



A PRIMER FOR THE WEARY,
WARY, AND VISUALLY-INCLINED

BY
MARC DAVID OLSON

DEDICATED TO:

AILSA, DANIEL,
AND THEIR
DAUGHTER,

META

FOR WHOM THIS BOOKLET
CAME ABOUT.



PLEASE NOTE:

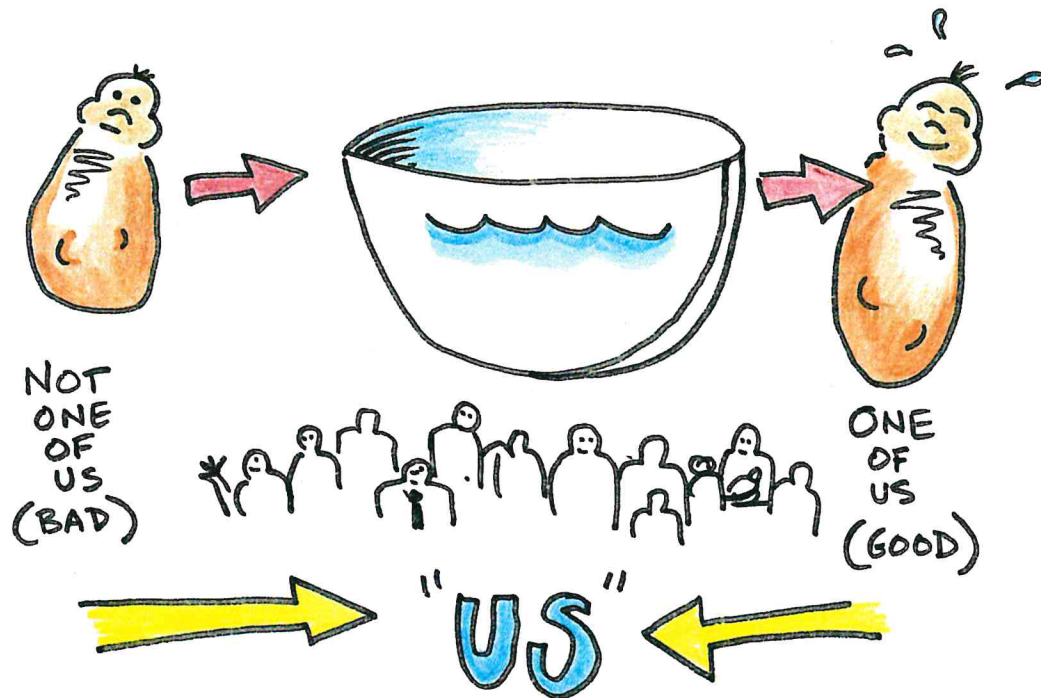
THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR IS
UNABASHEDLY PRO-BAPTISM.

THIS LITTLE PROJECT IS, THEREFORE,
NOT ONLY INFORMATIVE
BUT ALSO, DARE I SAY,
SEDUCTIVE.

PART ONE:

LET'S CLEAR
THIS UP
RIGHT NOW

SOME FOLKS CHOOSE TO REGARD
BAPTISM AS A
CULTURAL MATTER, ALL
ABOUT INDUCTING SOMEONE
INTO A NEW GROUP.



THIS SUGGESTS THAT BAPTISM IS LIKE JOINING
THE Y — YOU GET A CARD AND CAN USE THE TREADMILL
AND WHATNOT. OF COURSE THAT'S FINE FOR THE YMCA
OR THE SIERRA CLUB, BUT AS FAR AS TRYING TO GET
A HANDLE ON THEOLOGY AND GOD'S LOVE,
THIS COMPLETELY MISSES THE POINT.

OF COURSE "WE" SAY STUFF AND DO STUFF
IN AND DURING AND BECAUSE OF BAPTISM,
BUT BAPTISM ISN'T FIRST ABOUT "US".

