, "Yes." He then told the group that I was conditioned to be baptized. The next day at the bank of the Trout River in northern Jacksonville, Florida, my hometown, Brother Herron baptized me in the river. My mother was in the gathering who witnessed my baptism. I remember the happiness I felt on the way home.

The next Sunday we gathered for worship and I began to learn many things a new Christian should do. My knowledge of God has grown ever since and I have kept the faith until this day, 56 years later in the same church of Christ. I see the same gospel today that I saw then. No difference! I also have preached it since then.

The reason for giving the above story of my conversion is to show how simple the gospel can be even though it was given to the Apostles by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago. The same gospel was preached by the Apostles then that is preached by us now. It is not lost. It is in the Bible. Anyone, even today, can come to Christ and obey His gospel to be saved. The gospel will be the same years ahead and even forever. Hebrews 13:3 says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." So is the gospel!

Christ was God in the beginning. He became flesh exactly in the likeness of God on earth (John 1:1-4 and 14). He had the power of saving anybody, even in the Old Testament. Christ is able to save from the beginning to the end of our world's duration (Hebrews 7:25). Christ saved Abel, one of the first of the human family. During every period from then to the present He has been displaying His saving power. His ability to save is still alive and effective by His gospel and will keep its full power until the last sinner of our fallen world shall be brought from darkness to light and

from Satan to God (Romans 1:16).

John 8:56-58 tells us that Christ was there before Abraham. Jesus told the Jews, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." The Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus' answer was, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." That tells us Jesus was there long before then, even eternally. Christ is the same yesterday!

Also Colossians 1:15-19 says, "No person can see God. Jesus is ruler over all the things that have been made. Through His power all things were made-- things in heaven and on earth, things seen and not seen, all spiritual powers, authorities, lords and rulers. All things were made through Christ and for Christ. Christ was there before anything was made. All things continue because of Him. Christ is the head of the body (the body is the church). Everything comes from Him. He is the Lord

who was raised from the dead. So in all things Jesus is most important. God was pleased for all of Himself to live in Christ." Since God is eternal and Christ helped create all things, Christ is also eternal. Christ is the same yesterday and forever!

Now Christ rules us in this Christian age with His gospel of salvation, and we all can have the promise of eternal life. Christ is the same today!

The gospel has the same conditions of salvation for all time. A sinner is to meet them in order to be saved from sins. They are: (1) Believe Jesus Christ; (2) Repent of your sins; (3) Confess Christ as Lord, the Son of God; (4) Be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins. Then God adds the saved to the church and the person becomes a new Christian who needs to stay faithful to Him using the New Testament for spiritual growth till death. Then he will receive the promised life eternal. The gospel of Christ is the same today till the end of time.



FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

by W. Gordon Crocker

In all of the world we have many battles against infections, disease, foes, ignorance and sufferings. There are domestic struggles to maintain marital harmony and to raise your children with the training and teaching of the Lord. But the most important conflicts are fought on the spiritual level which the scriptures call "the good fight of faith". Remember those days when you first learned the truth. You had a hard struggle with many sufferings but you continue strong (Hebrews 10:32). The Christian life is often represented as a conflict or warfare (1 Timothy 6:12):

The church faces enemies. Be careful of false prophets. They come to you and look gentle like sheep. But they are really dangerous like wolves (Matthew 7:15). Sometimes the foes are invisible. Be careful what you think, your thoughts control your life (Proverbs 4:32). So we need to put on the whole armor of God so we can fight against the devil's evil tricks (Ephesians 6:11,16).

This is faith that wins the victory against the world. The person who overcomes the world believes that Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 5:4,5).

Faith is the victory,
Faith is the victory,
Faith is the victory,
That overcomes the world.

CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD!

by Sam G. Roach

On one occasion while Jesus was teaching a group of people, a woman from the crowd said to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breast that nursed You." Jesus answered her, "**More than that, blessed are those [people] who HEAR the word of God and KEEP It**" (Luke 11:27,28)*.

