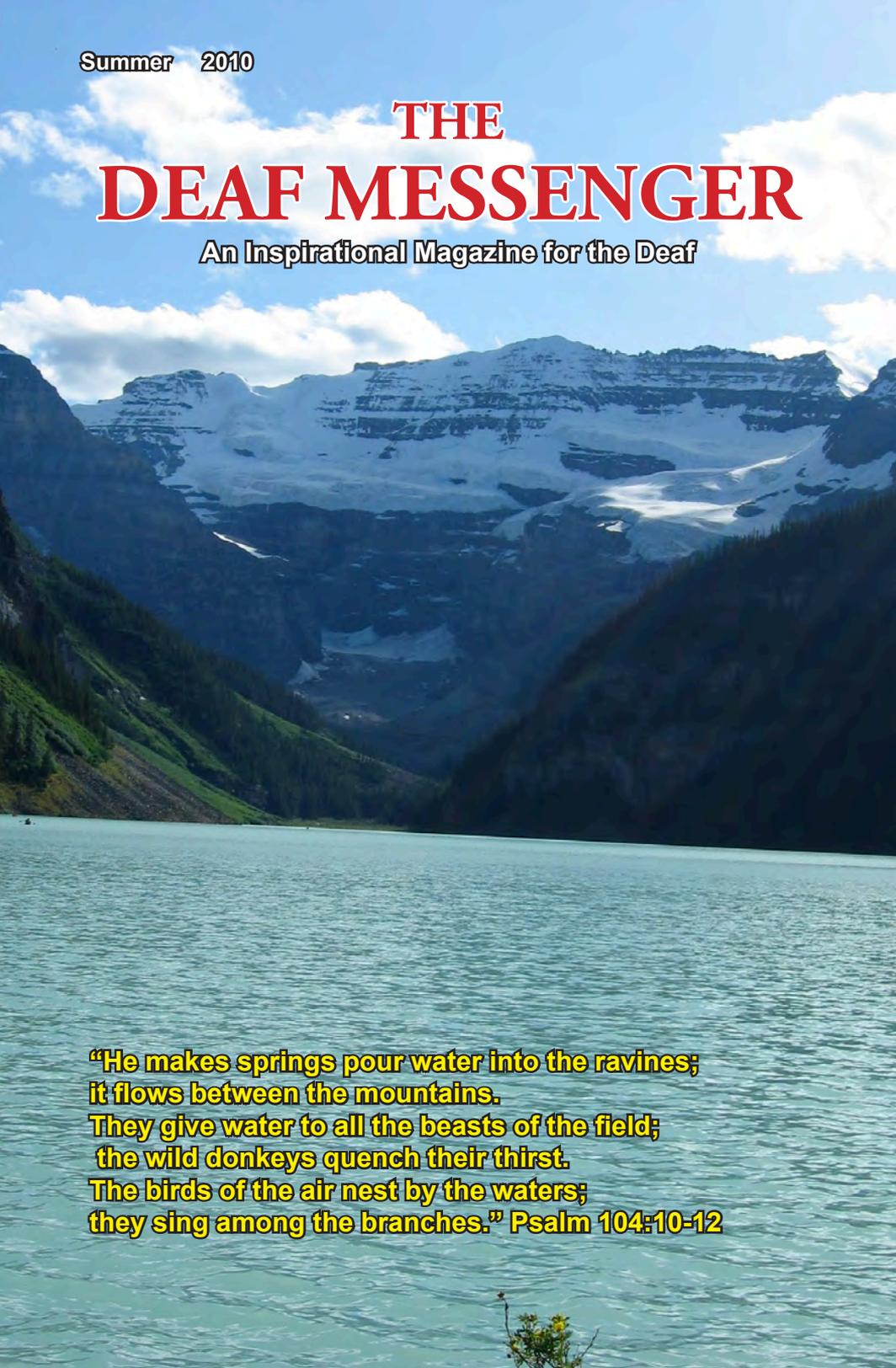


Summer 2010

# THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



**“He makes springs pour water into the ravines;  
it flows between the mountains.  
They give water to all the beasts of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
The birds of the air nest by the waters;  
they sing among the branches.” Psalm 104:10-12**

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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 Sure Word of Prophecy

By David M. Trexler



SermonView

In the late 1960's at Gallaudet University I was a new Christian who heard that Jean Dixon, who would be at the campus to give her presentations about her gift of "prophecy." I didn't believe that she was a "prophet" as she claimed she was. Today, I understand that she was a psychic. She claimed that her predictions showed 80% accuracy. She claimed that she knew that John F. Kennedy would be assassinated. She made

many claims, but some of them were not true. But, she was very popular at that time when many people in our country were concerned about their future. She was a very nice person who lived as a very rich person. She was rich because of her fame and her ability to predict the future (many times her prophecies were false).

