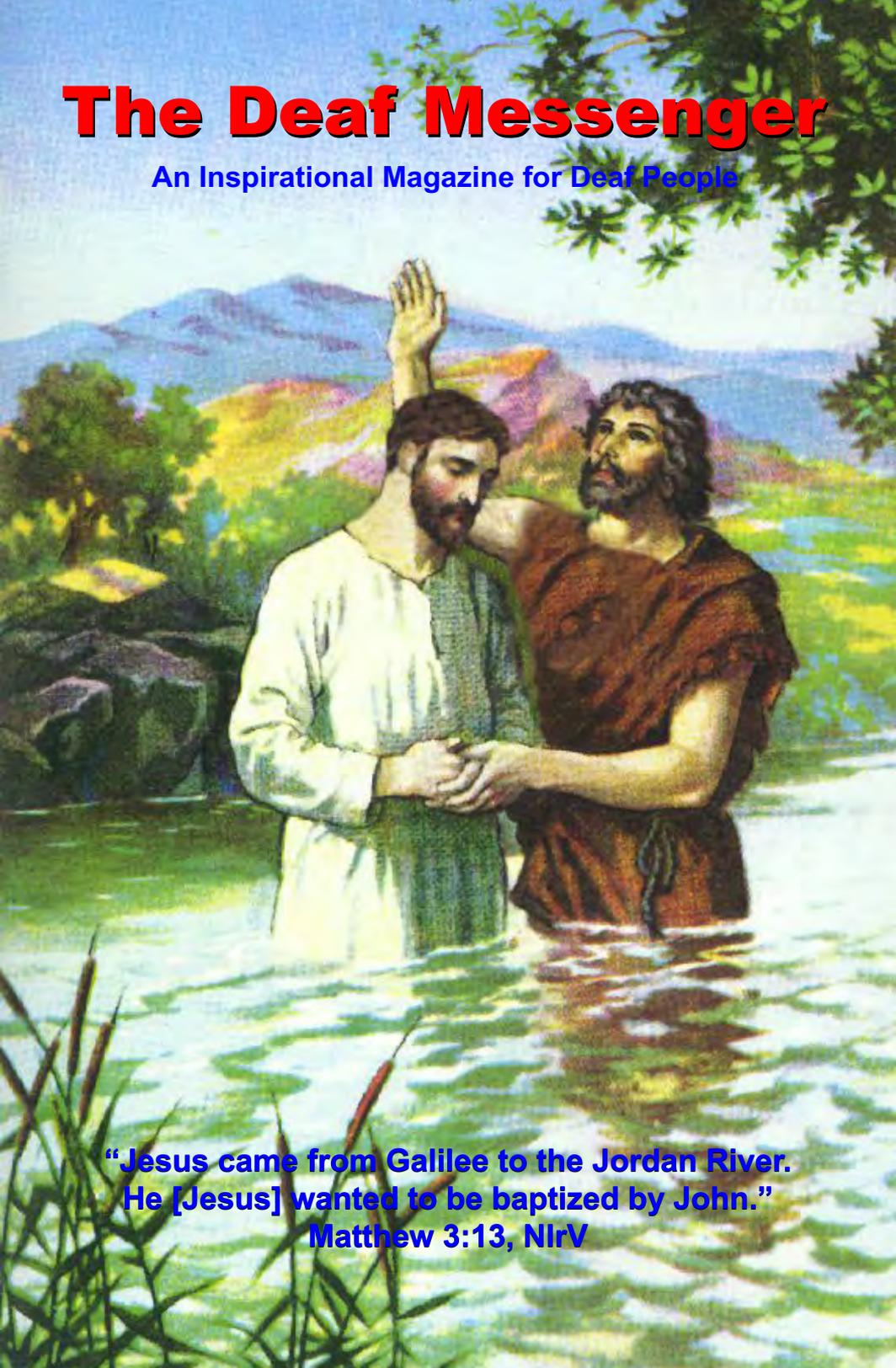


The Deaf Messenger

An Inspirational Magazine for Deaf People



**“Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River.
He [Jesus] wanted to be baptized by John.”**

Matthew 3:13, NIRV

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

What the Bible Says About Baptism

Jesus Christ was the first person to have been baptized and mentioned by name in the Bible.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan [river] to be baptized by John (Matthew 3:13). John, the Baptist had already baptized many people before Him. But Jesus is the first Person he baptized whose name we know.