Many people who decide to obey the gospel of Christ and to become Christians, **do not** continue to be faithful to God very long. Each Christian who fails to remain faithful **does not** understand the importance of preparing for eternal life with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does the word "faithful" mean? "Faithful" means to be **loyal or worthy of trust**, like a faithful friend or a faithful servant of God. This faithful servant (any person who serves

God) uses his time wisely, daily, living and doing things that make God happy and pleased with him.

Each person has two choices in life. He is free to choose which: **One**, to obey God, and to do things daily to please God until death; or **Two**, not to obey God, and to suffer eternal punishment in "flaming fire" after Judgment Day.

People who become Christians are to "continue stedfastly [*faithfully*] in the apostles' doctrine [*teaching*] and fellowship, in the breaking of bread [*the Lord's Supper*], and in prayer" (Acts 2:42). "Now all who believed were together, and had all things common... So continuing daily with one accord..." (Acts 2:44,46).

EXAMPLES OF WHAT FAITHFULNESS DOES FOR PEOPLE WHO OBEY GOD'S TEACHING

Before the great flood, "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that

**All references, unless otherwise stated, are from the New King James Bible.*

every intent [*aim, purpose*] of the thoughts of his [*man's*] heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Because of the sinfulness of the people on the earth, the Lord God said He would destroy all flesh. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord". Why? Because "Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:8,9c). "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

God "did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:5).

All the people who refused and failed to respect God and to obey God's preaching through Noah, were punished and destroyed with the ancient world.

Why did God say to Abraham, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"? God's answer: "Because you [*Abraham*] obeyed My [*God's*] voice" (Genesis 22:18). And why did Abraham obey God? Because by faith Abraham desired "a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore [*for this reason*], God is not ashamed to be called their [*the faithful people's*] God, for He [*God*] has prepared a city [*home in heaven*] for them" (Hebrews 11:16).

Faithfulness meant much in the life of the apostle Paul. First, he thought he had to fight against the name of Jesus, and persecuted those who believed in Jesus (Acts 26:1-23). But Paul changed and now followed Jesus. Through the years, Paul suffered because he was teaching and preaching Christ to save all people possible. The unbelieving Jews in different cities caused much trouble against Paul. Several times the unbelievers tried to kill Paul for teaching the truth. Paul had been whipped, stoned and shipwrecked, but he continued to be faithful to God in all things. Jesus said, "But he who endures [*continues*] to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Don't be foolish with your life. **You must continue to be faithful each day you are blessed with life on earth, doing only what the Bible says will please God.** If you want to go to heaven, you must continue to love God and continue to meet together with the Lord's family to worship God in spirit and truth every week. NOT just once a year, or once a month, **BUT EVERY WEEK.** **You cannot continue enjoying the pleasures of the world and expect to go to heaven.**

The Bible says, "If we say we have fellowship with Him [*God*], and walk in darkness [*sin*], we lie and do not practice truth. But if we walk in the light as He [*God*] is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of

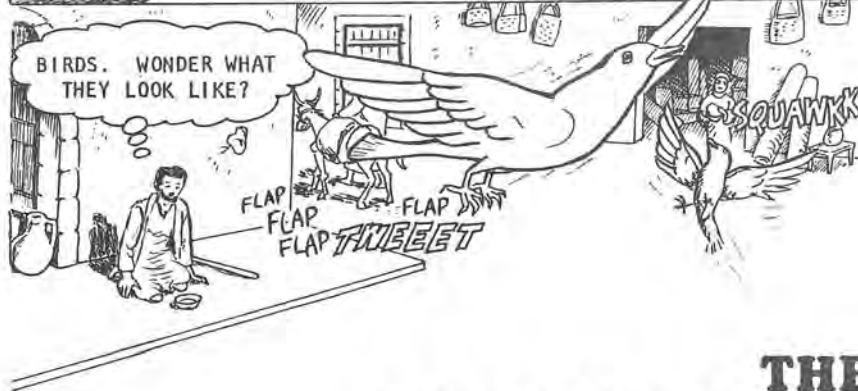
Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:6,7).

