

# LIGHT

**for the Deaf**

*Exalting Christ among the Deaf*

JANUARY ● FEBRUARY ● MARCH ● APRIL  
● MAY ● JUNE ● AUGUST 2003  
NUMBER 173



© 1988 VOLK



Published quarterly  
by **White Station  
Church of Christ**,  
1106 Colonial Road,  
Memphis, TN 38117-  
5599.

**Phone:**  
(901) 761-2007

**Fax:**  
(901) 761-2019

**E-mail:**  
WLeavell@aol.com.

*Subscription is free,  
though donations are  
gladly welcomed.*

No. 173  
January-February-  
March-April-May-  
June-July-August  
2003

Billy Leavell,  
Editor

PRINTED IN THE  
U.S.A.

**F**inally, we are back! This has been a busy year for your editor. Earlier in the year he accompanied Hal Suddreth to the country of Belize in Central America for mission work with the deaf for a week. After this, he worked to prepare for his lesson at the National Workshop for the Deaf at Hermitage Church of Christ in Hermitage, TN which was held in June. Then he prepared for his second mission trip in the year, when he went with Steve Greek and Jerry Drennan to Kenya and Uganda, Africa in July. Almost immediately upon his return to the USA, he went to the Christian Camp for the Deaf. However he was ill because of jet lag and because he came from Kenya's cool climate into the hot wave that then ravaged the MidSouth USA!



Even now he has been working to prepare for another trip to Africa, this time to Ghana. He is to depart in late September and to return in early October.

Sadly, *Light for the Deaf* has been neglected. We are working to rectify this, though we will have to date this issue eight months in 2003!

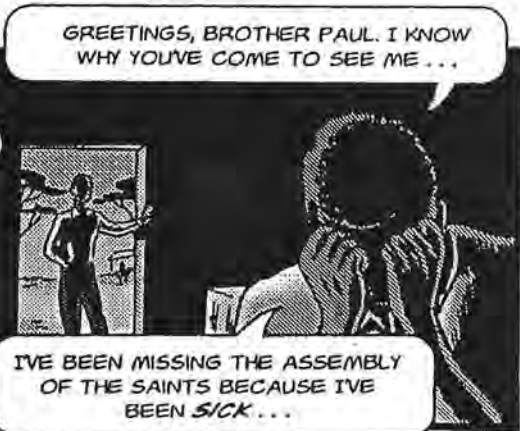
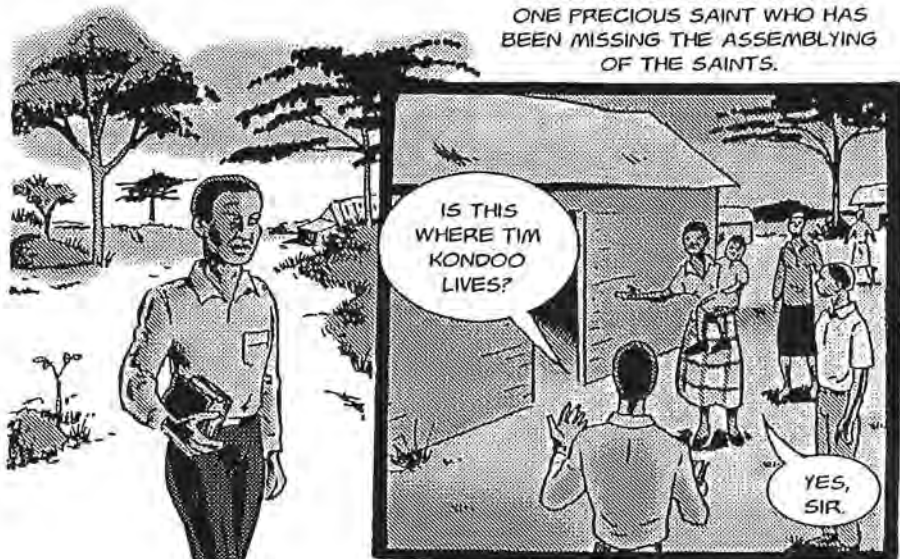
Since we have been to Africa last summer and plan to be there again this fall, we have some material in this issue that is connected with Africa. First, we have a comic strip, *Consequences*, which was included in a special African issue of *Light for the Deaf* for distribution among our Kenyan and Ugandan friends. Then we have an article from Charles Otieno, deaf preacher of Kenya. We think you'll profit spiritually from both.

