

# The Deaf Messenger

An Inspirational Magazine for Deaf People



**"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world!"  
John 1:29, NKJV**

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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 Kind of God Do You Want?

by Marvin Moore



Imagine that you are one of those people who is not sure if God is real. The way things are going in the world, you are not sure you want to believe in God. But, it would be nice to know that Someone is still “up there”?

So if you suppose that God is real, you begin wondering on what God might be like. What kind of God

would you want?

You probably think, “I would want a God who would do something about all the suffering in the world.” Or “I would want Someone who would bring rain when the farmers need it and who would heal all the sick people. Also who would control the forces of nature so there would be no more hurricanes, volca-

noes, and earthquakes.”

My guess is you would also want a God who understands you — who understands you are human. You would want Someone who loves you and forgives you when you do wrong.

You would not want someone who threatens to burn you up for every little sin you do.

Many people also want a God who would see that justice is done. They ask, “Where is God when innocent people suffer?” And most of us want justice, too, when we suffer at the hands of others.

The Bible claims to tell us about God. So what does the Bible say about God? What does the book of Revelation say about God?

We find three portraits (pictures) of Jesus in Revelation. I would like to show you that in these three portraits, we see exactly the kind of God we have been talking about.

## **What Jesus does about our suffering**

John, the author of Rev-

elation, had been a disciple (follower) of Jesus for many years. Now he was a prisoner for his faith on the island of Patmos. Patmos is a barren, rocky island off the coast of Turkey. There Revelation gives us our first portrait of Jesus.

We find this first portrait of Jesus in chapter 1 of Revelation. It shows us how God relates to human suffering.

John began by telling us he heard a voice behind him. So he turned to see who was interrupting him. To his surprise, he saw his old Friend, Jesus, dressed like an Old Testament high priest (Revelation 1:10-16).



When we fall on hard times, most of us want a God who will get us out of trouble. And sometimes He does that. But He has not

promised to get us out of all our troubles in this life. So what does He do for us? That is where the story of John on the island of Patmos comes in.

When John found himself in trouble on that barren, rocky island, Jesus was there with him.

If God chooses not to deliver us from trouble, He joins us in it!

For example, Jesus came to this earth 2,000 years ago. Why? So He could be with us in our troubles. He suffered being poor as many of us must do. He even experienced the death that will come to each of us someday.

### **What Jesus does about our sins**

The next portrait of Jesus in Revelation is very symbolic. It makes you wonder what about it that could be real.

Revelation 5 begins with a picture of God seated on His throne. He is holding a scroll (roll of writing paper) in His right hand. We do not know what is written on the

scroll. But it must be important. Why? John wept when no one could be found worthy to open it (Revelation 5:1-4).

Fortunately, one Person was found worthy to open the scroll: Jesus.

Revelation does not call Him "Jesus." But it says, "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5). Then, without explaining why, John changes symbols. In the very next verse, John calls Jesus a Lamb!

He said, "I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain [killed]" (Revelation 5:6). John is talking about Jesus' death on the cross. And Jesus' death opened the way for our sins to be forgiven.



Before Jesus was even born, the angel Gabriel announced that the most important reason Jesus came to this world was to “save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). And that is the exact kind of God most people are looking for.

Most people want a God who will forgive their sins. Jesus Himself showed this forgiveness on the cross when He prayed for those who crucified Him. He said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

### **What Jesus does about injustice**

Our third portrait of Jesus is in Revelation 19.

Here we see Him dressed in red. (His robe had been “dipped in blood,” verse 13.) He is riding a white horse out of heaven. An army of angels dressed in white follows Him. They are also riding white horses (Revelation 19:14).

We discover that Jesus is riding out of heaven as an army general. Revelation says that “with justice he



judges and makes war” (Revelation 19:11). So someday all the world’s dictators such as Nero and Hitler, who have caused suffering among innocent people, will be called to face God’s judgment.

And this brings us back to the first question in this article. Do we want God do something about the suffering in the world? So much of that suffering is given unfairly to innocent people. Maybe you yourself have suffered an injustice. Perhaps you are in pain from an injustice right now.