Should we accept her as a God's prophet the same as the Bible prophets?

Should we listen to her when she didn't make accurate predictions? There are many other persons who have claimed to be a "prophets." But, they failed to make their predictions to come true many times. Is it safe to believe in the psychics whom the Bible condemns? Jesus told His disciples that in the future there would be many false prophets and Christs (Messiahs). "Jesus answered, "Keep watch! Be careful that no one fools you. Many will come in my name. They will claim, 'I am the Christ!' They will fool many people. . . . False Christs and false prophets will appear. They will do great signs and miracles. They will try to fool God's chosen people, if possible. See, I have told you ahead of time" (Matthew 24:4, 5, 24, 25). So, we need to pay attention to Jesus' warning when He talked about the last days. He gave signs of His coming, and He warned the disciples not to be fooled by false prophets and false Christs. Today, we see many psychics who claim to be the prophets, but they are not

true prophets at all. They just fool the world with different predictions that can lead the world away from God. In the Old Testament God warned His people not to believe in psychics of that time.

"You will enter the land the Lord your God is giving you. When you do, don't copy the practices of the nations that are there. The Lord hates those practices. Here are things you must not do. Don't sacrifice your children in the fire to other gods. Don't practice any kind of evil magic at all. Don't use magic to try to explain the meaning of warnings in the sky or of any other signs. Don't take part in worshiping evil powers. Don't put a spell on anyone. Don't get messages from those who have died. Don't talk to the spirits of the dead. Don't get advice from the dead" (Deuteronomy 18:9-11). Often the psychics use something to predict the future. The devil uses them to fool the people who don't follow the Bible or know God. Jesus did warn that the devil is working hard to fool God's people in the last days. We

must be careful when we hear or see someone who is doing something to attract us. We tend to be attracted to something exciting and mysterious. How can we know if the person who claims to be a prophet or not? The Bible has simple rules to help us to know the difference between the false prophets and the true prophets. God loves us so much that He doesn't want us to be deceived by the devil through the false prophets. Here are the rules from the Bible we need to pay attention carefully.

1. "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit. Put the spirits to the test to see if they belong to God. Many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Apostle John explained that we should not reject all of the prophets as false, but we must test them to see if they are from God or not. Satan's goal is to confuse and deceive us. Sometimes we are confused if we believe this person is a false prophet but he is real. So, we need to follow the next principles carefully.

2. True prophets always lead people to obedience to God's will. "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word [the Bible], it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20, NKJV). "Suppose a prophet appears among you. Or someone comes who uses dreams to tell what's going to happen. He tells you that a miraculous sign or wonder is going to take place. The sign or wonder he has spoken about might really take place [really happen]. And he might say, 'Let's follow other gods. Let's worship them.' But you haven't known anything about those gods before. So you must not listen to what that prophet or dreamer has said. The Lord your God is putting you to the test. He wants to know whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. You must follow him. You must have respect for him. Keep his commands [commandments]. Obey him. Serve him. Remain true to him" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4 with emphasis).

3. Prophecies of the true

prophets always come true accurately if they are not conditional. “Sometimes a prophet will announce something in the name of the Lord. And it won’t take place or come true. Then that’s a message the Lord hasn’t told him to speak. That prophet has dared to speak on his own authority. So don’t be afraid of him or what he says” (Deuteronomy 18:22). “But what if a prophet says peace will come? Only if it comes true will he be recognized as one who has been truly sent by the Lord” (Jeremiah 28:9).

4. True prophets point us to Jesus Christ as the center of the Bible and salvation. “How can you recognize the Spirit of God? Every spirit that agrees that Jesus Christ came in a human body belongs to God” (1 John 4:2).

5. True prophets have true, godly character. They are honest, humble, kind, patient and unselfish. They don’t copy the worldly ways. They don’t cheat on us. They are like Jesus Christ in character. “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you pretending to

be sheep. But on the inside they are hungry wolves. You can tell what they really are by what they do. . . . In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit [character]. But a bad tree bears bad fruit [character]. . . . You can tell each tree by its fruit [character]” (Matthew 7:15, 16, 17, 20). Do you remember some of the TV evangelists who cheated on the government by not paying taxes and they lived in fancy and expensive mansions. Some of them committed adultery while preaching on TV. They were not true preachers of the gospel because they didn’t live according to the gospel and the Bible.

