

When your brush begins to dry up as you work, try what the artists call, "The dry brush" effect. Excellent clouds can be done this way and hills can be vignettted into the foreground. Poster colors are opaque and do not thin out well. The "dry brush" will give you a lighter color effect and assist you in shading.

Try framing your picture with foreground features - a man, palm leaves or tree leaves, a cave or a gate, etc.

The use of jet figures is commended. These little match men are a great aid in telling the story with brush or chalk. Anyone can draw them. Think of where your own arms or legs would be if you were jumping, walking, running, sitting, or kneeling, and it will help you draw these little men. W. C. Smith's books, "Little Jets Tell the Bible Stories," are well worth having. They are out of print at present but you may be able to buy a secondhand copy.

The "ladder" letters are wonderfully useful for emphasizing Bible verses and sermon headings.

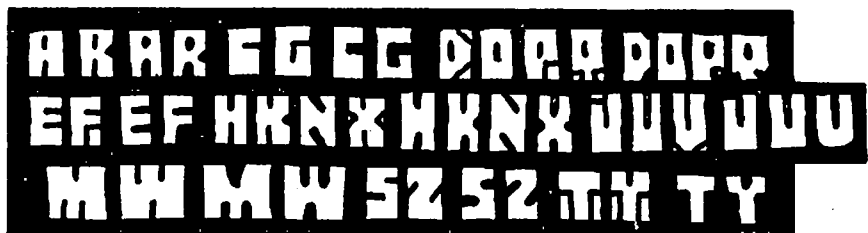


These can be set out lightly in pencil beforehand as shown below.



Used like this, you are ready to give your first verse or outline almost immediately. Just fill in the pencil marks as you go. Remember the distance between the horizontal lines governs the number of words you can fit across the sketchboard. Make the spaces between words wider than those between the letters.

Here are the "ladder" letters in their groups. Construction of each group is similar.



A copy of a newspaper will assist you practicing straight lines. Use the lines of type as a guide to your brush as you do the horizontal lines.

REMEMBER: Keep each letter simple. Make it with an absolute minimum of strokes.

REMEMBER: If "ladder" lettering is hard, it is wrong. With "M" say to yourself - "One stroke at the top and two at the bottom." With "W" say, "Two at the top and one at the bottom."

Demonstrating these letters to 100 missionaries from a variety of countries in the world, I realized there were a number of fields where our alphabet was not used, e.g. Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, etc., so I showed them the "shorthand" letters of which a few examples follow:

LETTERING

The **LADDER LETTERS** are very puzzling to your audience, yet they are simple to do. Begin by painting a ladder with a block for each letter:



Lightly pencil in where you will add paint to complete the letters:



And finally the completed letters:



Remember to leave space between words:



The **LINE LETTERS** are accomplished by painting part of the letters and then finishing them during the lesson:



PAINTING

Paint only partial pictures and then finish them during the lesson:



The mysterious lettering and unfinished pictures are sure to capture the curiosity of your audience. It is important to continue painting as you teach; it is the painting that keeps your audience's attention.

Make your painting simple enough that by adding a few quick strokes it will make perfect sense.

May God bless you as you begin **ILLUSTRATING THE GOSPEL!**

SKETCHBOARD POINTERS

If you have a real desire to share the gospel, you can, with the right equipment, some simple 'know-how', and a little practice, become a good sketchboard communicator.

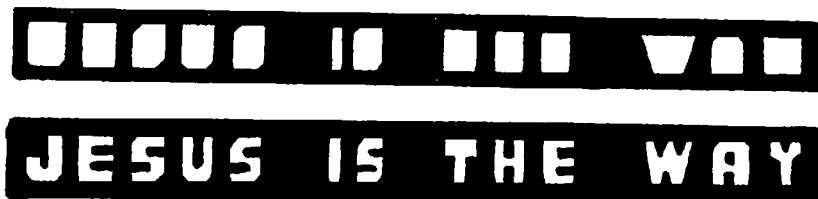
Anybody can pick up these simple pointers and become a confident and proficient sketcher.

(A) **PREPARATION.** (1) Become familiar with your materials so that you can handle them easily. (2) Spend adequate time on preparing your sketchboard message. (3) Pencil in lightly, that part of your sketch which will be completed in front of your audience. (4) When you need to draw people, use the simple 'jet figures'. (5) Place a border round your sketch and if necessary, frames around specific sections. (6) Be fully conversant with your message. I would suggest that you add your own illustrations to each of the sermon points given in these sketchboard messages. (7) This sketchboard style and presentation can also be used on an Overhead Projector, using both permanent and non-permanent O.P. pens on plastic transparencies.

LADDER LETTERING



- (1) Prepare your ladder squares to the right shape and size.
- (2) Use the minimum number of strokes when filling in.
- (3) Practice your lettering. Time yourself in alphabet (A-Z) speed tests.
- (4) Make sure your ladder frame is wide enough (minimum width $\frac{1}{2}$ "). Remember, your exterior reveals your interior.