BAPTISM IS ABOUT (AND BELONGS TO) GOD.

BAPTISM IS A GOD THING.

QUICK QUESTION:

MY BABY IS BEAUTIFUL
AND PERFECT. WHY
DOES SHE NEED TO
BE BAPTIZED? ISN'T
SHE ALREADY A
CHILD OF GOD?

SHORT ANSWER:

OF COURSE SHE'S
A CHILD OF GOD.
GOD HAS KNOWN AND
ADORED HER AS
LONG AS SHE'S BEEN ANYTHING.

BAPTISM CELEBRATES
THIS FACT, AND MAKES
IT PUBLIC.

ANOTHER
MIS CONCEPTION:

BEFORE
BAPTISM



EVIL, BAD, SCARY, STRANGER

BAPTISM



AFTER
BAPTISM

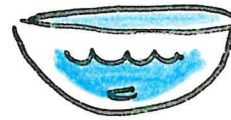
PURE, HOLY, GOOD, SWEET, FRIEND

REGARDLESS OF HOW THEY MAY
SEEM, AT TIMES, IF HUNGRY, OR
IF THEY ARE OVERTIRED,
CHILDREN ARE NOT EVIL.

SO, WHAT ^{ACT- UALLY} HAPPENS!

1. * WE GATHER TOGETHER WHERE CHRIST HAS PROMISED TO BE.
"WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME, I'LL BE THERE."
* "WE" IS ANYONE AND EVERYONE. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS AND RESPONSE TO GOD IS NOT PRIVATE.

2. WE GET SOME WATER.



3. WE OPEN GOD'S WORD.
(MOST RELIABLY FOUND IN THE STORY OF JESUS.)

4. WE IDENTIFY THE GUEST OF HONOR.
(THAT'S THE PERSON WHO'S TO BE BAPTIZED.)

5. WE GET HER
(THIS IS FUN
AND MESSY)

WET



6. GOD SPEAKS 7.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

THE PLACE
GOES NUTS.

WHAT GOD SAYS

OUT LOUD.

IN PUBLIC.

FOR ALL TO HEAR.