The world you and I live in is an unfair world. Nobody ever promised that

this present life would be fair. Certainly God has not made that kind of promise. But He has promised that if we repent and confess the injustices we have done against others, He will forgive us.

And God has promised that a day is coming when He will bring punishment for the injustices done to all the innocent people in the world. "Vengeance [revenge] is mine," He once said; "I will repay" (Romans 12:19).

Many people think Revelation describes a cruel God who cannot wait to bring fire and brimstone (sulphur) down on His enemies. Fire and brimstone do appear in Revelation but Revelation's most important message is a caring God.

God cares so much about His people that He joins them in their suffering.

God forgives the sins of those who are sorry for them and turn from them.

And a day is coming when God will reward all people for the lives they have lived on this earth.

Does Revelation de-

scribe the kind of God you would like to serve? If it does and you have never accepted Him as your God, why not do so now?

*Marvin Moore is editor of Signs of the Times magazine. (This article has been adapted by Pastor George Belser. Used with permission.)*

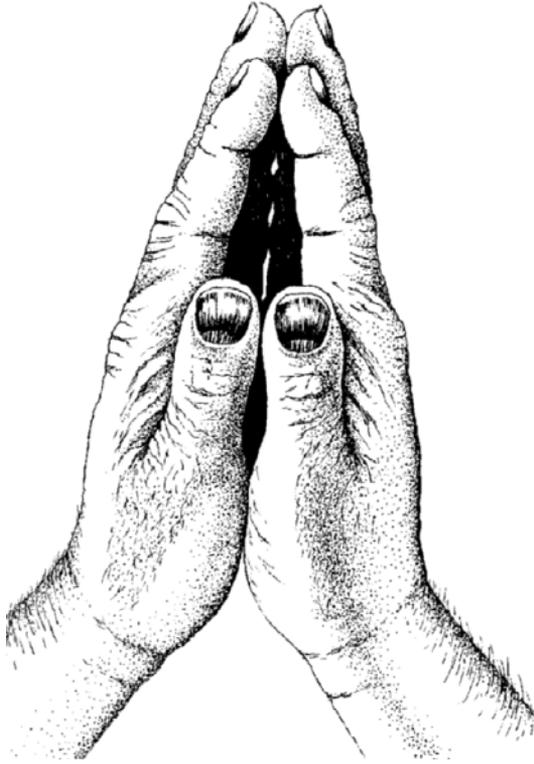
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## **Jesus, God's Son**

God the eternal Son became a human in Jesus Christ. Forever truly God, He was also truly man. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was born of the virgin Mary. Jesus volunteered to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. He was raised from the dead. Then He returned to heaven to work as the High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary for us. Jesus will come again in glory to rescue His people and to reunite them with God (John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:9-18; 1 Corinthians 5:3, 4; John 14:1-3).

# Blanket Prayers



“Oh what a pretty room!” exclaimed Bella, when she saw where she was to sleep that night. Bella had gone to the country to spend the day with her Aunt Kate. The snow fell all afternoon. The roads were covered with snow. Now Bella must stay all night. But, she was not sorry at all.

“What a nice little bed! Aunt Kate, did you sleep in this bed when you were a little girl, too?”

“Yes, I slept here for many years,” replied Aunt Kate. Aunt Kate helped Bella to undress. “The room is just the same now as it was before — the same bureau (dresser), chairs, and carpet. Everything is very old-fashioned. The room is more special that way.”

Bella looked queer (odd, strange) in Aunt Kate’s night-gown. The sleeves had to be pinned up in a funny way. Aunt Kate and Bella laughed a lot.

Bella did look funny. Aunt Kate lifted Bella up to see herself in the mirror.

“Now put me in the bed, auntie,” said Bella. “You may go downstairs again. I shall not be afraid.”

Aunt Kate paused with the little girl in her arms.

“Did you say you were ready to get into bed, Bella?”

“Yes, put me in bed now. Tuck me in nice and warm. Aunt Kate, when you come up to bed, come in and look at me with the funny cap on.” Bella’s bright eyes laughed out from the deep frill that hung over her face.