With God's love and blessings,

# CONSEQUENCES

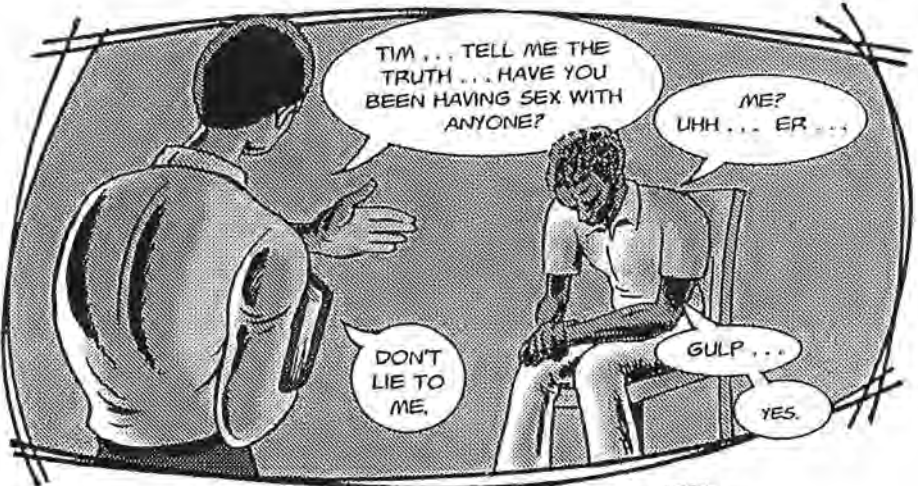
MEET PAUL MWENENZI . . . THE TRAVELING EVANGELIST WHO TOURS HIS COUNTRY, VISITING THE FAITHFUL AND THE UNFAITHFUL . . .

TODAY HE IS SEARCHING FOR ONE PRECIOUS SAINT WHO HAS BEEN MISSING THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS.

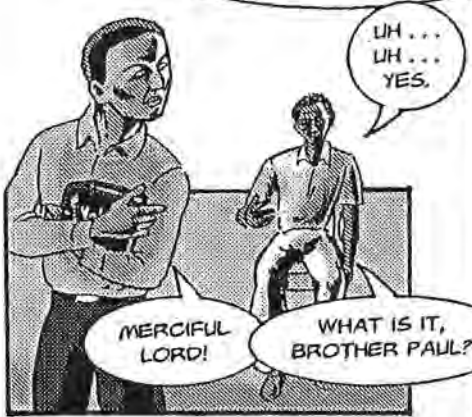


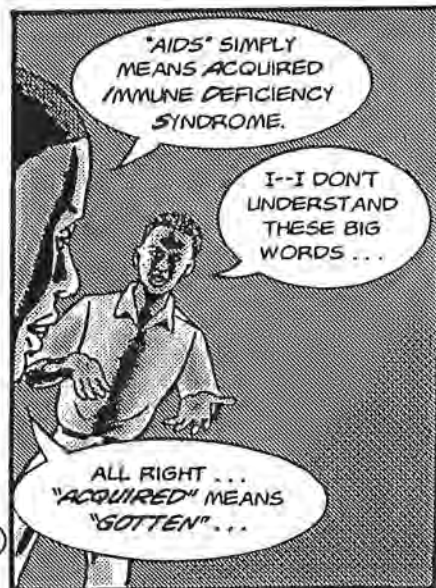
I'VE BEEN MISSING THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS BECAUSE I'VE BEEN *SICK* . . .