YOU (THE WET ONE THERE, WITH ALL THE WATER ON YOU.) **ARE**
MINE! **I LOVE YOU!**

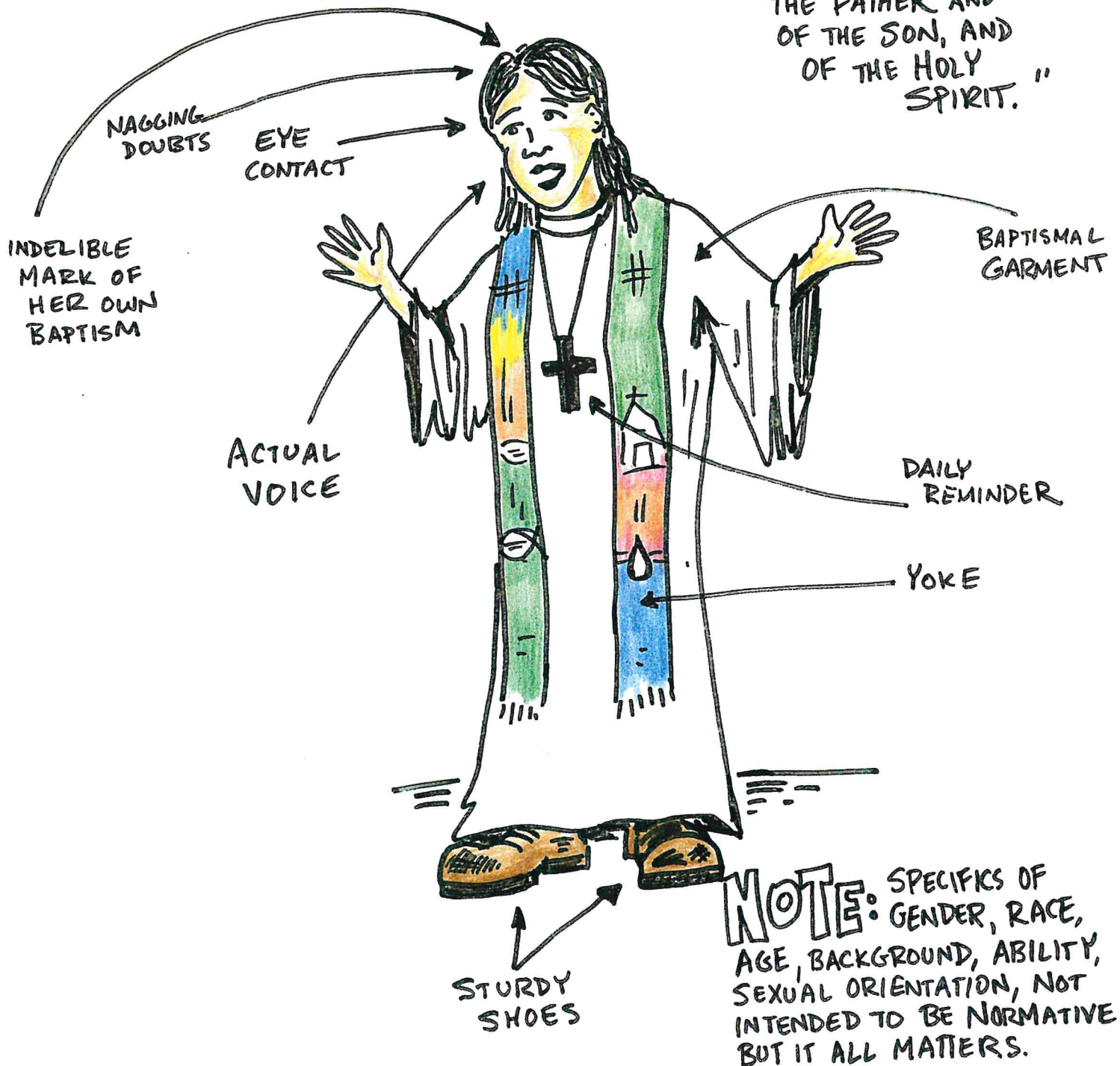
I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU OR FORSAKE YOU. YOU ARE PART OF MY UNENDING LIFE - A LIFE THAT INCLUDES AND BEARS THE LIFE AND DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS - A LIFE THAT IS POURED OUT IN ABUNDANCE AND JOY. YOU BELONG TO MY VAST AND LOVELY FAMILY WHICH INCLUDES THIS SWEET EARTH AND ITS CREATURES. TOGETHER WE WILL LOVE AND HEAL THE UNIVERSE. THIS WILL INCLUDE SOME DARK TIMES AND DOUBT AND PAIN BUT I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU. WE SHARE A SPIRIT. ALL THAT I HAVE IS YOURS.

THIS WILL NOT END.

HOW GOD SPEAKS

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM RELIES ON THE PRESENCE AND PERSONALITY OF A BAPTIZER TO SAY THE WORDS AND PASS ALONG THE PROMISE.

"I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."



BAPTISM IS A PUBLIC AND PERSONAL
DECLARATION OF GOD'S GRACE.

BAPTISM PROVIDES:

"HEAR GOD'S WORD
FOR YOU."



A PROMISE TO TRUST
(A CORNERSTONE FOR FAITH)

"I WAS THERE."



A COMMUNITY OF WITNESS
AND HELP
(FOR WHEN WE FORGET OR FAIL
TO TRUST)

"YOU GOT WET."