The method is so simple yet looks great. It not only attracts crowds outdoors as the sketchboard is being prepared, but people seem glued to the pavement as they see words appear from nowhere. Let's try it together. Too hard? Not at all! It is in fact very easy to learn.

Ladder lettering is as easy as writing your own name.

Just pick up a ballpoint pen, a pencil, paint brush or anything that comes to hand and let me prove it. First of all draw two parallel lines like this:



That's great. Now draw the 27 rungs of the ladder, one to start with, then one for each letter of the alphabet:



You're well on the way to being as good as that poster artist already. Now pretend you have the paintbrush in your hand and fill in the letters just as he did and you will soon have the alphabet completed.



If you are not sure of the difference between an M and a W just note where the two uprights of each letter point. The letter M stands on its legs, so they go at the bottom of the square. With the letter W they are up in the air, so put them at the top. Remember that and the battle's won. With the letter Q just blob out most of its seat—it won't mind; it's used to it. Next time you come to the letter I just make its box real narrow and that saves time. Now practise the alphabet. If you have some water colours or showcard colours handy, use a half inch brush on some old-newspapers until you can do them with your eyes closed. Well nearly.

Now let's try to put some letters together to get a gospel message across.

Hint directory as to how to be good at ladder lettering.

- To get the right-sized ladder: Draw an upright on your paper the height you want the letters to be. Now draw in one rung for each letter in your word.
- A three lettered word like GOD would be: Finally draw in the top and bottom lines and you have the ladder.
- You are now ready to fill in the letters so that your word can be seen.

- To put several ladder words together: This can be done in two ways. First, with the words separated by one or two spaces. Secondly, they can all be in the same ladder, with the square between each word painted over. Don't forget to allow for the extra space to separate the words when filling in uprights for the letters.



- What about a touch of colour?

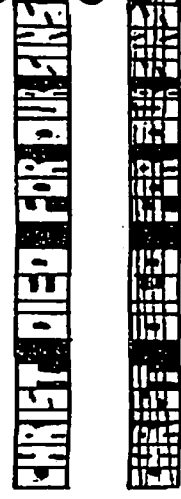
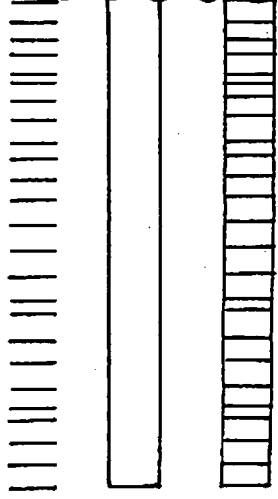
Ladder letters are normally done with a black brush on white newsprint, but that can be varied by using other colours. Red, for example, is a good colour to use with the word 'salvation' or 'Jesus Christ'. A good contrast can be made by painting the whole area covered by the word in a background colour, then outlining the ladder squares with black. Yellow is a good contrast to black, but any light colour will be effective. Spelling out the letters of the word you have in mind, put an upright in place for every one, not forgetting of course the spaces between the words. Then paint over all the squares with the background colour. Let's demonstrate this with the text 'CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS'—step by step:

First: the uprights in the background colour.

Second: apply the colour so that it looks like a block of colour. (The uprights can be faintly seen).

Third: go over the colour block with the outline colour you have chosen and paint the uprights in again.

Finally: fill in the letters and it should be like this. As an alternative, outline the words with black on a white background, then with a coloured brush with most of the colour squeezed out streak the colour over the words from left to right.



- The most important hint of all: Practice. When you have done that do some more practice, and when you are tired of that finish off with some practice.

- e. **BRUSHES**—one brush for each colour. $\frac{1}{2}$ " width, with long bristle suitable for water based paints, is the best size.

LETTERING TECHNIQUES

- a. By far the best way to hold a crowd is to use ladder lettering. This is created by painting ladders or squares on the board. The remaining part is filled in as you emphasize each word during the message. Try not to have long periods of time between each word on the board. Space the words and letters out before using paint. Pencil in the necessary paint marks so that mistakes will be avoided. For extra emphasis a backwash of yellow or red can be used effectively. Never use yellow for the ladder lettering, it will not be seen clearly. Black is the best colour for this job.

ladder before —



ladder filled in —

- b. Try to leave a blank word on the board to be filled in at the end of your message. This will help to keep interest until you are finished.
- c. Never put your brush down while speaking, retain it in the hand. This will help to let those watching know there is more to come.
- d. Always face the crowd when speaking. When filling in a word, stop speaking and let it sink in through the eye. Get back to facing the crowd as soon as possible. Your face is your best visual aid, the crowd will sense the sincerity of your message as you look at them.
- e. For an occasional change, partial lettering may be used. A word is placed on the board but each letter is left incomplete. The letters are completed when the word is used in the sermon.