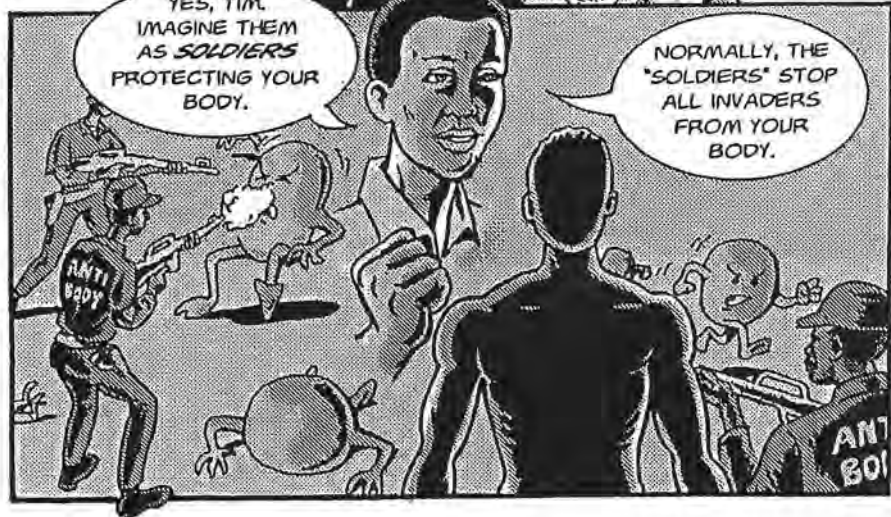
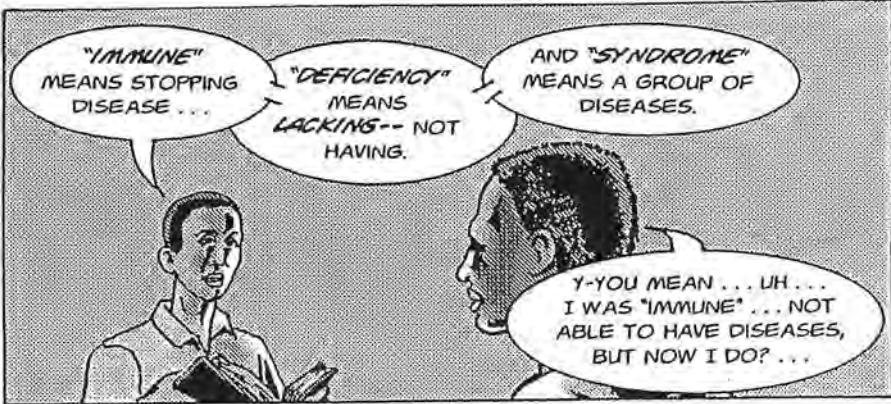


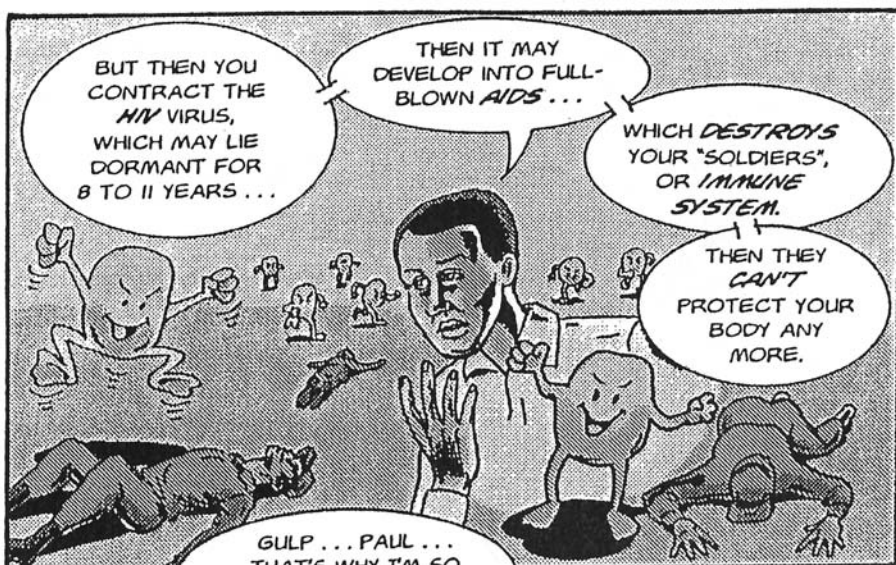


THE ONE WHO RECENTLY DIED FROM AIDS?









BUT THEN YOU CONTRACT THE *HIV* VIRUS, WHICH MAY LIE DORMANT FOR 8 TO 11 YEARS ...