Jesus told His disciples before He returned to heaven; "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus wanted each of His followers to be baptized.

Can we enter the kingdom of God without being baptized? Jesus answered, "What

I am about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water [baptism] and the Holy Spirit" (John 3:5).

Just like birth is the beginning of a new physical life, so the "new birth" is the beginning of a new spiritual life. In His conversation with the woman at the well, Jesus used water as a symbol of spiritual rebirth (John 4:4-14). Thus, baptism is a symbol that a person has experienced spiritual rebirth.

Paul mentioned this in Romans 6:3-4; "All of us were baptized into Christ Jesus. Don't you know that we were baptized into His death? By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into His death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life."

When we bury something, we put it *under* the ground. To bury in baptism means to put the person *under the water*.

Our English word baptism comes from the Greek word **baptizo**, which means "to immerse" (go under).

The Bible does not tell us to sprinkle water on the head

for baptism. We should go under the water. It is just like the water washing away our sins and when we come out of the water, we are clean with new spiritual life.

Resurrection is also the beginning of a new physical life. Baptism is the symbol of the Christian's death to his or her old way of life. They change into the beginning of a new spiritual life.

By being baptized, we have been joined with Him in His death. We will certainly also be joined with Him in His resurrection. (Romans 6:5)

What should I do to be baptized? Peter replied, "Alf you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

The death to sin that Paul spoke about in Romans happens when we repent (really sorry) of our sins.

The Bible says; "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). If we are baptized without repenting of our sin and having no faith in Christ, it is worth nothing. We are only getting wet. Our heart and life have not changed.

Anyone who believes and

is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be punished. (Mark 16:16)

While the thief was on the other cross next to Jesus, he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise." (Luke 23:42, 43). God asks every Christian to be baptized as a symbol of his or her commitment to follow Jesus. But what about the thief? God will not deny salvation to a person who repents and believes but has not had the chance to be baptized.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him like a dove. (Matthew 3:16)

Jesus (without sin) asked John to baptize Him but John protested. What was the reason for Jesus to ask John to do it for Him? Jesus replied; "Let be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Then John, the Baptist agreed to baptize Jesus Christ. By His baptism, Jesus set an example for all of His followers. With His example, we should do the same thing.

Baptism

Let's see what the Bible tells us clearly about baptism. Baptism is one of the steps we take to follow Jesus. God wants us to be baptized. He wants us to follow Jesus.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Jesus told His disciples that baptism is important: "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be punished." (Mark 16:15-16)

Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me [Jesus]. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end." (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus told His disciples to do these things. Soon after this He left them and went to heaven. Let us look at the

things what Jesus told His disciples to do.

a. All power is given to Me (Jesus).

b. Teach the gospel to every nation in the world.

c. When you have taught the people, baptize them.

d. Baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

e. Teach people to follow all the things that I have commanded. Do not miss out any part of My teachings. Tell them plainly to obey all My words.

f. I will be with you to help you in this work.



Jesus clearly told His disciples to teach ALL people all the things He told them. When they knew these things and believed them, they were baptized.

WHAT MUST A PERSON DO BEFORE HE IS BAPTIZED?

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water. The official, said, "Look, here is water! Why shouldn't be baptized?" Philip asked him, "Do you believe?" The official answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

First, a person must believe in Jesus and what He teaches in the Bible. This is one thing a person must do before he or she is baptized.

The official answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (Acts 8:37-38)

A person must repent of (be truly sorry for) his or her sins. When the person allows Jesus Christ into his or her heart, Jesus makes changes in that person's life. When we believe

in Jesus, we repent of our sins.

