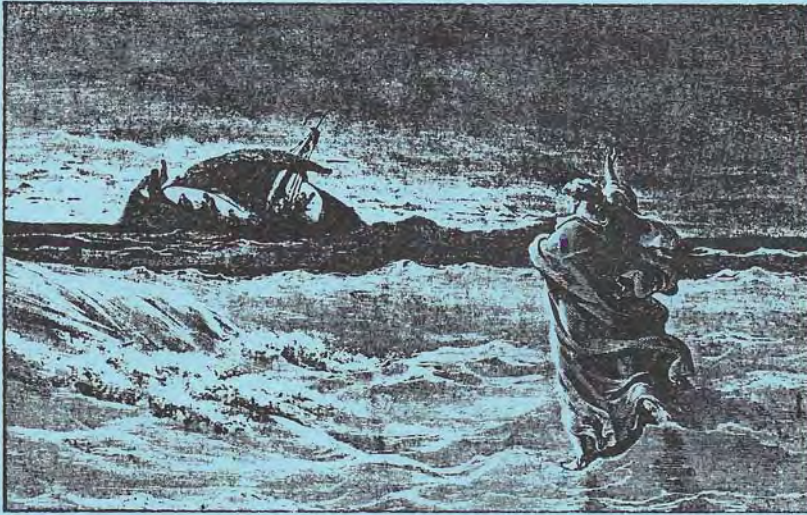


Volume 27 No. 143 January/February/March/April 1994



Exalting CHRIST among the Deaf

Light
for the Deaf



Personally from Billy

We had hoped in this issue to feature the last part of our presentation on ***Christ's Prophecies about the End and His Coming***, which began in the October/November/December 1992 issue (#138). But we were not able to complete the material in time, though we think it definitely will be in the next issue. We hope you will enjoy and benefit from this present issue. The comic strip on our Lord's ***Amazing Water Walk*** should remind us of His power over nature, and ultimately His power to save us from sin through His wonderful gospel.

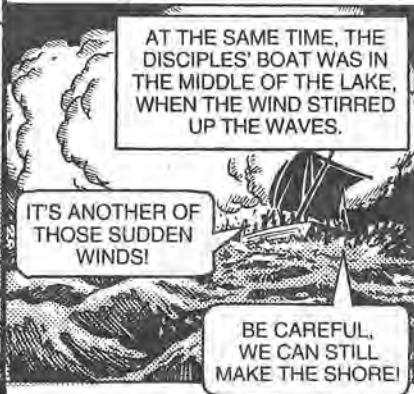
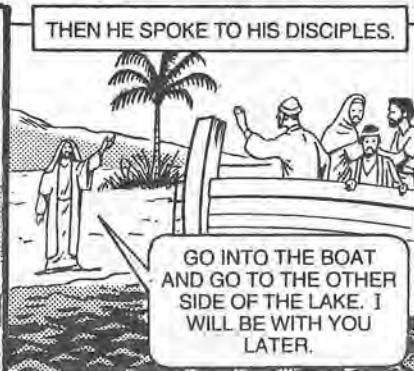
We also have a few selections from church bulletins for the deaf round the world, including the very first article from **George Myers'** very first church bulletin for the deaf which he launched just recently in Tacoma, Washington. And we have a brand-new article from **Gary Chadwick** of Fairview, Tennessee. Plus we have a contribution from **Emma H. Farmer** of Nashville, Tennessee, which we had held for some time. Be sure to see the "ad" for the **National Workshop for the Deaf** on the inside back cover. The Lord willing, I will be at this workshop. I hope you can, too!

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The Amazing WATER WALK

This story from Matthew 14:24-36; Mark 6:47-56; John 6:16-21



SUDDENLY, THEY SAW A FIGURE WALKING OUT OF THE DARK-- **ON THE WATER!**



YAHH!

YIII! IT'S A GHOST!

BE OF GOOD CHEER!
IT'S ME! DON'T BE AFRAID!



LORD! IF IT'S REALLY **YOU**,
TELL ME TO COME
TO YOU-- **ON THE WATER!**



COME.



PETER FOUND HIMSELF ACTUALLY **WALKING** ON THE WATER TOWARD JESUS!



GASP-- I'M **REALLY** WALKING ON THE WATER!