The Bible clearly shows us how to tell the difference between the true prophets and the false prophets. We can be safe when we follow the Bible’s rules. The Bible itself was written by true prophets to help us to know the way of the Lord. God wants us not to be deceived by Satan, who uses false prophets to confuse us. If we are confused then we would not be ready for the

great day of the Lord at the second coming of Christ. Let me close with the words of hope from the Bible so that we can be sure of where we are going.

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye [you] do well that ye [you] take heed [pay attention carefully], as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn [Jesus’ second coming], and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private

interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:19-21, KJV).

I invite you to trust in the Holy Bible that has been tested again and again for many years, and it has never failed the test. Psychics and other false prophets have failed many times. The Bible is God’s love letter to us to make sure that we are on the right path.



# Eyewitness to the Great Earthquake

By Neil Davidson



Arnold Genthe/Wikipedia

Grandma Bobst wrote the article, especially for me (Neil Davidson), about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, which occurred when she was 20 years old.

The 1906 earthquake happened at 5:18 a.m., April 18, 1906. Fred (Neil's uncle) was 13 months old and we lived in Santa Rosa about 60 miles north of San Francisco. There was a chicken yard along one side of our house and some white leghorn chickens in it. For some unknown reason Grandpa woke up about 5:10 a.m. and got out of bed and went

over to look out the window into the chicken yard. It was just getting daylight and he said the chickens were all crowded together out in the middle of the yard. He wondered why. As he was watching, he saw a house on the other side of the yard rock as if it were floating on the waves; and then he saw the ground rising and falling as waves came across the yard and then they hit our house. It shook and rolled and knocked the end of the bedsprings off the bed. By that time I was awake and hanging onto the bedstead. It

was an iron bedstead. Fred's crib was by the window and Grandpa grabbed him and put him on the bed by me. I got him in my arms and got out on the floor and made for the front door. All the time the house was reeling like a drunken man. When I got to the door and unlocked it as I started to open it, Grandpa grabbed me and wouldn't let me open it. Just then another shock came and down came our chimney right thru the porch roof into the porch and steps. If I had gotten out as I tried to do I wouldn't be alive or Neil or several others to hear this story. It was a terrifying experience. I did not enjoy it one bit.

We didn't have refrigerators those days but I had a wire disk cupboard with casters on it and the doors shut with catches. It rolled from one side of the room to the other side back and forth 2 or 3 times. I kept my dishes in it. They fell down and broke, but the doors didn't open so all the mess stayed inside.

The plaster fell everywhere and things were sure dirty. There wasn't a

building left standing on the main street of Santa Rosa. I think there were none at that time more than 3 stories but they were all down about 10 blocks or more.

Neil: "Was your house damaged severely? Was it safe enough to let you sleep inside?"

Grandma: "We lived in a rented house, and we got a tent and put it in my parent's big yard and moved over there.

Neil: "Was your parents' house affected by the earthquake?"

Grandma: "Just the fallen plaster mostly. The house was in a big yard and had 9 or 10 pine trees in front, and they said those trees whipped so hard the tops touched the ground."

Grandma called this earthquake "a baby earthquake" and quoted a verse from Revelation 16:18—" . . . there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great."

---

Neil Davidson is a former Deaf pastor for the Deaf and lives in Chula Vista, CA .

# Dangerous Events Are Happening Quickly!

By Beth Dobson

Many of you will agree that we live in a shaky world. There have been dangerous events that have happened in recent days. Our economy is horrible, the Haiti crisis is still a nightmare because of a powerful earthquake that happened in January 2010, the oil spill (April 2010) in the Gulf has hurt businesses, fishermen, and creatures. Unemployment continues to be high. Times are starting to be very difficult for millions of people in the United States as well as in other countries. Jesus talked about “the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3, NKJV). This means that the future is not good. Paul, the writer of the book of Timothy, predicted that “in the last days perilous [dangerous] times will come” (2 Timothy 3:1, NKJV), and many people seem to feel that those times have arrived.