BAPTISM IS IMPORTANT

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He wanted to be baptized by John, the Baptist. But John tried to stop Him. He told Jesus, "Hear me, I want to baptize you, but I am not worthy to do this." Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now, because it is right for us to do this. It carries out God's Holy plan." Then John agreed (Matthew 3:13-15).

Here Jesus says that baptism is necessary to fulfill all righteousness. This means that if we want to follow Jesus in all things, we must be baptized. We cannot leave out this step. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him. So John baptized Him. Jesus was baptized as an example for us to follow. He tells us to be baptized. We should also take the important step of baptism.

Here's how you can tell the difference between the children of God and the children of the devil. Those who do not do what is right do not belong to God (1 John 3:10).

This verse says that the person who does not do right

is not a child of God. In other words, God's people do everything God says. Therefore, a person who follows Jesus will be baptized.

It is wrong to force a person to be baptized. No one should baptize a person who does not want to be baptized. God will give eternal life to those people who want to follow and obey Jesus. If you are willing to follow Him in everything, you will be baptized.

HOW DO WE SHOW THAT WE ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS OUR SAVIOR?

All of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Here the words "put on Christ" mean to accept Jesus as our Savior or believe Jesus can save. We show this when we are baptized. We are not baptized to show that we are better than other people. Baptism shows that we want to live for Jesus. It tells other people we belong to God. Baptism also shows that we join God's church.

Before Jesus died on the cross the followers of God offered lambs and other sacri-

fices. This showed that they believed that Jesus would come to die to save them.

Jesus has died for our sins. He does not ask us to offer sacrifices today. Jesus now asks us to be baptized. We show we believe in Jesus when we are baptized.

HOW IMPORTANT IS BAPTISM?

Jesus answered, "What I'm about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's Kingdom without being born through water [baptism] and the Holy Spirit" (John 3:5).

These are very strong words. Jesus was talking to Nicodemus. Jesus said that a man must be born of water and born of the Spirit. After that he can be saved. To be born of water means to be baptized. To be born of the Spirit means that we allow the Holy Spirit of God into our lives. The Spirit leads and helps us to do what is right in God's sight.

He said to them, "Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who does not believe will be pun-

ished (Mark 16:15-16).

As you can see, baptism is a very important step. It is necessary. If we are not baptized, we are not following Jesus. Think back to the time when Jesus lived on this earth. John the Baptist took Jesus into the Jordan River and baptized Him. As Jesus came up out of the river, something happened -- the heavens opened, and a voice was heard.

As soon as Jesus was

baptized, He came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him" (Matthew 3:16-17).

Jesus now asks you to follow Him. He asks you to be baptized. He says, "Follow Me." Will you follow Jesus?



Important Baptism Facts

Can babies be baptized?
Can parents save their children by having them baptized when they are babies?

ÒÒAnd suppose Noah, Daniel and Job were in that land. Then they could not save their own sons or daughters. They could save only themselves by doing what is right. And that is just as sure as I am alive, announces the Lord and King Ó (Ezekiel 14:20).

This verse is very clear. The good life of a father or mother cannot save a child. A parent can teach his child and lead him to Jesus, but the time comes when a child himself must choose to accept Jesus. The child must choose to be baptized.

A baby is not old enough to decide to be baptized. A baby cannot choose to be baptized. Many parents have their children baptized or sprinkled [with water] when they are babies, but the baby does not know it is being baptized or sprinkled.

Jesus said to teach men to observe (obey) all that He had commanded them. You cannot explain all the commandments

of Jesus to a little baby. Therefore a baby is not ready to be baptized.

A person who is old enough to understand the Bible can choose what he or she wants to do. Then he/she is old enough to be baptized.

Baptizing a baby means nothing. It does not help the baby. If you were baptized when you were a baby, it did not mean anything to you. You should be baptized when you are old enough to understand what the teachings of Jesus mean in your daily life.

The Bible does not tell us to baptize or sprinkle babies. God wants us to choose to serve Him. Teach young children about Jesus and His love. Teach them to pray as soon as they begin to talk. Teach them to obey what Jesus says. Then later they can decide to be baptized when they are ready.