THEN IT MAY DEVELOP INTO FULL-BLOWN *AIDS* ...

WHICH *DESTROYS* YOUR "SOLDIERS", OR *IMMUNE SYSTEM*.

THEN THEY *CAN'T* PROTECT YOUR BODY ANY MORE.

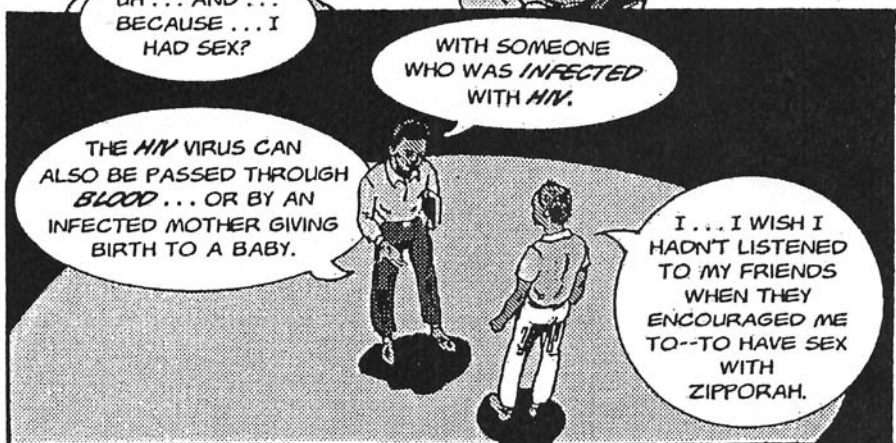
GULP ... PAUL ... THAT'S WHY I'M SO SICK ALL THE TIME? ...



UNFORTUNATELY, MY BROTHER, THAT'S TRUE.

UH ... AND ... BECAUSE ... I HAD SEX?

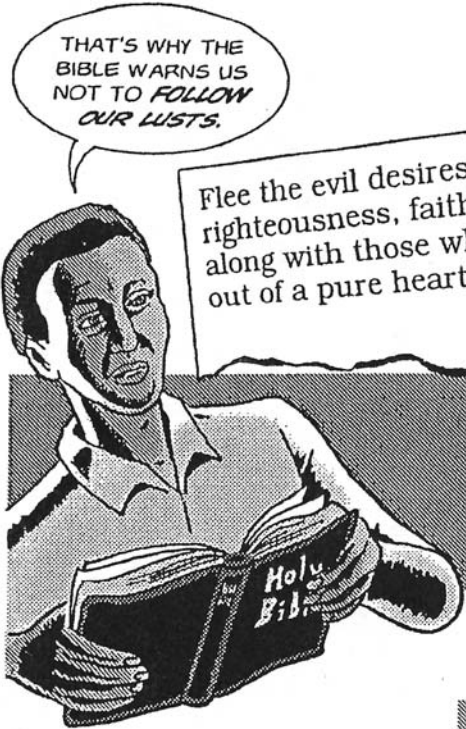
WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS *INFECTED* WITH *HIV*.



THE *HIV* VIRUS CAN ALSO BE PASSED THROUGH *BLOOD* ... OR BY AN *INFECTED* MOTHER GIVING BIRTH TO A BABY.

I ... I WISH I HADN'T LISTENED TO MY FRIENDS WHEN THEY ENCOURAGED ME TO--TO HAVE SEX WITH ZIPPORAH.







THAT'S WHY THE BIBLE WARNS US NOT TO *FOLLOW OUR LUSTS*.

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:22**  
New International Version




I... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT'S WHAT THE BIBLE *MEANT*.



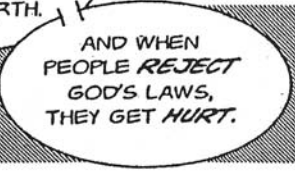
Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

**GALATIANS 5:24**  
New International Version



THE TROUBLE WITH MANY IS THAT THEY DON'T THINK THE BIBLE REALLY *MEANS WHAT IT SAYS*.

GOD'S COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT MEANT TO BE A BURDEN ON US, BUT TO *HELP US* IN OUR LIVES ON EARTH.



