

IN THIS TEMPLE
AS IN THE HEART
FOR WHOEVER
THE DEAF

THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



**“And anyone who wants to be first must be your slave”
Matthew 8:27**

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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.

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The Inauguration

By David M. Trexler



MASTER SGT. CECILIO RICARDO U.S. AIR FORCE

The inauguration of Barack Obama is a historic event in the United States. Our new President Obama is African American. He is the first African-American president since the beginning of our democratic country. Another important reason is that Barack used Abraham Lincoln's Bible for his oath. Why did he choose Lincoln's Bible? What is so special about it? The theme for the

2009 Inauguration of Barack Obama is "A New Birth of Freedom," which honors the bicentennial (200 years) of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Abraham Lincoln broke the chain of slavery for millions of African Americans during the Civil War. It is not surprising that Obama admires the 16th President for his achievement in making a change in America by giving freedom to all races.

So, Lincoln's Bible reminds us of our greatest American president. If Abraham Lincoln didn't free the African Americans from slavery, would we remember him as our greatest president? No. Would Obama be here as our first African-American president? No. I believe as news have said that Obama used Lincoln's Bible as a symbol of African Americans' appreciation for what Lincoln had sacrificed for them, as well for all races in this country. God had used Lincoln for this purpose.

*After this article you will find more articles about our great leader, Abraham Lincoln.

The inauguration reminds me of our Lord Jesus Christ who has made a larger accomplishment. He gave us freedom from sin. Sin is the curse of humanity. I can't help but think of Jesus as a second Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln gave the African Americans freedom from slavery. Jesus Christ gave us freedom from slavery of sin. Jesus Christ did what Lincoln could not do in freeing us from the terrible power of sin that has

enslaved us since the fall of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Actually, Jesus Christ was inaugurated at several important events of His life. Jesus had fulfilled each of them making the plan of salvation possible for this dying world. This world needs changes as Barack Obama has promised for our country.

I believe that the first inauguration of Christ happened when He voluntarily became a human being through incarnation. That is the reason for Christmas. That was Christ's complete humiliation—a great step from the Lord of the universe to a slave. It was necessary for Jesus to step down farther in order to prove that God's righteous laws—the reflection of God's character—are right and perfect and to prove that we human beings can have victories over sin through His victory as our role model. "In his [Jesus'] very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He

took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-8). A Christian writer gave a good description of Jesus’ humility. “Wondrous combination of man and God! . . . He humbled Himself to man’s nature. He did this the Scripture (Bible) might be fulfilled; and the plan was entered into by the Son of God, knowing all the steps in His humiliation, that He must descend to make an expiation (sacrifice) for the sins of a groaning world. What humility was this! It amazed angels” (That I May Know Him, p. 68). “It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden” (Desire of Ages, pp. 48, 49). That was Jesus’ first step to making a plan of salvation for all of us. I call it His first inauguration.

Now, Jesus’ second inauguration happened

when Jesus was 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. A voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him’ ” (Matthew 3:16, 17). He began His ministry after 30 years of living quietly in Nazareth. He waited for the opportunity to start the mission of love that led Him to death on the cross. The death on the cross paved the way for Jesus to have His third inauguration when He was raised and ascended to heaven.

On the glorious morning Jesus resurrected from the grave. The resurrection proved that Jesus had completed His mission of dying for the world as the Lamb of God without sin. So, everyone who believes in Him can have eternal life. After the resurrection Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples teaching and counseling. But, Jesus went up to heaven while He was talking with the disciples. The

question is what has Jesus been doing in heaven since His ascension? Is He sitting on the throne doing nothing?

Jesus' third inauguration happened when He returned to heaven as High Priest and King. "We have a great high priest. He has gone up into the heavens. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us hold firmly to what we say we believe. We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it" (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Now, Jesus is our High Priest serving for us as we need Him daily. Jesus is also our King. When He comes again He will come as King. "They will make war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will overcome them because he is the most powerful Lord of all and the greatest King of all. His appointed, chosen and faithful followers will be with him" (Revelation 17:14).