Where did this idea of baptizing babies come from? It came from the teachings of men, many years after the time of Jesus. Some men teach that if a child dies before being baptized, the child will not go to heaven. But this

is not the teaching of Jesus. God will care for those who are too young to choose. We do not read anywhere in the Bible of a baby being baptized.



THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus. Do you know that we were baptized into His death? By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into His death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life. (Romans 6:3, 4)

When you are baptized you show that you believe that Jesus died to save you. Baptism is like being buried. When Jesus died He was buried in the grave. At baptism you are buried under the water. This shows you believe Jesus died

for your sins. When you are baptized you do not remain buried under the water. You rise to a new life as a Christian with Jesus as your Master.

Baptism shows that you want to bury your old life of sin and finish it. Then it shows that you want to live a new life. It shows you want to follow Jesus.

Baptism is a very important sign in the life of a Christian. Satan has tried to spoil it. About three hundred years after the time of Christ a false kind of baptism was started. Some people would not be baptized. Then when they became sick and thought they would die they would call for a priest to baptize them. The priests started the way of pouring water over them. They called this baptism.

Later some thought it was enough to pour water on people who were not sick. They did this instead of baptizing them in the right way. To baptize in the right way the person is taken down into the water and then put under the water. The water covers him. Then he is raised from the water. But later many

churches did not even pour water on the head. They just sprinkled a little water on the person's head.

This is not true baptism. Every time the Bible tells a story of a baptism, we read that the person went into the water. He was put under the water. Then he was brought out of the water.

Baptism reminds us of the death of Jesus, His burial and His resurrection. It shows you want to finish with sin and bury it. It shows you want to live a new Christian life.

This kind of baptism has a meaning, but sprinkling has no meaning. Some people say it does not matter how a person is baptized; but the Bible tells us the right way. God wants us to follow Jesus in all things. The Bible says it very clearly. It tells us how a person is to be baptized and we cannot change it.

There is one Lord. There is one faith and ONE BAPTISM (Ephesians 4:5). There is only one Bible baptism. It is the baptism that Jesus showed us. There is no other way. The person being baptized goes under the water.

The word, baptize means to

dip. When you dip something, you put it into the water. The water covers it. Sprinkling is not baptism. Many people who have been sprinkled believe they have been baptized. But when we study the Bible, we find the truth about baptism. People who have been sprinkled should be baptized the same way Jesus was.

DANGERS OF DELAYING BAPTISM

A person should understand the teachings of Jesus before he is baptized. When you are old enough to understand and ready to accept Him, you can then be baptized. Do not wait until later. It is wrong to say, "Maybe next year I shall be baptized."

In the story of Paul's work, the Bible says: "So what are you waiting for? Get up and call on His name. BE BAPTIZED. Have your sins washed away" (Acts 22:16).

Satan often tempts people to put off being baptized. Do not wait until later. If you have decided to obey all you have learned in the Bible, you should be baptized as soon as you can. Don't put it off

Time of New Beginnings

ÒNew Beginnings!Ó What do new beginnings mean to you? To me new beginnings can mean different things. New beginnings can be the beginning of a new home, a new job, a new school year or a new family. New beginnings can be the beginning of a new year or a new life.

You probably heard about the story of Scrooge that is told at Christmas time. Scrooge was called Scrooge because he was a scrooge (stingy or selfish). Scrooge's past life was a stingy life. In his dream Scrooge realized how selfish he really was. Scrooge decided to change and begin a new life. He wanted to develop a life of giving to other people. Giving to others leads to a life of happiness. Scrooge's old life of being a scrooge was over.

The end of the year and the beginning of a new year, many people make a promise to themselves. People want to make changes in their lives. Some people choose to develop new relationships. One new relationship that some

people choose is to get to know the Creator of the universe better. The road map on how to develop that relationship is written in the Bible.