Always remember: If you expect to go to heaven, you **must** continue using your life faithfully *daily*, doing **ONLY** the things pleasing to God. If you continue using your life daily doing your best to serve God, you will be able to say as the apostle Paul did: "The time of my departure is at hand [*near*]. I have fought the good fight, I have

finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Jesus said, "**Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life**" (Revelation 2:10c).





THE BLIND MAN

This story based on John 9





WHY ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT MY BLINDNESS? THEY OUGHT TO HELP ME AS I CAN'T WORK DUE TO MY BLINDNESS!

LORD, WAS IT BECAUSE THIS MAN SINNED, OR BECAUSE HIS PARENTS SINNED, THAT CAUSED HIM TO BE BORN BLIND?

NO, IT WASN'T BECAUSE HE SINNED, OR BECAUSE HIS PARENTS SINNED, THAT CAUSED HIM TO BE BORN BLIND.



IT WAS SO **GOD'S POWER** WOULD BE SHOWN THROUGH HIM!



AS LONG AS I AM IN THE WORLD, I AM THE **LIGHT** OF THE WORLD.



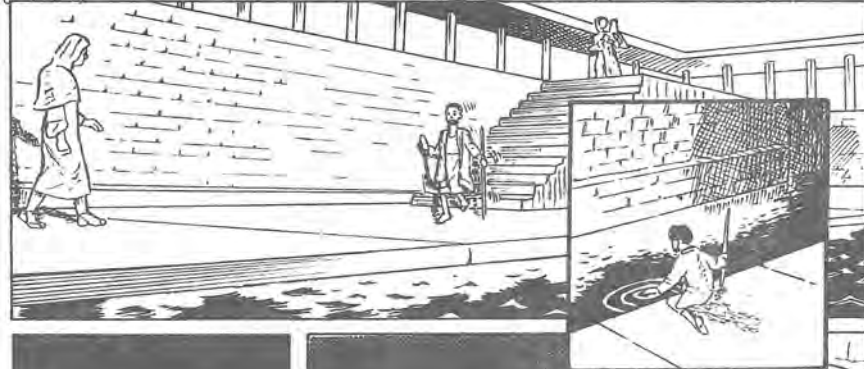
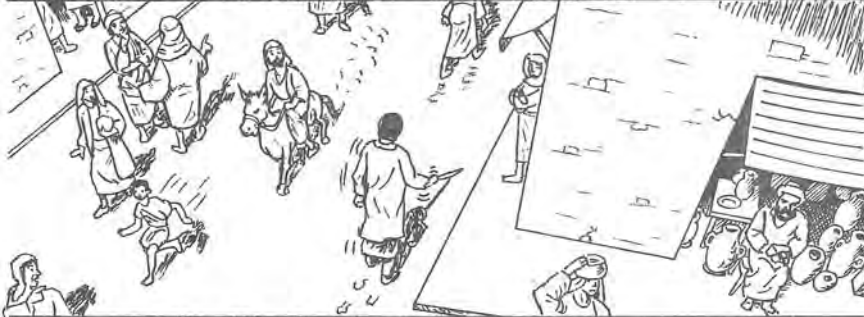
I HEAR HIM SPITTING ON THE GROUND. WHAT'S HE DOING?...