Now, we have Someone who is taking care of us while we are struggling in this world of sin. We can pray to Him with confidence because He is both human and God at the same time. On the human part He understands our weaknesses and struggles, but He promises to give us His victory over temptations and sins.

Jesus' inaugurations are greater than all of the humans' inaugurations. He had fulfilled the Old Testament's prophecies concerning His roles and plans for this dying world. He deserves all of the honors the whole universe gives. In our country Obama is our President but he serves in this capacity for a short time. Jesus Christ is our King and Lord forever without ending. Would you like to receive Jesus Christ as our merciful High Priest and King?

“He Died for You, Honey”

By C. L. Paddock



“We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave his life for us” (1 John 3:16).

After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln his body lay in state. Thousands of heartbroken citizens passed by his casket that they might have a last look at the one whom they had loved. There was an elderly African-American woman who had with her a four-year-old grandson in the large crowd of people.

It was a long and slow-

moving line. After a long wait this woman and boy finally reached the casket. She cried when she looked down into the face of a man who had done so much for her. With some effort she stooped and with one arm lifted the little grandson up so he, too, could have a last look at their very dear friend. With sadness in her voice she said to him, “Take a long look

at that man. He died for you, Honey.”

Do we ever forget that some nineteen hundred years ago One died for us? Christ was willing to accept death that we might have eternal life.

A faithful guard on duty gave his life to protect the President when someone was trying to assassinate President Truman. The sympathy of the nation went out to the family of the slain guard. Many persons gave the wife and children some financial assistance.

A man in a small Ohio town bothered the townspeople by telling a favorite story over and over. Some people tried to avoid meeting him, because they felt sure he would try to tell the story again. He always began in the same way. “Once a man died for me,” and then he continued to tell the story—how when crossing the ocean he fell overboard and a sailor jumped into the icy waters of the North Atlantic and rescued him.

The sailor did not make his way back to the ship.

Then the man would go on, “I do not know where his body lies. I cannot place any flowers on his grave, but I can keep his memory alive by talking about him. A man died for me once.”

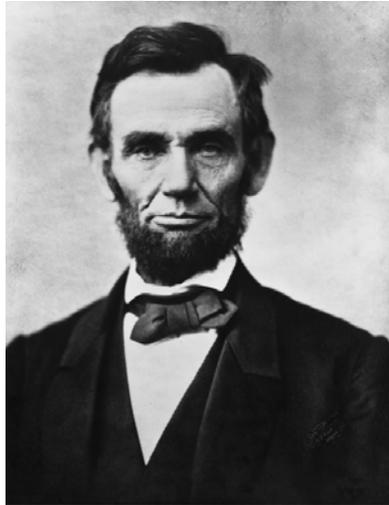
Has the world forgotten that Jesus died that we might have everlasting life? Is it something we should remember? Yes, it is, and it will not do any harm to talk about it. If He was willing to die for us, should we not be willing to live for Him?

“Christ gave Himself, an atoning sacrifice, for the saving of a lost world. He was treated as we deserve, in order that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His” (Desire of Ages, p. 25).

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The Greatest American

By C. L. Paddock



ALEXANDER GARDNER/WIKIPEDIA

“And anyone who wants to be first must be your slave”
(Matthew 20:27).

Perhaps most citizens of the United States would name Abraham Lincoln as our No. 1 citizen. Perhaps no man in public life in America did more for the nation than Lincoln did. No one serving the public had a stronger faith in God and believed more sincerely, wholeheartedly, and actively that right would completely triumph than Lincoln did.

In his boyhood he read the Bible daily and was interested in the stories in both the Old and New Testament. Abraham Lincoln

often quoted from the Bible in his public speeches and in his writing. He memorized many parts of the Bible. They became a part of him.

Dr. George W. Rideout wrote about him and said, “Lincoln grew up in God’s out-of-doors with nature as his schoolmaster. He had greatly influenced human history through great thoughts he had spoken and great things he had done. Lincoln unlocked doors of prisons and broke the chains that bound a million people. Lincoln, a poor boy, grew up

in poverty, but he learned to think at higher levels. When he became a man his heart burned with fire, and his words roared like thunder and flashed like lightning. A nation listened, all people felt the thrill, and a new chapter in history was written.”