The guide to developing this new relationship starts with getting to know the Creator God, Jesus. Jesus wants to become man's very best friend. Jesus would like us to give our old heart to Him. Jesus asks us to repent and be baptized. We apologize to Jesus for making the mistakes in our lives. He forgives us and says, "Donot do it again." Jesus gives us a new heart.

Baptism is the next step in

the road map to developing our friendship with Jesus. Baptism shows people what Jesus is doing in our heart and how He is changing our lives.

You might ask yourself, how should I be baptized? Baptism is the door or the entrance into becoming part of the family of God or part of His kingdom. Jesus was baptized Himself to become an example for us. After baptism the new life truly begins. We begin a new walk on the road of life. Jesus promises to walk with us everyday. Jesus promises strength to do what He asks us to do.

We can trust Jesus to carry us even if life becomes more than we can deal with. You remember seeing the picture or story of two people walking in the sand by the seaside. These two people and their footprints in the sand repre-

sent Jesus and me. However we notice that sometimes there are only **one** person's footprints in the sand. If you asked Jesus what happened during that time of your life, He would answer, "Those are the times when I carried you."

When the going is the roughest, Jesus's arm is around our shoulder and He helps carry us along. Jesus wants us to put our trust in Him. He wants to be our best friend. Jesus said that our names are written in the palm of His hand. That means that Jesus promises to look after us. Jesus loves us. Jesus wants to help us as we begin our new relationship with Him.

I want to trust my life to Jesus. I hope you want to trust your life to Jesus too. That will be a beginning of **new** life with Jesus Christ.

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Millie's Broken Typewriter

by Mildred Powell



Millie got a very special gift on her eleventh birthday. Her gift was a real typewriter. Millie was so excited and happy. She already had taken some typing lessons and could type.

One day Millie was home from school with a cold. She decided that she would type a few things while she was in bed. Millie set her new typewriter on a stool on her bed. She sat up on her bed with a pillow behind her back. She enjoyed typing.

Millie thought, "What a per-

fect setup. This is really comfortable."

Then the phone rang. Millie leaped off the bed, the stool tipped over, sending her typewriter crashing to the floor. The typewriter was broken. The keys were jammed.

Millie cried, "What am I going to do? What am I going to tell Dad? He worked so hard to get this gift for me."

Millie was thinking and thinking for a long time. Finally she decided she would leave the typewriter by her bed and

pray. She would wait for God to answer her prayer.

She prayed: "Lord, if You are real, please fix my typewriter. The Bible says that You can do anything. I know fixing the typewriter will not be too difficult for You. When I get up in the morning, I want my typewriter to be completely fixed. This will prove that You are real."

Millie slept in peace. Her dad would not be home until the weekend. She expected that the typewriter would be fixed before her dad came home. She would not have to say anything to Dad. Millie believed that God would answer her prayer.

The next morning Millie woke up and looked at her typewriter. She was disappointed that her typewriter was still broken. She was angry as she wondered, "Why didn't God answer my prayer? She was very upset and did not know what to do."

Later, Mother told Millie that she was going downtown Friday. Her mother would take the typewriter to the shop for repairs. Millie wondered how she was going to pay for the repairs. Millie did not pray for

money to fix the typewriter. God did not answer her first prayer. "Why should I pray again?" she thought.

Monday Millie's mother came home with the typewriter. "Is the typewriter fixed? How much did it cost?" Millie asked, not giving her mother a chance to answer.

Mother smiled and said, "The man was able to fix your typewriter, and guess what? There is no charge!"

"No charge?" Millie knew she had to talk to God right away. She prayed, "Oh, God, thank You so much for fixing my typewriter. You did not repair it when I asked or in the way I asked, but You took care of everything. You are real!"

Every prayer of faith is answered. The answer may not be in the way we want or when we want. But the prayer will be answered in the best way. We can trust God to answer our prayers always.

"Trust in Him at all times, you people. Tell Him all of your troubles. God is our place of safety" (Psalm 62:8).

Adapted and used by permission of Message magazine, January/February 1993.

What Can Marijuana Do To Your Body?