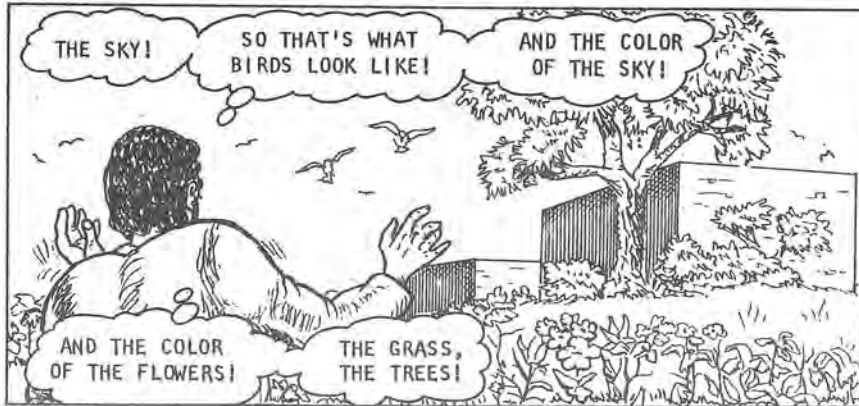
HUH? WHAT'S HE DOING? HE'S MADE SOME MUD OUT OF THE DIRT HE SPAT ON AND PUT IT ON MY EYES!

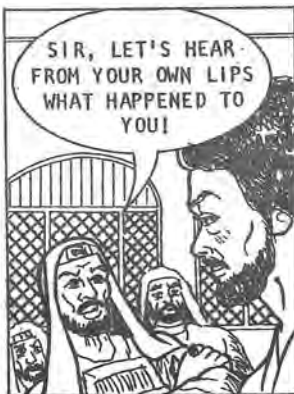
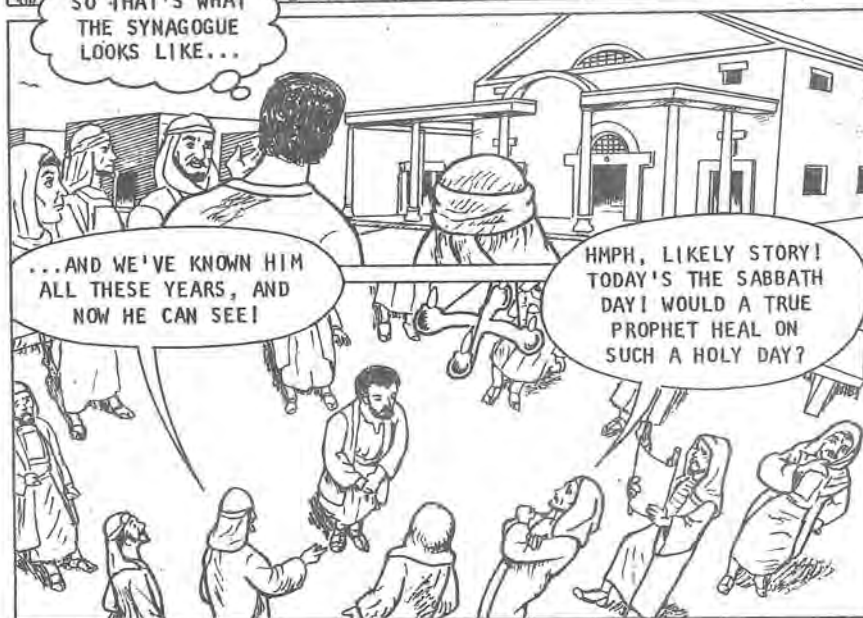