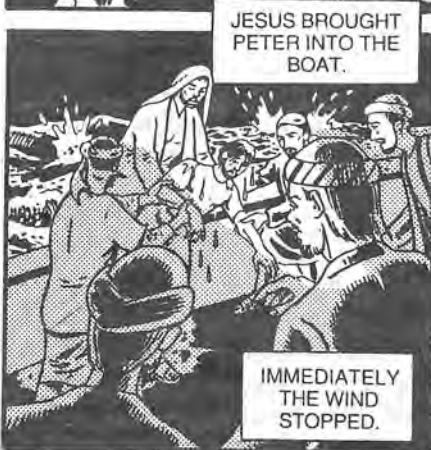
BUT PETER SAW HOW STRONG THE WIND WAS, AND HOW HIGH THE WAVES WERE, AND HE BECAME FRIGHTENED.

AND HE BEGAN TO SINK INTO THE WATER!



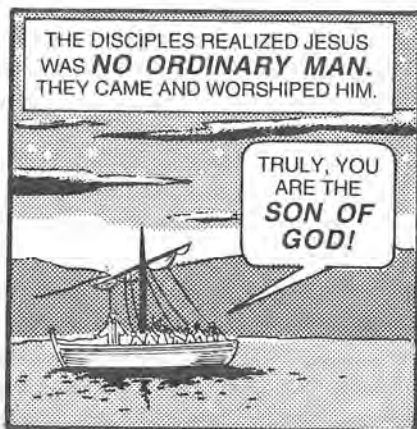
HELP!
LORD, SAVE ME!

PETER! YOU HAVE SUCH **LITTLE FAITH!** WHY DID YOU DOUBT?



JESUS BROUGHT PETER INTO THE BOAT.

IMMEDIATELY THE WIND STOPPED.



THE DISCIPLES REALIZED JESUS WAS **NO ORDINARY MAN.** THEY CAME AND WORSHIPED HIM.

TRULY, YOU ARE THE **SON OF GOD!**

A Humble Servant-- A True Asset

by Dan McVey

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the *Christian Signer*, a paper for the Christian deaf in Ghana, Africa. Dan McVey is an American missionary in that nation.

There is a proverb that says, "*If a bird flies from the ground to an ant hill, he is still on the ground.*"

In this life, we have so many problems, opportunities and decisions to make. There are many temptations and troubles. Many of our problems come upon us because we have no way to prevent them. Other problems come to us because we ourselves cause them. One such problem that we bring upon ourselves is pride. No matter what we are able to do in this life-- no matter how great it is-- we must never allow pride to spoil our relationship with others.

Actually, there is no place for pride because no matter how great we may be, we are yet only human beings with all of our weaknesses. A bird may think he has gone somewhere as he sits on an anthill, but really he is still on the ground. After all, what has he done-- only shifted position slightly-- he is still a bird, and still on the ground.

When we speak to one another with pride, become jealous of one another, criticize harshly, despise others, think we are better than others, then we have allowed pride to lift us up. Jesus said, "Whoever exalts himself shall be brought low, but whoever humbles himself shall be brought high" (Luke 18:14). We are always exhorted by the Scriptures to humble ourselves, so that God will make a way for us-- 1 Peter 5:6, James 4:10. All glory must go to God; we are His servants.

Another part that pride plays is in bringing contention, strifes and disagreements. Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride do contentions come, but the wise listen to advice." In our homes, work places, schools and church, it is pride that causes people to argue, despise one another, and not to be at peace. If I always think my way is the best or my idea is the only good one, I have allowed pride to spoil me. By having humility and patience with one another, we can avoid so many problems.

I heard a story about Abraham Lincoln, one of America's greatest Presidents. He said that after he was elected and went to live in the President's mansion, he woke up the first morning and he thought, "I am the President of the United States of America!" Then he reached for his trousers and realized that he was still wearing the same clothes that he had worn before becoming the President. He put on his trousers and said to his wife, "I may be the President, but I am still only Abe Lincoln, a poor lawyer." He kept those same clothes to remind himself that he was always just the same man. He proved himself to be one of the most humble and effective Presidents America ever had. He humbled himself and God exalted him.

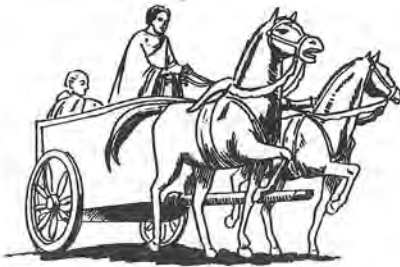
We would all do well to remember that when the bird sits on the anthill, he is still on the ground. Let not pride be found among us.