AND WHEN PEOPLE *REJECT* GOD'S LAWS, THEY GET *HURT*.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

**Romans 6:12**  
New International Version

LOOKS LIKE I REALLY HURT MYSELF, BROTHER PAUL ...

SIGH ... YET AT THE SAME TIME GOD FORGIVES.

TIM, YOU STILL CAN BE OF USE TO GOD.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BROTHER PAUL--I REPENT OF MY SINS AND I'LL GO WITH YOU AND WARN PEOPLE OF WHAT SIN CAN DO.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, BROTHER!

PERHAPS, BROTHER PAUL ... AFTER SEEING ME PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE ... THAT SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.

TRUE... BUT GOD STILL LOVES YOU.

# LIFE IS TOO SHORT

by Charles Otieno



**Editor's Note:** Charles Otieno is a deaf preacher in Kenya, Africa. His article was published in the e-magazine **Deaf Evangelism** sent out by Simeon Ogiri of Kisii, Kenya. He is also a skilled woodworker, and teaches his trade in the Rongo School for the Deaf. We thought our American readers would like to read what he has to say.

I wanted to fix a cupboard for my father. But he wanted me to put a glass pane in one of the doors.

It was 1st May 2003 when I rode my bicycle to Awendo to buy a glass pane. But when I reached Awendo, I found the shops were closed because 1st May was a holiday. So I went to my friend Paul Osogo's workshop. Osogo is a deaf friend who owns a workshop at Awendo.

Osogo and I talked and exchanged many stories for a long time. When evening came, I left. I was very happy because of the good stories that we shared.

The next day, on the 2nd, I returned to Awendo to buy the glass pane which I did not find the day before. After I bought the glass pane, I thought to pass by my friend Osogo's workshop. I wanted to talk with him and exchange more stories before I went back home.

I was surprised to see many people standing at his door. When I went near the shop to see what was happening, one deaf man came out and said, "Dead!"

I asked him, "Who is dead?"

He only repeated, "*Dead!*" I decided to enter the house. I was shocked to see my friend Paul Osogo dead on his bed!!! How he died I do not know.

But this reminds you and me that our life is too short. As the Bible says in the book of James, our life is a **fog**. You can see fog in the morning, but in a few minutes it is gone. Do not boast on anything while you are here on earth but continue trusting God, He cares.

## **Two sets of Two Words**

**by Mike Helms**

There are two words that are bad for us. These words are "*if only.*"

"*If only*" I had more money. "*If only*" I was better looking. "*If only*" I was taller. We could go on and on. However, there are two other words that are good for us. These words are "*next time.*" "*Next time*" I will know how to handle this problem. "*Next time*" I will try harder. "*Next time*" I will not give up.

There are many people mentioned in the Bible. Some were "*if only*" people. Others were "*next time*" people. Judas ended his life. "*If only*" he had changed his mind and not betrayed Jesus. There was a woman at the well. She made many mistakes. However, she met Jesus. Then she could say, "*Next time I will do right.*"

Jesus met many people while he was on earth. Some were "*if only*" people. But Jesus helped them change. He gave them a "*next time.*" He can do the same for you. Decide today to give your life for Christ!

*"But there is one thing I always do: I forget the things that are past. I try as hard as I can to reach the goal that is before me,"*  
**Philippians 3:13b.**

# *The Shepherd Who Led David*

by George Myers



David was a very human Old Testament person. Like us, he was both good and bad. Like us, he had his high moments and his moments of discouragement. Like us, he was a saint (godliness/holiness) and sinner.

David always said that it was God who gave him success. David also said it was God that helped him while he cared for his father's sheep. He gave God credit for helping him to kill a bear and lion while caring for the sheep. He said that it was God that made him king and helped him rule his kingdom. He knew that whenever he sinned, it was God that punished him to get him back on the right path. David knew there was, also, a stern (strict) side to God's character and he did not want to be in punishment.

But David pictures God as a Shepherd (read Psalm 23). When we think of a shepherd, we think of tenderness and gentleness and loving care. And that is a true picture of God. God will turn away His anger when a sinner repents and turns back to Him. All through the Bible, God is pictured as a gracious God, a God of compassion and forgiveness. He is not just a loving God, He is love.