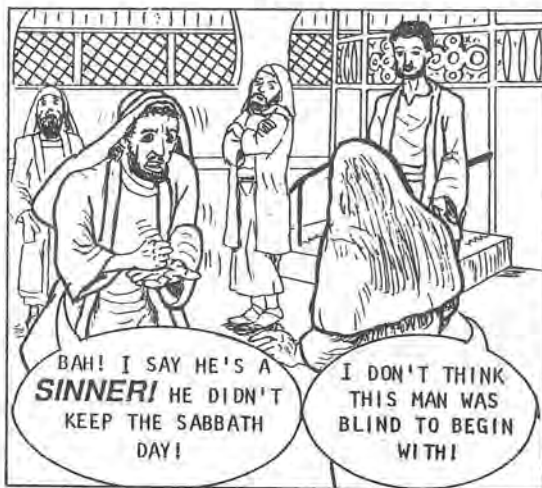
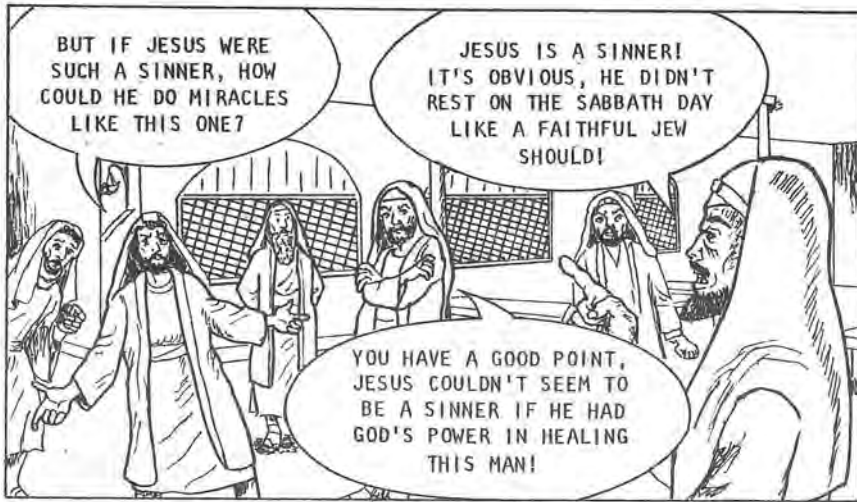
GO, WASH IN THE POOL OF SILOAM.

I WONDER WHY?



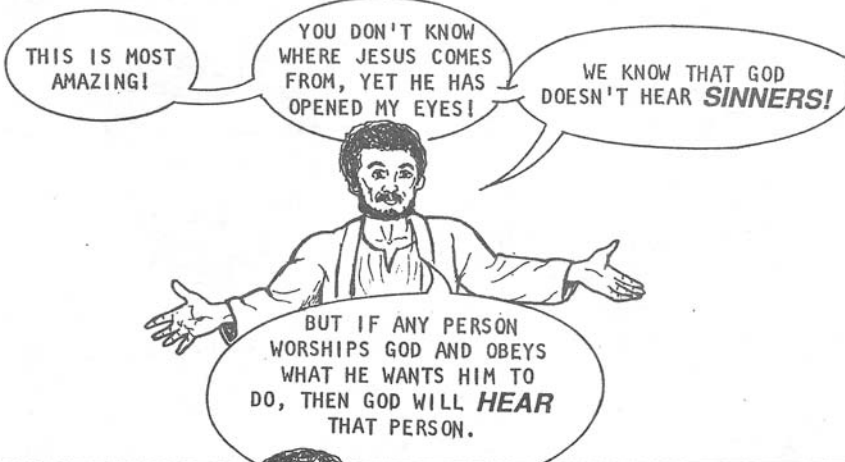
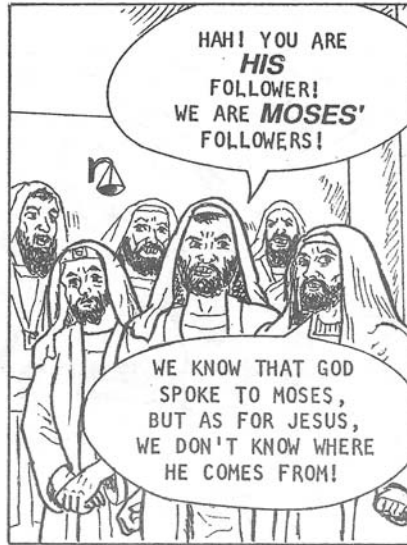