**"Come near to God
and God will come
near to you."
James 4:8, EVD**

CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE

by George Myers



Have you noticed a lot of changes in this world compared to 10, 20, or 50 years ago? Can you think of some amazing changes that have happened in your lifetime? There is always something new that may change our lifestyles.

In the deaf world, things have changed since about 30 years ago. More public schools are now accepting deaf children in their classrooms, more programs on TV are now captioned, and better ways to communicate with the hearing on the phone are made possible by the relay service, etc. Beginning last year, U.S. law now requires all new TV sets made to have close-caption chips built into them for the deaf.

The world has changed, people's lifestyles have changed, but the Word of God (the Bible) has not changed because God never changes. God said, "I am the Lord, and I don't change" (Malachi 3:6). He is the same God that we should serve today. Let's be happy that God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Problems in the Church: An Open Letter

by Mike Atteberry

Editor's Note: This item appeared in the December 12, 1993 issue of *Good News from Dahlia Street*, a publication of Dahlia Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado, where Mike Atteberry labors as minister to the deaf. We thought you would benefit from reading it.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It seems to me that many of you are easily discouraged or get your feelings hurt by someone in church. Or possibly you don't always agree with the way things are going or being done. I know some of you have stopped coming to Bible classes and worship services because you see too many problems among our brethren. Or you have stopped coming because you have other plans or have family problems that prevent you from attending services.

My brothers and sisters, whenever we are struggling with various problems in our own lives, there is only one place for refuge and that place is found only in the church. Whenever we are faced with problems in life, do not give up by not coming to church services. There are problems everywhere we go, at home, work, school, church, society, government, friends, families and the list goes on and on. Did you expect the church to be free of problems? Where ever there are people, problems and conflicts will always be there, only because there is *sin* in the world.

The apostle Paul saw and faced many problems everywhere he went. For example, the church in Corinth had tons of problems according to 1 Corinthians. They had a man that was committing adultery with his father's wife and many of the members did many other sexual sins. Paul rebuked them for not eating the Lord's Supper in the right way. The Corinthian Christians were greatly influenced by worldly philosophy, idol worship, and even were causing division in the church about who they liked best. The apostle Paul did not let all these problems stop him from worshipping God with all the brothers and sisters at Corinth!!

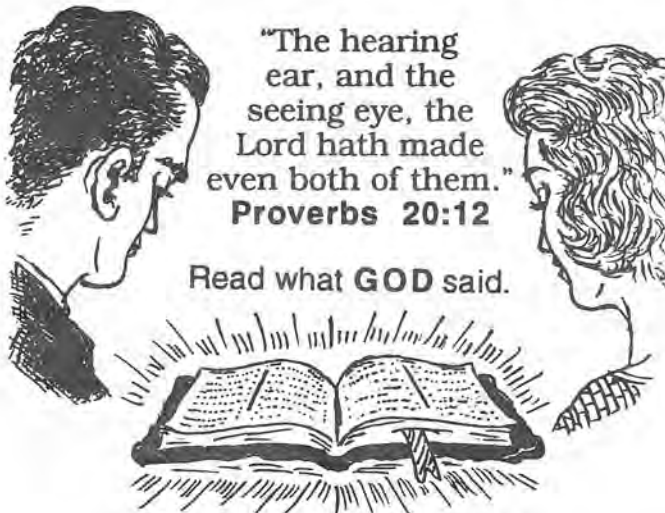
Think about it. Even Paul had many of his own personal problems as

recorded in 2 Corinthians 11:16-31. Paul did not let his own problems stop him from praising or worshiping God.

Let me ask you some personal questions, my brothers and sisters. Did you stop coming to church services because you have seen too many problems in the church? What church doesn't have problems? Are you being influenced by the world with its ideas and philosophies? Are your friends influencing or turning you away from God without you realizing it? I encourage you *not* to stop coming to Bible classes and worship services because you will miss out on being encouraged by others and the peace of mind you could have received by worshiping God. **ONLY** Jesus can give you the peace you need in your life by faithfully trusting in Him. Why not bring all your sins and problems to Jesus? He promises to give you peace of mind and rest from your heavy burdens (problems). Please read Matthew 11:28-30 and Hebrews 10:23-31.

With Prayers and Love,
Michael R. Atteberry

GOD HAS GIVEN US A BOOK CALLED THE HOLY BIBLE.



"The hearing
ear, and the
seeing eye, the
Lord hath made
even both of them."
Proverbs 20:12

Read what **GOD** said.