*"The Lord is my shepherd"* (Psalm 23:1). David looked up to the great God who created the heavens and the earth and said, "He is mine." God can be yours too if you turn to Him and

ask Him to be your God. The Christian can say, *"The Lord is my Shepherd"* just like David.

David knew that God will provide all his needs. Read the last part of verse 1: *"The Lord is my shepherd, I will always have everything I need."* It is true, when the Lord is our Shepherd, He'll provide everything we need. Can you imagine a flock of sheep worrying about where their next meal is coming from? No, they trust the shepherd. Then why should a child of God worry about needed things? When a Christian belongs to God, God will provide for him. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: *"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing the good things God wants you to do. Then all these other things you need will be given to you."*

Paul said, *"My God is very rich with the glory of Christ Jesus. God will use His riches in Christ Jesus to give you everything you need"* (Philippians 4:19). I could tell you how God has supplied all the needs for my family and myself all through the years when we struggled with sickness and hospital bills and heavy expenses. I could tell you of how a great God supplied every need and brought my family through to victory. I could tell you truly that I know *"that in everything God works for the good of those people that love Him"* (Romans 8:28). Oh, what a wonderful Father and Savior we have today.

Christians can say, *"I will always have everything I need."* The sinners can't say that. Sinners may have millions of dollars but they can't say, *"I will always have everything I need."* He misses everything that makes life worthwhile and he will surely miss heaven. What people need most is God and Jesus Christ.

Do you really want to know what God is like? Read the life of Jesus. Jesus was the sweetest, tenderest, kindest, most compassionate man who ever walked on this earth. And He said, *"I am in the Father and the Father is in Me"* (John 14:11). So when you look at the compassionate, loving Jesus you have a picture of God, our Heavenly Father, the Good Shepherd.

Yes, David is right, it's wonderful to be able to say, *"The Lord is my Shepherd."*

# God speaks to His People

by Patrick Ong

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." *Deuteronomy 8:3, New King James Version.*

*Editor's Note: Patrick Ong is the faithful servant of the Lord who has served the deaf group at Pasir Panjar Church of Christ in Singapore for many years. We think that you will be blessed by his article.*



Basically there are two things that prevent people from applying God's Word in their lives.

**First** is sin. Sin disorients us to God and causes us to stop seeking Him (read Romans 3:11). Sin makes us self-centered instead of God-centered. Sin causes our prayers to go unheard and quenches the Spirit's working within us.

**Second**, worldly things dull our senses to receiving a word from God. For example, an average family spends over seven hours with their television each day! When you watch television you do so to gain information or for entertainment. Too often our thinking becomes blurred. One moment we are

watching a dramatic reenactment of a battle scene depicting suffering and death, and then with a push of a button we can see a war-torn country where real people are suffering and dying. Our hearts have already been numbed to death and dying. So, we walk away from our television unmoved and unchanged.

We can approach God's word in the same way. God's word is never for our entertainment, information, or observation, but obedience. God's word never allows us to remain the same. Today many Christians are uncertain when God is speaking to them.

All of our understanding must be taken from Scripture. Too many people base their faith on human reasoning. It is easy to assume that God relates to you in the same way that people relate to each other. This is untrue. You may need to make adjustments in your life to experience fully God speaking to you. Whenever my experience does not match what I find revealed in Scripture, I immediately seek to bring my experience into conformity with Scripture and not the other way around.

God speaks through the Bible. Genesis 1 repeatedly states, "God spoke... it was so... it was good." What God says always comes to pass and it is always good. Read Isaiah 14:24,27.





# A lesson we learned!

by Cindy Heidecker

**Editor's Note:** We lifted this from one of the numerous devotionals that our sister Cindy Heidecker sent to her deaf and hearing sisters via email. We enjoyed these devotionals such that we asked her for permission to put some of them into wider circulation in **Light for the Deaf**. We are glad Cindy agreed to share these devotionals with you, the reader. Read and be blessed.



A lesson was taught me yesterday that really made me think.

