

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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A NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT  
By Bette Hollis and Rowena Cheney

With the New Year now before us  
And the old year left behind,  
We make our resolutions  
To be thoughtful, good and kind.

And we'll keep those resolutions  
All through the New Year, too,  
If we obey the Golden Rule  
In all we say and do.

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FINGERS CAN BE EYES  
By R. J. Hastings

Would it sound silly to ask how you read your Bible? Naturally you would say, "I read my Bible with my eyes." But what if you were blind? Could you read your Bible then? Of course you are not blind, or you wouldn't be reading this story. But many children have lost their sight, and can never hope to read with their eyes.

Yet there is still a way for these children to read their very own Bibles. They can "read" with their fingers. How is that possible? It is very simple. There are several "raised-letter" systems whereby blind people "feel" the letters or symbols that make up words or sentences. Instead of letters being printed, they are "raised" so that as one passes his fingers over the page, he can actually read the meaning by the feeling of the letters.

The most popular system of this type is known as Braille. It uses only six raised dots, but these six are arranged in sixty-three different combinations to form words. Here is how Bible is "spelled" in Braille:

(use mat #1 here)

Braille books are large and bulky, as one page cannot contain many sentences. A single Bible printed in Braille would take over five feet of space on your book shelf!

Braille Bibles also require a very special paper. If the paper is too soft, the dots will wear down too quickly with constant use. But if the paper is too hard or brittle, the dots will make one's fingertips sore and tender.

Blind children who have not learned to read Braille can hear the Bible read on records. Of course it takes a lot of records to reproduce the whole Bible. How many would you guess? A thousand? No, not hardly. But it does take 130 for the Old Testament and 40 for the New Testament.

The American Bible Society has done much to provide Braille Bible as well as talking records for blind children. They have mailed over one-half million volumes and records around the world to blind people of all ages and races.

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We who can see to read the Bible should be grateful for this privilege. But whether we see with our eyes or feel with our fingers, the important thing is that we remember what we read and profit from it. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

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