**THE BIBLE KEEPS YOU
FROM SIN.**

**SIN KEEPS YOU FROM
THE BIBLE.**

BY EMMA H. FARMER

ETERNITY



"We have sufferings now.
But the sufferings we have
now are nothing compared
to the great glory that will
be given to us."

Romans 8:18, EVD

See how very brief our sufferings
on earth, compared to **ETERNITY!**
Where will you spend eternity?

*Here's how you can be sure you will spend eternity with the
Lord:*

- Believe in the Lord and you will be saved. **Acts 16:31, EVD.**
- Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38, EVD.**
- But be faithful, even if you have to die. If you continue faithful, then I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:10, EVD.**

SALVATION IS ALSO FOR THOSE BORN DEAF

Editor's Note: This selection is from the June, 1993 edition of *"The Truth in Love"*, a publication of City Beach Church of Christ at Perth, Australia. We thought you would appreciate it.

"Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears. Then Jesus spit and touched the man's tongue. Jesus looked up to the sky and made a breathing sound. Jesus said to the man, 'Ephphatha!' (This means, 'Open!'). When Jesus did this, the man was able to hear. The man was able to use his tongue and spoke clearly."

[Mark 7:33-35, English Version for the Deaf (EVD)].

Those born deaf cannot learn the spoken language of the hearing people around them without a lot of special effort and training, and even then they may not match their hearing counterparts in facility with such language. They may prefer sign language.

Nevertheless, deaf people are just as much candidates for eternal salvation as anyone else. Indeed Galatians 3:28 might be legitimately paraphrased to read: *"In Christ there is no difference between Jew and Greek... and no difference between hearing and deaf... You are all the same in Christ Jesus"* (EVD).

The same good news of salvation must be told to deaf people as to other people. And it must be told just as it was when first preached by Jesus' apostles in the city of Jerusalem. (Read the New Testament book of ACTS, chapter 2).

The apostles told it first in Jerusalem on a Sunday morning seven weeks after Jesus' death. They told people that Jesus rose from the dead and had spoken to them, telling them to tell this good news to everyone. So the apostles began to tell everyone they needed to believe in Jesus, change their ways, and want to follow Jesus, and to be baptised in Jesus' name so that God would forgive them and save them for heaven. This is what Jesus told His apostles to teach everywhere. (Read Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47; John 20:29-31.) This is why the apostle Peter said to the people in Jerusalem: *"Change your hearts and lives! And each one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins"* (Acts 2:38, EVD).

A lot of those people believed and were baptised (Acts 2:41). In the following days *"more and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding those people to the group (or church) of believers"* (Acts 2:47, EVD). The gospel is the same today.

TWO ODD BROTHERS

By Gary Chadwick

Luke 15:11-32 tells the story of two sons. The younger son pictures the sins of the body, while the older son pictures the sins of the attitude. The younger son was lost in another country, while the older son was lost at home.

There is no difference between "big" sin and "small" sin, but the kind of sin that each son may have can make a big difference.

The Sin of the Younger Son

The younger son refused to obey his father. He demanded his father to share his wealth with his two sons. He "gathered up all that he had and left" home against his father's will. He went to another country and "wasted his money like a fool" (v. 13).

Then the younger son got into big trouble. There was no rain and no food in that country. He became "hungry and needed money" (v. 14). He was forced to work for a man to feed pigs. Pigs were something that the Jews hated to deal with. As the younger son was working inside the pig's fence, he became "so hungry that he wanted to eat the food that the pigs were eating. But no person gave him anything" (v. 16).

Then his eyes popped wide open! He realized how plentiful food was back at his father's home. He also realized how foolish he was as a sinner. He felt unworthy to be called his father's son. He wanted his father to treat him as one of his hired servants. So he left his job and went back home. Why? Because he learned his lesson the hard way that having fun in sin was **not worth it!**

The Sin of the Older Son

The older son obeyed his father faithfully. He kept his "good" name. He did not sow "wild oats" like his younger brother did. He worked hard in the field to "earn" his father's respect. But he had one sad weakness when his brother came home.

The older brother was a good person, but something was wrong with his attitude toward his younger brother. He found out that his brother had come home safely and that his father had given his younger son a "Welcome Home" party. He became upset and angry (see Ephesians 4:26). He refused to join the party. He thought that his father's grace was not only unnecessary but also wrong!

Continued next page →

His father had to go out and beg him to come in. But he complained bitterly to his father. "I have served you like a slave for many years!" (v. 29). But his father wanted sons, not slaves.

The older son was self-righteous. He boasted to his father, saying, "I have always obeyed your commands" (see Luke 18:1-12). He did not admit one sin in his life while his younger brother was open and loud and honest in his confession of sins.