“Have you forgotten your prayers, Bella?”

“Oh, I always say them in bed, auntie.”

Aunt Kate looked serious. “But do you think that is right, Bella?” Aunt Kate sat down on the low chair beside the heater. Bella sat on auntie’s lap. “Do you think that is a proper way to pray?”

“Why, I don’t know”, said Bella! “I always say my prayers in bed, unless I happen to go to sleep before I know it.”

“My mother,” said Aunt Kate, “used to call such

prayers ‘blanket prayers.’ Mother never allowed the children to say prayers in bed. The children said prayers in bed only if sick or not able to kneel.”

“Now think, Bella, why do people kneel in church when praying? People kneel humbly to talk to Jesus during prayer. It would be strange for all the people to sit in comfortable positions during prayer time.”

“Oh, how queer [odd, strange] that would be, auntie!”

“It would certainly look strange and not proper,” replied Aunt Kate. People who pray that way would not show much reverence or devotion. A king and queen require respect from people who talk with them. People show respect especially when begging for mercy from the king or queen.

The King of heaven is more worthy of respect. People pray to the heavenly King asking for mercy and forgiveness. It is right and proper for people to kneel in church. It is also right and proper for people to kneel when alone in our rooms. Jesus sees us when we pray

to Him. We please Jesus when we kneel and pray to Him.

“But how do we know, auntie, that God wants us to kneel?” asked Bella.

“The Bible tells us to kneel when we pray.” replied her aunt. “Don’t you remember the words, ‘O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker’? Solomon, the great and wise king, knelt before the altar of the Lord.

Ezra fell upon his knees and made his confession to God.

Daniel knelt three times a day. Then we have a still greater and holier example than any of these.

Our Lord Jesus Himself, when He was with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, showed us how to pray. Jesus left the three disciples a little distance, and knelt down and prayed. Jesus’ example alone is enough to teach us the best position for prayer.”

“I will not say my prayers in bed any more,” said Bella seriously. “But, auntie, my room at home is cold. I like to jump into bed as soon as I can after I am undressed.”

“Bella, you can say your

prayers before you get undressed. We need to think less of our comfort. We need to think more of our devotion and love for Jesus.”

Bella knelt down beside the bed and her aunt knelt silently beside her. The little girl quietly repeated her simple prayer. There was a happy smile on Bella’s face.

“It is the best way, auntie, and I know that it pleases God best. I hope He will forgive me for praying as I have done.”

Aunt Kate kissed the little girl fondly, and whispered, “God bless you, my darling.”

I hope this old story written many years ago can help us understand how to pray. We show our love and respect to God and Jesus when we kneel to prayer.

I don’t want to offer “blanket prayers” any more. How about you? Take time and kneel when talking with Jesus each morning and night. Start the New Year right and show God that we really do love Him.

*Adapted from the book “Prayer Story” by Ernest Lloyd. Originally printed in 1948.*

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***Bunny Hovey***

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**THIS MAY BE  
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**Please Read Inside**

# A New Year, A New Beginning

by Joyce St.Clair

We think back, just a moment, on an old year is now gone. Where did it go; what happened in those 366 days we were given in 2004? Were they spent serving God and our fellow man, or in serving self?

Yes, that is a sobering (serious) question. It is also one that needs a thoughtful and sober answer.

But, now we have a beautiful new slate before us! A brand new year! It is so easy to make those New Year's resolutions. There are a lot of good ones, resolutions that need to be made - and kept. But, you say, New Year's resolutions are made to be broken!

My friend, did you know that God has promised us a lot of help? All the help we need to keep those resolves that will improve our lives so much! Just consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you, for everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Isn't that a wonderful promise? Now, back to new resolutions, or new beginnings. We all have habits, some that have been newly

acquired and some that we have had for many years. We are told that it takes about 30-60 days to acquire a habit, and about that long to change one, so we can feel confident about changing any habit if we really want to in a relatively short time!

Jesus also said in Mark 11:22-23, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says."