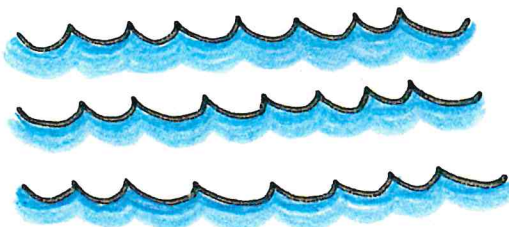


AN EVENT THAT IS REAL
(THESE PROMISES ACTUALLY HAPPENED)

"LET'S GO."



A VOCATION FROM GOD
WE ARE BAPTIZED INTO SOME
HEAVY STUFF: DEATH AND
RESURRECTION — AND THIS IN
A WORLD THAT ONLY UNDERSTANDS
THE DEATH PART. WE NEED
THE STURDY SHOES (AND A
STRONG STOMACH).



★ A QUAIN
CULTURAL
ARTIFACT

★ FIRE
INSURANCE

★ CUTE

★ OF
LITTLE
CONSEQUENCE

★ "A FAMILY
THING"

★ ONLY A
BATH

BAPTISM IS

★ PROTECTION
FROM PAIN

MOST
CERTAINLY
NOT:

★ YOURS/OURS
TO LOSE

★ A
WEAPON

AND NEVER WILL BE

★ "JUST"
SPIRITUAL

★ ONLY
FOR
BABIES

★ AN ADULTS-ONLY
THING

★ A
GUARANTEE
AGAINST JERKINESS

★ A GOLDEN
PARACHUTE

★ THE
END OF
A FAITH
JOURNEY

★ ERASABLE

★ A MARK OF
ACHIEVEMENT

★ A GOLD
STAR

★ REPEATABLE

★ A FREE
PASS TO
BE A JERK

★ CONDITIONAL

★ ABLE TO BE
STOLEN OR
REVOKED OR
WITHDRAWN

★ PROPERTY OF A SINGLE
CHURCH OR DENOMINATION

★ A FLAK
JACKET

★ A CURE-ALL

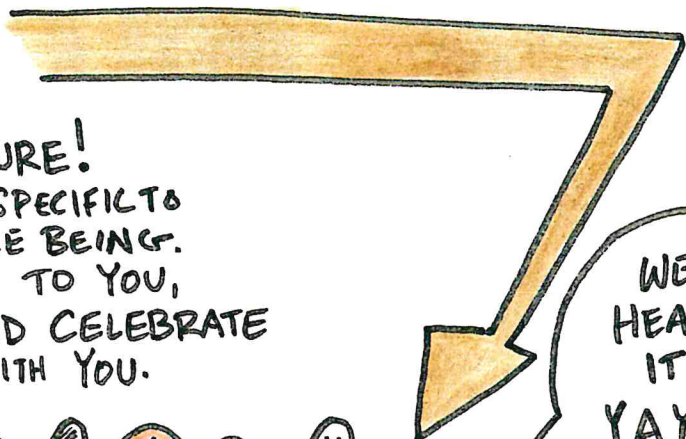
★ FEE-FOR-
SERVICE

SO, HOW ABOUT ANOTHER DIAGRAM?



BEFORE
BAPTISM:

A CHILD OF GOD - SURE!
BUT NO PROMISE SPECIFIC TO
YOUR SWEET LITTLE BEING.
LET US SPEAK IT TO YOU,
HEAR IT FOR YOU, AND CELEBRATE
WITH YOU.



WE
HEARD
IT!
YAY!!



HELPS
ME REMEMBER
GOD'S PROMISE
TO ME!
TOO!

A CHILD OF GOD - STILL!
WITH SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO,
WRESTLE WITH, TEST, GNAW ON,
AND ABIDE IN. AND A
COMMUNITY OF GRACE WHO WILL
HELP YOU REMEMBER
BOTH THE PROMISE



AFTER
BAP-
TISM

AND IT'S SPECIFIC, HISTORICAL DOUSING OF YOU
WITH GOD'S LOVE.



WELCOME TO THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND
INTO THE MISSION WE SHARE.



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