Gilbert J. Greene tells this story about Lincoln: “One day while working as a lawyer in Springfield, Mr. Lincoln said to me: ‘Gilbert, there is a woman who is very ill. She lives about fifteen miles in the country. She has asked me to come and write her will. I should like to have you go with me.’ I cheerfully accepted the invitation. When we arrived we could see that the woman had a few hours to live. After the will had been written, witnessed, and signed, the dying woman said to Mr. Lincoln: ‘Now I have everything in order, and I have also made preparation for the life to come. I do not fear death.’

Mr. Lincoln replied: ‘Your faith is wise and strong. Your hope of a future life is a blessed one.’ Then she asked him if he would read

a few verses from the Bible. He began saying the twenty-third psalm from memory. Then he quoted the first part of the fourteenth chapter of John: ‘There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am.’

After he had given these and other quotations from the Bible he said several hymns, closing with ‘Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me.’ A little later the woman died. As we rode home in the buggy, I expressed surprise that he should have acted as pastor as well as attorney so perfectly, and he replied, ‘God and eternity were very near us today.’”

He was a kind man, a humble man, a good man, an unselfish man. He gave his all for his people and his nation.

Adapted and reprinted from *God’s Minutes* by permission from the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

An Atheist's Prayer



A retired Christian businessman in Canada continued to pray for, and stay in contact with, his business friends. One of those friends, an atheist, invited him to a birthday party not long ago. As the Christian man walked in the door his friend greeted him and said quietly, "Do you see that man sitting over there by the wall? You need to go talk to him. He is a doctor and you might be able to save him."

The Christian walked over and introduced himself by telling the doctor what the host had just said. The atheist doctor smiled and said, "I need you to tell me

about God. I am an atheist, but something happened to me last week and I need to know about God."

As they visited the doctor told about a lady in the hospital who was clearly dying. In fact, there was no way she could live through the night. The doctor even filled out her chart and told the nurse, "Don't bother me during the night if she gets worse. She is going to die and there is nothing I can do about it. There are to be no heroic efforts to save her. I will sign the chart in the morning when I do rounds." With that he started out the door when a voice inside him said, "Go pray for her."

“I can’t go pray for her.” he thought, “I don’t even believe in God or prayer!” With that he continued walking toward the exit.

But the voice came again, stronger this time, “Go pray for her!”

Reluctantly he slowed his walk, turned around, and went to her room. He walked in quietly and went to her bed. He didn’t say anything and she appeared to be unconscious. Without even opening his mouth he formed the words of a simple prayer and then turned and left. He was disgusted with himself for giving in to such superstitious nonsense.

At 5:00 a.m. the next morning the nurse called him. “Doctor,” she said, “I need you to come to the hospital and talk to that lady.” Angrily he cut her off, “I told you not to call me. There is nothing I can do. She is going to die. Just make her comfortable and let it happen.” “No Doctor,” the nurse interrupted, “that is not why I am calling you. The lady is sitting up and talking to people and she wants to talk to you.”

This was impossible. Quickly the doctor got up and rushed to the hospital. As he hurried into her room the lady smiled at him and said, “Good morning, Doctor. Thank you for praying for me last night.”

“But I didn’t pray for you!” the doctor lied. “I am an atheist. I don’t believe in prayer.”

“Oh yes you did,” the lady replied gently, “and here is what you said.” And she told him word for word what he had said in his heart the night before.

The doctor was shocked. The lady worsened again and died a few hours later, but he couldn’t get out of his mind that someone somewhere had read his thoughts and communicated them to her. Now he was asking our Christian brother to tell him about a God he had never wanted to believe in.

(NOTE: Dan Jackson, President of the Adventist Church in Canada, spoke for the GC worship, November 7, 2008. This is one of the stories he told during that worship.)

The Unforgettable Lie

By Beth Ann Dobson

Showing Christ's example is very important in this world. Looking at His wonderful character should make people follow His example. But, I did not show Christ's example when I was a little girl. It started when my mother gave me one business envelope in the kitchen in 1971 when I was in first grade.