Jesus clearly told that at the end of the world, “There

will be great earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in various [different] places...” (Luke 21; 11, NKJV). We have seen dangerous events in recent years such as the swine flu, powerful earthquakes (there were 8,902 earthquakes as of June 30, 2010 according to the US Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center), and people suffering from natural disasters, hunger, and diseases in different parts of the world. Hurricanes and tornadoes will bring more problems for many people this year. For example, Alex, a category 2 hurricane, ran into Northeast Mexico on June 30, 2010. The destruction that Alex left behind is too difficult to explain. People have to spend a lot of money trying to clean up the mess in Mexico and Texas because of Alex’s destruction. It

has hurt businesses and residents badly.

It is important to think about what lessons we need to learn from the dangerous events that have happened so far. Do these dangerous events mean that “God is quick to inflict (bring) disaster? Doesn’t He care when innocent people suffer? Is God a terrorist who strikes both good people and bad people without warning? (Signs of the Times, May 2010, page 33).” Many people seem to think that God is “punishing the victims for their sins” (Ibid, page 33). However, the answer to the question is no. God loves all of us so very much that He repeatedly gave us warnings and signs for us to pay attention. Take Noah for example. He warned people that a huge flood would come for many years. But people ignored Noah’s warning. You know what happened to them. They all died except Noah and his family. God wanted to give people a chance to repent of their sins during Noah’s time. God still wants people to do the same thing today.

It is why the signs of the end times have arrived to give us a warning to pay attention to what the writers and Christ have repeatedly said in the Bible. Our wonderful heavenly Father has plans for us. He says in Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV, “I have thoughts of peace and not of evil. I want to give you a future and a hope.” God wants to take us to his heavenly kingdom where bad things will never happen again.

Let us look forward to “the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13, NJKV). God wants us to “worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7). There is no doubt that Christ’s return is very soon because of the signs of the times we are living today. Won’t you get ready for His glorious return?

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Beth Dobson is a full-time Deaf teacher of the Deaf and lives in Dumfries, VA.

# Are We Following Jesus' Example

By Francisca Trexler



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If you happen to make new friends who do not believe in God or have left the church for some reasons, do you act like them so that they don't know that you are a Christian? Or are you being yourself as a true Christian? Are you afraid of losing your new friends if they know that you are a Christian? Are you afraid to say "No" to them if they invite you to places where Christians should not go? Do you sometime wish to tell them about Jesus Christ when you have a chance to talk to them? You are not

the only person who faces the problem of how to be honest with yourself when you meet people who are not Christians. Many of us are acting as hypocrites because we don't want to be different from them in dress, talking, joking, attending wrong amusements and going out to eat. We don't want them to feel uncomfortable with us if we behave as true Christians. If we are Christians, then we should always be Christians in words and action. Unfortunately, many times friends know the person

who is the Christian doesn't act like a true Christian. This Christian has lowered lifestyle standards so his/her friends can feel comfortable being around him/her who has the bad example. We should not try to lower our standards to be like them.

It is true that many people are not happy with Christians because they are acting as hypocrites. Why do they call the Christians hypocrites? Some Christians have a "holier than thou" attitude toward people who are not Christians. The Christians judge and criticize them while they (the Christians) are doing the same things they criticize. Some people or friends call the Christians hypocrites if they have lowered the standards. The world watches how Christians behave in the public. Are they really following the Bible's teachings and showing love toward all people, especially enemies?

Now, too many times, we do not want to be real Christians because we may feel embarrassed in front of

non-believers. Let us not hurt Jesus Christ, who has died to save us. He has taught us His example of how we should act in this wicked world. Jesus commands us to be ourselves and be honest with ourselves in front of non-believers. If you feel shy or embarrassed in front of your friends, ask Jesus Christ to help you to be a true Christian in word and action. Being honest with the non-believers can lead them to the Gospel. Remember, Jesus Christ never lowered His standards when He associated with human beings when He was on earth as the Great Missionary. Jesus Christ was the perfect example to His people, and they loved Him very much. He showed His love and care for the people who were rejected by the religious leaders. People were searching for happiness and truth and they found them in Him. Jesus' high standards didn't bother them at all. So, we should do the same way as Jesus did. We don't invent rules to follow. We just follow the

simple Bible rules of life. It is true that non-believers who have low standards are looking for people who have the love of God and high standards. They are attracted by true Christ-like behavior.

Here are a few verses we can learn how to behave correctly like Jesus Christ anywhere we are. “Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things” (Philippians 4:8).

“But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind” (Galatians 5:22, 23).