A bad habit can seem like a mountain, can it not? And here we are given a wonderful promise concerning mountains! Believe it! Grasp the promise! Trust not in your own strength, but in the promises of God!

There is a positive side to "habits", too. We want to develop those good habits that will increase the joys of life and help us to be the person we want to be. These positive habits can also be acquired in as short a time as the bad ones, so we need to hold to the ones that improve our life and let go of those that do not!

# The Voluntary Slave

by Stan Pease



I was once told about a story that happened a long time ago. I do not know if it is a true story, but it makes a good point. The story tells about a time when people were sold as slaves.

One day at a slave auction (sale), a strong, healthy young man was brought forward to be sold to the highest bidder.

“We have a fine man here. Strong. Young. Ready to do anything you need around

the farm or in the barn. I can promise you, he will not cause trouble. What do you bid?”

One person bid ten dollars. Another bid twenty.

The slave looked out over the crowd of people as they stared at him and thought about how much he would be worth and what they could afford to spend.

The people looked at the slave the same way they looked at furniture. Would it

look right in their home? Did it match with their other belongings?

“Twenty five dollars” was the next bid. Then thirty.

To be nothing more than a possession (something belonging to a person). What an awful fate (future).

Then one man stepped forward and shouted, “One hundred dollars!”

The crowd was shocked at the amount. In those days, one hundred dollars was equal to one full month’s wages.

No one wanted to bid more than that. “That slave is not worth *that* much,” some people shouted.

The auctioneer (seller) shouted, “Sold to the highest bidder for one hundred dollars!”

The slave stepped down from the stage. Many people still shook their heads. They still could not believe that anyone would spend that much money for any slave.

The slave looked into the face of his new owner. Then the slave said: “I will never serve you! I will try to run away and return to my family any time I have a chance.

You cannot force me to serve you. Whip me, beat me, put my life in danger; I will never do as you say.”

The new owner replied, “Sir, you do not understand. I did not pay one hundred dollars for a slave to do what I tell him to do. I paid the price that was needed to make you a free man. Starting today, you are no longer a slave, but you are a free man. Go where you want, do what you want to do. I have paid the price to make you free.”

The man had been a slave all of his life. He was never free before. Tears came to his eyes. It was hard for him to speak. He swallowed hard, and then he looks into his new owner’s eyes and said, “Sir, if you will let me, I will serve you for the rest of my life.”

This experience can also be the story of a Christian life. We have been slaves to sin. The Bible tells us, “Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23)

“No one is right with god, no one at all.” (Romans 3:10)

We have never known true freedom since we were born

into slavery. Some people say we were born to die. But that is not the way it was supposed to be.

God made us to live. "I [Jesus] have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way." (John 10:10)

Jesus paid the cost for our freedom from sin at Mount Calvary (the cross). "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." (Romans 6:23)

When Jesus volunteered to pay for our sins with His life, He paid more than we can understand. He was willing to be separated from His heavenly Father forever, if that was what was needed to buy our freedom.

We cannot earn salvation with good deeds (works). We cannot pay the price that Jesus paid for us, because we are not perfect, or sinless. We cannot do anything for this gift but accept it. It is free for the asking and for the taking. If salvation had a price that we could pay, it would not be a gift at all.

But, when we accept this

free gift, and we become free from sin, what's next? Do we have permission to continue sinning? Can we just continue with life the same as we always have in the past? Or, is something different ... has something happened, has life changed somehow?

Remember the slave that was bought for one hundred dollars? He started out with a bad attitude. He refused to serve. He only looked for ways to escape from his owner.

But when the slave was set free, his attitude changed. He **wanted** to obey, and to serve his new friend. A man (the owner) who was willing to give so much, and ask for nothing in return! This was a man worth serving for the rest of his life!

Today, right now, think about all the things you have done in your life. Are you worthy (important) enough to be saved? I am not. But you can bow your head right where you are. You can say with me, "Jesus, I am a slave to sin. I cannot pay enough to buy my salvation. I know that You love me. I accept, through faith, Your free gift,

the gift that You paid for with Your life, to set me free from sin. You have done so much for me, more than I can know. I want to thank you. I have decided to put my life into Your hands, and I choose, starting right now, to serve You for the rest of my life. Amen.”