"Beth, your school bus is here now. But before you leave, please give this envelope to your teacher, Miss Custead."

"Yes, Mom! I'll do that! Bye!"

It was only a twenty-minute drive to school from my hometown in Clarence Center near Buffalo, New York. During the ride to school, I had ideas that maybe my mother was sharing secrets about me with Miss Custead. I decided to open the envelope. I was surprised because it only had a check and a small note to my teacher that had nothing to do with me. I did not think I would be into trouble at all until Miss Custead asked me about the opened envelope I gave her in the classroom.

"Good Morning, Beth. Who opened this envelope?"

I was scared. So, I lied.

"The guy, Max, opened it because he was very curious."

"I'll go talk to him right away because what he did was not right at all."

"No problem, Miss Custead!"

I was working on my math worksheets when Miss Custead came back to the classroom. I knew she had talked to Max, and I sort of expected him not to accept my story. Miss Custead gently tapped me on my left shoulder.

"Beth, I've just returned from talking to Max. He never opened the envelope from your mother."

"Really? I'm not surprised. You know how he is! He can tell you many excuses. You know that!"

I spent about five minutes trying to convince Miss Custead that Max did it. But, she did not seem to believe me.

"I see, Beth. Please get back to work."

"Sure. No problem."

I felt a bit relieved because she did not send me to the principal's office. I had hoped that Miss Custead would forget about the envelope. But, she had a different plan. Miss Custead calmly told me that she would call my mother at 2:30 p.m. Deep inside, I knew my lie would be unforgettable. My guilt was all over my heart, and I tried getting rid of it. On the bus ride home, I was thinking of seeing my mother's red face. At 3:30 p.m., I slowly walked into my home kitchen with a feeling of unease. I saw my mother walking fast toward the kitchen from the living room, and I knew right away she wanted to talk to me.

"Beth! I need to talk to you now."

"Why? I just got home. Give me a break!"

"No way! I just talked to Miss Custead on the phone, and I'm not happy with you!"

"You are kidding me!"

I was very quiet. I was alone in the kitchen with my angry

mother. She ordered me to sit on the brown chair by the kitchen table, and before I obeyed her, I almost fainted. On the table was the exact business envelope that had my teacher's name on it. Mom angrily started the conversation.

"Do you see the white envelope?"

"Yes, Mom." I was very, very silent.

"I want you to tell me why you opened it this morning, and why did you blame it on Max!"

I could not lie anymore. Tears were rolling down my cheeks.

"Because I was so afraid Miss Custead would yell at me in front of my friends. I got scared."

"I see. You did not answer my last question, Beth Ann!"

"I got the idea of blaming on Max because he was staring at the envelope on the bus this morning."

"Beth! The envelope had your teacher's name on it. It was not for you."

"I know."

"When you see an envelope with someone's name on it, it means you do not open it unless you have her or his permission. You really ruined my trust, Beth. I am very disappointed with you."

"I am sorry, Mom." I was crying hard.

"Beth, Go to your room now. You are punished!"

I could not say a word because one simple lie ruined my day. I cried hard for almost an hour in my pink bedroom. I stayed there until the very next morning without eating dinner with my family. I was too ashamed because of a very ridiculous lie. Mom walked into my bedroom the next morning.

"Good morning, Beth. It is time for you to eat breakfast, as I am sure you are hungry."

"What? You mean it is time for me to go to school already? I want to stay home! I do not want to see Miss Custead!"

"No! You are going to school. You need to apologize to Miss Custead. Please take a quick shower now."

Inside the shower, I rubbed my body hard with the soapy cloth,

because I wanted to erase the guilt badly. I wanted to be like an angel. I felt good when I sat down to eat my delicious breakfast. Mom tapped on my right shoulder.

"Please give this envelope to Miss Custead today."

"Another check? What's going on?"

"Please give it to her."

"Fine. I will do it and I will say sorry to her."

"Very good, Beth."