He was feeling sorry for himself when he said to his father, "You never gave a party for me and my friends" (see 1 Corinthians 12:26 and 13:4).

He was hateful when he told his father, "Your other son." He would not call him "my brother" (see 1 John 4:20).

He was judging his younger brother without proof. He was accusing his brother of spending all his money on prostitutes. There are three ways of judging another person: (1) Hire private

detectives; (2) Use old gossip, or (4) Invent lies. The older brother's imagination of sin was worse than his younger brother's action of sin. He wanted to hurt his younger brother. He would not forgive him, but his father did.

Conclusion

The father had run to give his prodigal son a hug, but he went out and begged his older son to come into his house. He did not call him "servant" or "slave", but "son" in a loving way (see 1 John 3:2). He promised his son with two things:

(1) Eternal fellowship: "You are always with me."

(2) His wealth: "All that I have is yours" (see 1 Corinthians 3:21-22).

The father tried **love** as the only way to reunite brother to brother. He said, "Your brother." So the problem in life is not being sons but being brothers to each other.

CHRIST IS
THE ONLY
WAY...



ARE YOU
FOLLOWING HIM?

(John 14:6)

Thank You!

We have had numerous letters from our readers telling us of their change of address. Thank you very, very much! You have saved us quite some money because the Post Office charges us 35 cents for each person who moves without telling us. But there's still some people out there who want to receive **Light for the Deaf**, but just plain forgot to tell us when they moved. May we remind you to please let us know when you move! And also please include your old address so we can find it quickly on the computer and make the necessary changes.

C H R I S T
O U R S T R E N G T H

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



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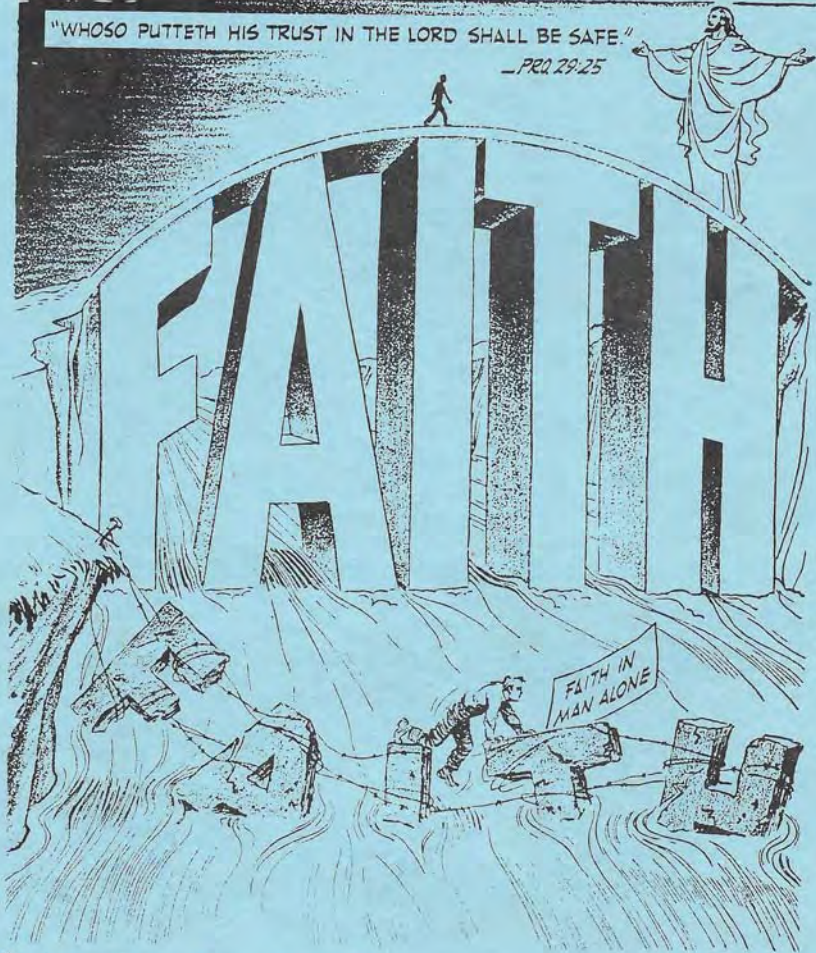
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HOW SPAN YE THE TIDE ?

"WHOSO PUTTETH HIS TRUST IN THE LORD SHALL BE SAFE."

—PRQ 29:25



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