What is marijuana? Marijuana is a green, brown, or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds and flowers of the hemp plant.

It is called pot, herb, weed, grass, boom, Mary Jane, gangster, or chronic. There are more than 200 different slang names for marijuana.

Marijuana will change how the brain works. It is because of the THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) which is main active chemical in marijuana. There are more than 400 other chemicals too.

Marijuana is usually smoked as a cigarette or in a pipe or a bong.

Why do people smoke marijuana? There are many reasons why older adults, even some children and young teens use it. They smoke because their friends, or brothers and sisters use marijuana. Also children copy their parents, family or older people. They think it is really cool to use marijuana because they hear songs about it and also see it on TV and in movies.

Some people feel the need to use the marijuana and other drugs because of problems at home, at school, at job, or with friends.

What will happen if you smoke marijuana? It depends on how strong the marijuana is. What they expect to happen? Where they use the drug? How they use it? If they are using it with drinking and/or using it with other drugs.

Some people feel nothing when they smoke marijuana. Others may feel relaxed or high. Sometimes it can make a person feel thirsty and very hungry.

Some of them will have problem by feelings of anxiety (worry) and have paranoid thoughts.

Marijuana can mess you up. It will hurt your school work and job, in sports and other activities. It can also hurt your relationship with family and friends.

Marijuana will be a problem with memory and learning. It will mess up your sights, sounds, time and touch.

They will have problem with thinking and solving. It will increase heart rate (beating).

They often make stupid mistakes that would embarrass or even hurt themselves. They could start to lose interest in how they look and how they are doing in school or work.

Marijuana is harmful on the skills for driving. They will not be as alert as those who do not smoke. They would not be able to think clearly and react quickly. They do not have good judge of the distance and reacts to the signals also the sounds on the road. It is very similar to drunk drivers.

Pregnant women often have miscarriage very early in pregnancy if they smoke marijuana while they are pregnant.

How will marijuana effect people's health?

a. It could cause some kinds of cancer. It has same cancer-causing chemicals found in tobacco smoke.

b. It can develop some kinds of breathing problems that cigarette smokers have: coughing and wheezing.

c. They usually have more chest colds than those who do not smoke. They have a large

risk of getting lung infections like pneumonia.

d. It could damage the cells and tissues (immune system) in the body that help protect people from getting disease. When the immune system cells are weakened, they will get sick.

How can you tell if someone has been using marijuana?

- a. Seem to be dizzy and have trouble walking.
- b. Seem silly and giggle for no reason.
- c. Talking (singing) funny.
- d. Have very red, bloodshot eyes.
- e. Have a hard time remembering things that just happened.
- f. They can become very sleepy.

What can we do with the users of marijuana? We should encourage them to go for treatment programs that would focus on counseling and group support system. If possible, send them to Rehabilitation Center for addictions. Be caring and supportive of them. Let them know that God cares for them.

Food & Nutrition

FOLATE SAVES YOUR BRAIN

You need to learn to love leafy greens now to keep your brain young. Among 500 people ages 70 to 79*, those with the lowest blood levels of folate had a 60% greater risk of serious cognitive (thinking process in brain) problems.

An example? If you find yourself not able to remember what you had for dinner each night for the past 5 days, Don't wait! (Having salads often is good for your brain.)

Eat lots of folate-rich foods, such as spinach, romaine lettuce, and collard greens.

*Research from UCLA
Deborah Kado, MD

SUMMER SALAD BOWL

1 medium head Boston lettuce, washed and crisped
1/2 lb. spinach, washed and crisped
1 bunch watercress, washed and crisped
1/4 lb. zucchini, thinly sliced
2 chopped cucumbers
1 cup thin onion rings
1 can (3 oz) sliced mushrooms, drained (optional)
1 cup celery
Thousand Island, Italian or Russian dressing



1. Tear lettuce and spinach in bite-size pieces into bowl. Break watercress, discard coarse stems. Add zucchini, onion, mushrooms, etc.

2. Pour on about 1/2 cup dressing; toss until well blended, adding more dressing if needed.

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