I got on the bus wondering why my mother wanted me to give Miss Custead another check. I did not dare open it, because I could not stand the idea of telling another lie. Max was in the back row with me, and he never spoke a word to me. I knew he was very upset with what I did to him yesterday morning. As soon as the bus arrived at school, I nervously walked straight to Miss Custead's room. I wanted her to trust me again. I calmly gave Miss Custead the sealed, white envelope and then immediately apologized to her for lying. She accepted my apology and remarked that I would also have to apologize to Max, which I

did later on in the school day. To my surprise, Max accepted my apology, too. I could hardly wait to get home because I wanted to tell my mother that I apologized to two people.

“Mom! I had a great time today at school. Max and I started talking! He was really mad at me at first on our way to school, but as soon as I apologized to him, he accepted it immediately. I could not believe it.”

“Yes, I know what happened.”

“What? What do you mean?”

“Miss Custead agreed that she would call me the minute you gave her the envelope to be sure you did not open it. She also told me that you apologized to her and Max.”

“Whaaaattttt? She did what?”

“You heard what I said. We wanted to see if you could be trusted again, and your giving her the sealed envelope proved it. Believe it or not, a check was never in it. It was a blank piece of paper. I am very pleased that you apologized to two people.”

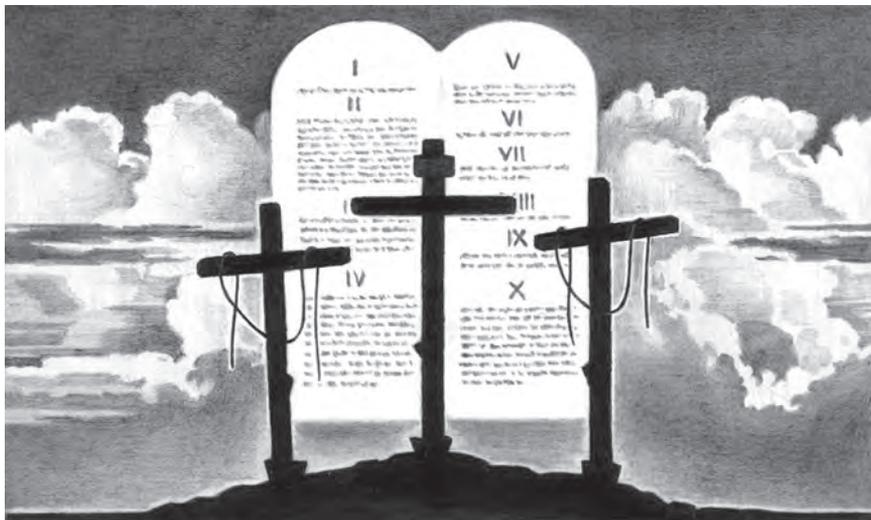
“Mom, I am glad you tested me. I cannot tell a lie again!”

Telling a lie is not a good

Christian example. Would Christ have lied? I do not think so. When Christ was living on Earth, He had wonderful traits such as compassion, gentleness, love, obedience, humility, and purity. He still has those traits in heaven today. He wants us to follow His example. The verse should apply to all of us today, “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate (think) on these things. (Philippians 4:8).”

Beth Ann Dobson is a full time Teacher of the Deaf and resides in Dumfries, Virginia with her husband and two sons.

The Top Ten Predictions for 2009



1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

God whispers in our soul and speaks to our mind.
Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He
has to throw a brick at us.

Author unknown
Submitted by Bunola Hovey

Vegetarian Recipes

Pita Pizza

Whole wheat pita bread
Spaghetti sauce or pizza sauce

Your favorite toppings:

tomatoes, onions, garlic, peppers, olives, burger crumbles, zucchini, celery.

Spread Pita bread with sauce. Top with toppings of your choice. Spoon cheese on top. (You can use a soy cheese). Sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Bake at 400 degree for 10 minutes. Serve immediately.

Quick and Easy Cheese

- 1 Box Mori-Nu tofu, extra firm
- 2 Tablespoons Lemon juice
- 2 1/2 Tablespoons tahini or sesame sees
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup pimentos or red pepper
- 1 1/4 teaspoon onion power
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 Tablespoons Nutritional Yeast Flakes

Combine all ingredients in blender. Blend till smooth. Ready to pour on Pita Pizza.

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- Who are the angels?
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- Is Jesus coming soon?

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