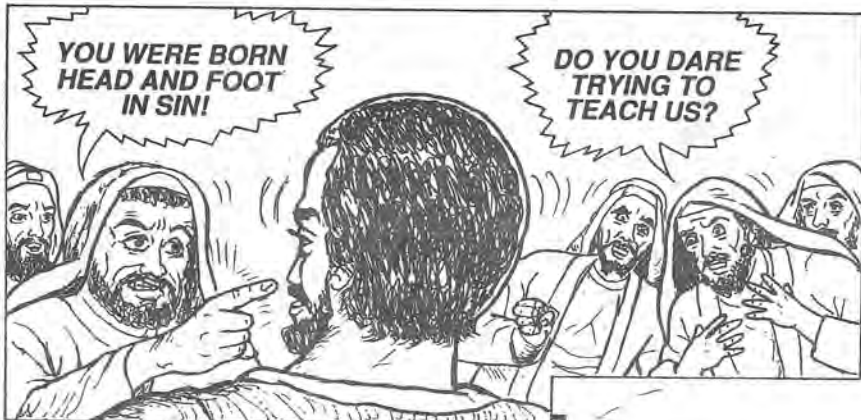


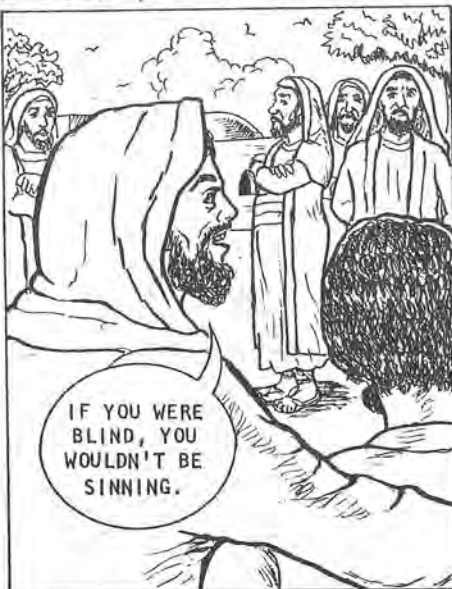
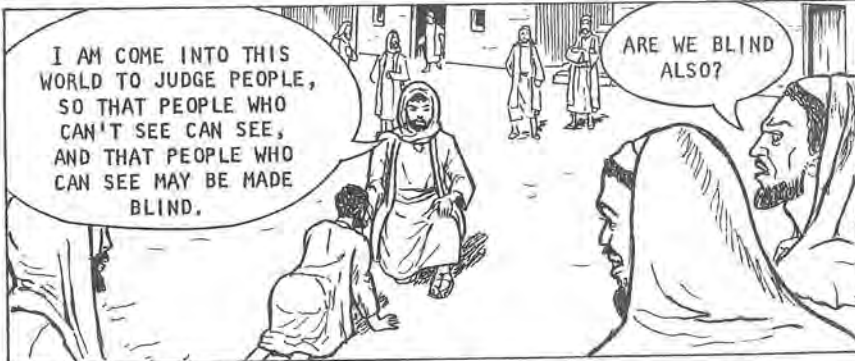












Mission to AFRICA



Building where the Nairobi Church of Christ meets. Not only does it house both the hearing and deaf congregations, it also houses a trade school.



The 11th and Willis Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas sponsors a missionary expedition to the deaf of Kenya in Eastern Africa every two years. This expedition is led by Dr. Jerry Drennan, professor at Abilene Christian College, who also works with the deaf at 11th and Willis Church. Past deaf participants have been Loyd Williams,

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hensley and Earl Lee Birdwell. Hearing participants usually know sign language and are able to help with the deaf work in Kenya.

This year, 1991, Loyd Williams again went, with Billy Leavell joining the expedition for the first time. Hearing members of the party were Hollis Maynard, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Blasingame, Mr. and Mrs. Kent Roberts, Randy Consford, and of course Jerry Drennan. This group spent a month in Kenya working with the deaf.

Jerry Drennan and David Bush, a vocational missionary in Nairobi, toured several of the



Jerry Drennan packs suitcases full of EVD New Testaments.



Billy Leavell sits with his new deaf friends in Uganda. The man on his right holds an EVD New Testament!

neighboring countries round about Kenya checking out the deaf work. A deaf Kenyan also accompanied them. Billy Leavell and Mr. and Mrs. Kent Roberts accompanied missionary Steve Greek and deaf Kenyan Charles Atieno to Kampala, Uganda for a few days. They had a warm reception by the Uganda Association of the Deaf.