It was not a sermon but something that took place after worship. It spoke louder than words. As I become older I realize that maybe I am more selfish in some ways and not willing to do what the younger folks enjoy. When I asked everyone where they wanted to eat out, the younger group suggested CiCi pizza.

Was that my favorite restaurant or Sunday meal plan? NO! However the others said, "Yes." They seemed really to want to go to CiCi. Terry and I decided why not? Christians need to be flexible and be willing to enjoy their companionship with others. So a large group of us headed to CiCi.

What a joy it turned out to be! Balloons were created for the young and young in heart. Paintings on the faces and arms of the young ones were so cute. It was really a delight to watch. Actually the food was hot and good. The fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ was awesome. One of our brothers had repented earlier that morning, so it was great for all of us to spend time together.

So learning to share what others liked, and learning to be flexible, helped us to be content and happy. We left with joyful hearts.

**John 15:11, NKJV:** *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

This brings to mind a song my kids use to sing:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.  
WHERE? Down in my heart. WHERE?  
Down in my heart.  
I've got the joy , joy, joy, joy down in my heart.  
Down in my heart to stay.

That's the way I felt yesterday, a glorious **Lord's Day**. Total awesome *joy*...

Prayer: Father in Heaven, thank You for the wonderful Lord's Day yesterday and the opportunity we all had to come together and worship You in spirit and truth. Help us to live our life full of **joy** as you want us to have. As we grow older and become picky and fussy, we ask You to teach and help us to be flexible and willing to sacrifice our own wants, and share with others. Help us to be always eager to be with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to ignore the generation gap and have our older and young brothers and sisters together in one group. Guide us to be a loving example to others at all times . Teach us to be understanding and patient. Help us to have a good week ahead. Forgive us of our sins, Father. In Jesus Name. Amen...

Cindy Heidecker Hurst, Texas



# Great Desire to Worship God

by Hal Suddreth



## ROMANS 12:1-2

*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB*

We have read this verse a great number of times. These verses are well known in teaching your body as a living sacrifice. But I really want to focus on the worship part: "*Spiritual service or worship.*"

Before we can worship God, we must love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). It is easier to sacrifice your life for someone you love very much. Jesus urges us to love God, which would make it easier for us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. This becomes a daily part of worshipping God.

How do we worship God everyday? Pray, sing, rejoice, sharing the Gospel with others, etc. There are numerous ways to glorify God. When we help people in need, or comfort them, or fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ, we worship God. We need to be doers of the word. "*But prove yourselves doers of the words, and not merely hearers who delude themselves*", **James 1:22**. Everyday we are doers, not only during worship hour of the assembly.

**Let us make our worship meaningful for the Lord!**

# Questions & Answers

The Answers in this column are the responsibility of the Editor. Please send your questions to: **Light for the Deaf**, 1106 Colonial Road, Memphis, TN 38117. You may also email to [WLeavell@aol.com](mailto:WLeavell@aol.com) or fax to (901) 761-2019.

## Question

When Jesus comes again, will our physical body rise out of the ground if we are already dead?

1 Corinthians 15:35 says, "But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" Paul answers this question by explaining that a plant cannot grow until first you sow a humble seed (see 1 Corinthians 15:36-41). This seed must "die" in order for the new plant to grow. The plant has a different "body" from the seed from which it grew. Paul says, "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

The body that the resurrected Christian will have is different from what he has here on earth. What will it look like? John answers: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has **not yet been revealed** what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall **be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

Paul explains that "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51). We will have new spiritual bodies. We will be like Jesus in His glory.

Finally, you ask if our physical body will rise out of the ground if we are already dead. Over and over the Scriptures teach the resurrection of the dead. Will they rise out of the ground? Maybe. Will those who were burned or cremated suddenly come together again into a body? Maybe. Will those who were blasted into smithereens suddenly come back into a body again? Maybe. We do not know. No matter, the dead will be *raised to life again*. Thus we look forward to Christ's Second Coming!

## Question

I didn't know that God gets jealous. But what is He jealous about?

## Answer

Let's look at the second of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20: *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a **jealous God**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me"* (verses 4-5).

And there is this passage: *"They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols"* (Deuteronomy 32:21).