This does not mean that your life will become easy and without problems or difficulties. No, Satan hates it when someone gives his or her life to Jesus. Satan becomes so angry that he becomes like a lion that is looking for someone to eat (see 1 Peter 5:8). But Jesus is faithful and He will never leave you or forsake (give up on) you. (Hebrews 13:5)

1 Corinthians 10:13 says this: No temptation (test) has

seized (grabbed) you except what is common (happens often) to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will provide (give) a way out so that you can stand up under it.

If we put our faith in Jesus, He will answer all of our prayers. But only if we are praying for what He wants. He always wants what is best for us. We do not always understand why, or how. But when we have faith, we put our full trust in Him, He will always do what is best. Maybe that is why the sign language for “Faith” and “Trust” are so much alike.

Let us all become “willing slaves” for Jesus in the New Year.



# In His Steps

by Arthur Maxwell



The Standfords lived on a farm in Canada. In winter there was much snow, sometimes several feet deep.

One morning the family came downstairs and noticed that the kitchen was very dark. Someone opened the blind, but the kitchen was still dark.

One of the boys said, "The snow is really above the window!" They ran into other rooms. They saw that some windows were covered with snow. There was much snow on the ground.

Ned and Bessie were visiting the Standfords. They were scared.

Ned asked, "How will we get to school this morning? I do not think we can walk through this snow, Mr. Stanford."

Bessie said, "We will not be able to open the front door." The Stanford family smiled.

Mr. Stanford said, "Oh, yes, we will; but we will all have to work hard to clear a path."

They all took shovels to dig a path through the deep snow. Soon they had cut a path through the drift that covered the front yard. Everything was covered with white snow. They could see the schoolhouse that was about a mile away.

The schoolhouse was covered with thick snow.

Ned said, "I do not see how we are going to get to school. The snow is too soft to walk on. We will sink up to our neck in the snow."

Mr. Standford said, "Wait and see. You will get to school all right. Do not worry. This is not the first time we have had much snow here."

The time to go to school was a little earlier than usual because of the snow.

Mr. Standford said, "Follow me. Put your feet exactly where I step. You will be okay. See?" Mr. Standford started walking, and his big boots sank deep in the snow. He made a hard path so the children could walk safely.

The children followed. They stepped into the deep holes Mr. Standford's boots made. They walked very slowly to school because the holes were very deep. The children followed Mr. Standford until they reached the school.

Mr. Standford smiled and said, "You see, we got here all right."

Bessie said, "What a job!" She was not used to having such a difficult time going to

school.

Ned said, "I kept thinking I was going to fall over and sink in the snow."

Mr. Standford laughed and said, "Now you see how important it is for you to follow in Father's footsteps."

Ned and Bessie said together, "Yes."

Mr. Standford continued, "And that is how we should follow the Lord Jesus. He went before all of us and marked our way. As long as we follow Him carefully, putting our feet where His feet stepped, we will get to heaven safely."

Ned said, "That reminds me of the memory verse we had the other day. 'Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in His steps' (1 Peter 2:21, TEV)."

Mr. Standford said, "Exactly. That is right. And now I am sure you will never forget this verse." The children agreed and went into the school when the teacher called them.

*Adapted and used with permission, from Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories, volume 5.*

# **A NEW START in Jesus**

by Alberta Blake

- N** - New mercies of God are given every morning. Lamentations 3:22, 23.
  
- E** - Eternal life is promised us if we remain in Jesus' love. 1 John 2:25.
  
- W** - Wait patiently on the Lord for His leading. Isaiah 40:31.
  
- S** - Self is surrendered to God. "I die daily."  
1 Corinthians 15:31.
  
- T** - Today, share with others what Jesus is doing for you. 1 Corinthians 15:31
  
- A** - Accept "Christ in me" today. Colossians 1 :27.
  
- R** - Robe of Christ's righteousness is given to me daily. Isaiah 61:10.
  
- T** - Trust that the Holy Spirit will finish the work of recreating me in the Creator's image. Philippians 1:6.

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