“But here is what I tell you. On Judgment Day, people will have to account for every careless word they have spoken. By your words

you will be found guilty or not guilty” (Matthew 12:36, 37).

God’s standards or ways are not hard to follow if you surrender your life to Jesus Christ, who has the power to give to you. It requires much prayer and effort as long as you stay with Jesus. It is important for us to associate with people who are doing and saying right. We need support from other true Christians who can have strong positive influence on you. Let us be on God’s side rather than on the Devil’s side. The world is following the Devil’s way. Jesus said that we are to be “the light of the world” as we show God’s character.

Let us pray: Our Father, thank you for your great sacrifice for us. We want to follow your example. Help us to show your love to the world. Help us to be honest with ourselves so the world can see Christ in us. Thank you for helping us, and please forgive us for not being good examples of Christ.

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Francisca Trexler is a Deaf writer who lives in Lanham, MD.

# Who?

by Arthur Griffith

When you type on your computer, do you ever stop to think  
Of the brains that built this wonder, making great libraries shrink?

Then to every thinking person, comes the question, "Who designed  
That marvelous computer that we call the human mind?"

Its hardware and its software are encased within the head,  
And when they cease to function, one is clinically dead!

Who planned this fine creation, put the plan into a cell?  
Who but our great Creator Who does all things so well?

And this awesome living organ makes us all morally free  
We decide by our free choices what we finally will be!

After that, the fateful moment when the Judge decides our case,  
And we learn with joy or sorrow just what future we will face.

Let us now, while time still lingers, take the gift He offers free,  
Of life and home eternal bought by blood for you and me!

Late Arthur Griffith was a retired Deaf pastor.

# Colds, Colds, and More Colds!

By Alberta Blake



people get the cold germs from touching doorknobs or other things that someone with a cold has touched. The cold germs can be passed from one person to another person. If the immune system (the part of the body that fights against the germs) is weak, then that person may get the cold, too.

Colds, colds, and more colds! What causes a cold? Why do some people get more colds than other people? Can anything be done to avoid getting a cold? Can people do anything to help once a person has a cold? Let us look for some answers.

What causes a cold? Cold germs are passed through the air when a person with a cold coughs. Other people can get these cold germs by breathing the germs into the lungs. Some

Why do some people get colds more often than other people? There are a number of things that make a person's immune system weak. They could be as follows:

1. Too many sugary foods in the diet.
2. Too many fatty-rich foods in the diet.
3. Too much of even good food eaten.

What can a person do to avoid getting a cold? There are many things a person

can do to help avoid getting a cold. Some could be as follows:

1. Dress warmly when going from a warm room to a cold car or from indoors to out of doors.

2. Get more rest—go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.

3. If possible stay away from coughing people or anyone with a cold or even the flu.

4. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating or touching your mouth.

5. Drink more liquids, preferably from 6-8 glasses of water every day.

6. Go for a walk/run daily if possible. This helps the blood to circulate and helps to keep the blood healthier.

7. Breathe deeply when walking or running in the fresh air.

8. If you have some activated charcoal put a little in water and drink it down. Let it stay in the back of the mouth for awhile. The charcoal helps to cover the germs and soothes the throat.

Can anything be done

to help once a person has a cold? Yes, there are some things that can be done once a person gets a cold. They are as follows:

1. Eat or drink foods rich in Vitamin C such as grapefruit, oranges, tomatoes, green and red peppers and many other good fruits and veggies.

2. Eat less of starchy foods and drink more fluids including unsweetened juices.

3. Don't eat foods with sugar.

4. There are some other over-the-counter medications, anti-viral (germ) capsules, or immune boosters one can take that may be helpful. You can get these from health food stores or drug stores.

I hope you find some of these ideas helpful to you. If you have any simple home remedies that you have found helpful just let me know. My wish for each of you is that you will eat well, enjoy life, keep active and be healthy.

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Alberta Blake is a writer who is interested in health and lives in Clive, Alberta, Canada.

# Vegetarian Recipe

## Vegan Pumpkin Pie



Jerry Bernadri/123RF

- 1 pkg of Tofu
- 1 cup of water
- 1 can of pumpkin
- 3/4 cup of dates (chopped)
- 1/2 tsp of salt
- 1 1/4 tsp of Coriander
- 1 tsp of Cardamon

Liquefy in the blender till smooth. Pour the unbaked pie crust.

Bake: 350° for 1 1/2 hours.

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