Much of the time was spent in visiting several schools for the

deaf and putting on Bible skits for the children there. Also meetings were held with the deaf adults who are followers of Christ in an effort to help mature them in the faith. One way in which this was done was having Loyd Williams, Hollis Maynard and Billy Leavell spend time with local deaf nationals, sleeping and eating in their homes. It was an unique experience and probably benefitted the American missionaries more

They may be tomorrow's deaf leaders of Kenya-- all the more reason they need to be reached with the gospel!





Hollis Maynard, Loyd Williams, Billy Leavell, Sherri and Kent Roberts and Randy Consford lead a song at a deaf school in Kenya.

than their Kenyan hosts.

The group gained new friends

and a new respect for a different culture as well as a different sign language. The gospel is the same in all nations!

Some Congratulations Received for this Issue

"Accept my congratulations on the occasion of your 25th anniversary of publishing **Light for the Deaf**. Certainly, you have done a very good work for God among the deaf for all these years. May God richly bless you and keep His light shining among the deaf through **Light for the Deaf**."

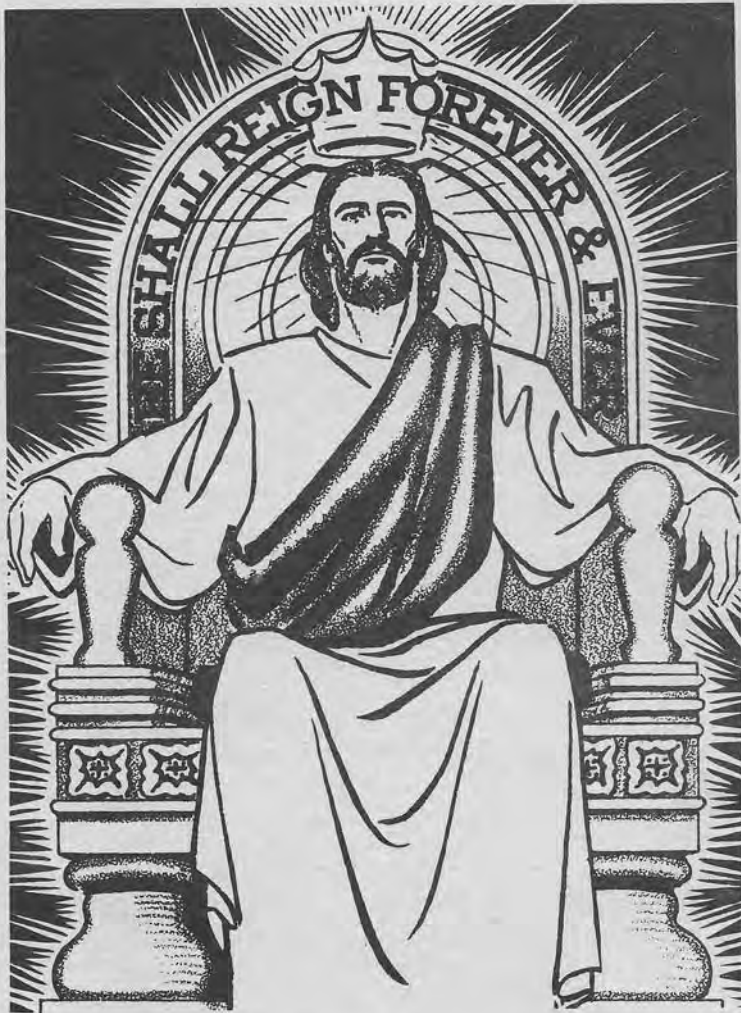
--Fred Asare, editor,
The Christian Signer,
Ghana, West Africa

"Thank you for asking me to write an article and I wish you the best of luck for the anniversary bulletin."

--Leander Moore, deaf evangelist,
Knoxville, Tennessee

"Congratulations on the 25th anniversary issue."

--W. Gordon Crocker, deaf deacon,
Pampa, Texas



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