Many times we think of jealousy as being a bad thing. It is true it can be a bad thing, but there is also *good jealousy*. Paul even talks about *"godly jealousy"*: "For I am jealous for you with **godly jealousy**. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2). "Betrothed" means to *engage*. Paul converted many of the Corinthians to Christ, so in this way he "engaged" them to one husband (Christ). The church is often pictured as Christ's bride. In Bible times a bride on her wedding day would wait for the groom to come for her and to take her home with him. This is different from our wedding customs today. In the same way, the church, engaged to Christ, will have its "wedding day" when Christ comes again to this world to take it home. So Paul was jealous of anything that would lead the church in Corinth away from God, which is why he called his "jealousy" a "godly jealousy".

God is jealous when we stray from Him to the world or to another "god". In the same way a husband is jealous when his wife goes to another man. This jealousy is good, but the kind of jealousy in which a person is upset that another person is better than him (or her) is wrong.

# **Reverend V. Gene Robinson and the Episcopal Church**

**by the Editor**

On August 5, 2003, the Episcopal Church voted on Rev. V. Gene Robinson as its first openly gay bishop.

This sent shock waves through the denomination. Conservative members were upset. They boycotted the meetings. Other Anglican churches, especially in Africa, denounced this act. Kenyan Bishop Joseph Kanuku said, "It's wrong and it's against the Bible. How can we go against God's words? Two men being joined is contrary to nature and contrary to the Bible." The Kenyan Anglicans are planning to disfellowship the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

We have to agree with Bishop Kanuku. He hit it on the nail. Not only is gay partnership against nature, it is also against the Bible.

The following passages from the Bible are very plain:

The wrong things our sinful self does are clear: being sexually unfaithful, not being pure, doing sexual sins... I warn you now like I warned you before: The people who do these things will not be in God's kingdom."

**Galatians 5:19,21, EVD**

You can be sure of this: No person will have a place in the kingdom of Christ and of God if that person does sexual sins...

**Ephesians 5:5, EVD**

Surely you know that the people that do wrong will not get God's kingdom. Don't be fooled. These people will not get God's kingdom: people that sin sexually, people that worship idols, people that do the sin of adultery, men that let other men use them for sex or that have sex with other men...

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10, EVD**

...God left them and let them do the shameful things they wanted to do. Women stopped having natural sex

with men. They started having sex with other women. In the same way, men stopped having natural sex with women. The men began wanting each other all the time. Men did shameful things with other men. And in their bodies they received the punishment for those wrong things they did.

### **Romans 1:24-25, EVD**

The last two passages are very plain that active homosexual relations are sinful and displease God. These passages even make it clear that those who practice such sins cannot enter God's kingdom.

It does not matter that homosexuals are kind to each other and practice "tender love". A man committing adultery with another man's wife can practice "tender love" toward this woman. That does not make his adultery right. In the same way homosexual sin cannot be made right.

God intended sex to be between a man and a woman who are married to each other. He did not intend sex to be twisted into an unnatural thing that happens between men.

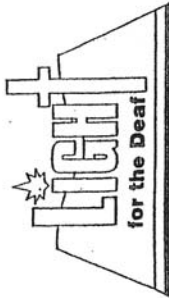
Marriage should be honored by all people. And every marriage should be kept pure between only two people. God will judge guilty those people who do sexual sins and adultery.

### **Hebrews 13:4, EVD**

Rev. V. Gene Robinson has proclaimed that he does not agree with those who believe the Scriptures preach against homosexuality. We regret his attitude, because we believe the Bible is very plain against homosexuality. God's thoughts are higher than man's thoughts, see Isaiah 55:8-9. So we cannot tell God, "I think homosexuality is right" because His thoughts revealed in the Bible show that homosexuality is wrong and a sin.

Rev. Robinson was married with children, but left his family for his male lover. And yet 1 Timothy 3:2 clearly says a bishop must be the husband of one wife. Verse 4 says the bishop must rule his house (family) well. Rev. Robinson does not meet these qualifications. It is a tragedy that the modern Episcopal Church apparently has no intention of following God's Word.

**White Station Church of Christ**



*Exalting Christ among the Deaf*

1106 Colonial Avenue ♦ Memphis, TN 38117-5599

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN  
PERMIT NO. 510