

Autumn 2010

THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



God said, “. . . Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky.” Genesis 1:20

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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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A Birth to Celebrate

By Amanda Colgan



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I'll never forget how I eagerly waited for the birth of my daughter Amy, who was born on December 12, 2009. God was excited about the birth of His Son Jesus, too. Angels trumpeted, announcing His arrival. Shepherds and Wise Men rejoiced over His birth. Prophecies in Old Testament proclaimed the birth of the Messiah.

The prophet Isaiah said Christ would be born of a virgin (Isa 7:14). Jacob in Genesis 49:10 said He would come from the lineage of Judah. The prophet Micah declared that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (verse 5:2).

The purpose of Jesus'

arrival on Earth was to save His people from their sins. The angel told Joseph, "She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Christmas is a time to celebrate and rejoice. Praise God for that we are not left alone in the darkness of sin. In Jesus we have hope of eternal life. In Luke 1:28 it says "Rejoice . . . the Lord is with you" (NKJV). Make Jesus the center of your joy today.

Amanda Colgan is a Deaf homemaker who lives in Hyannis, MA.

Jesus Is Truly the Son of God & Son of Man

By Paul Kelly



Cook Communications Ministries

Jesus Christ has gone to heaven to work for us as our High Priest. He helps us to come “boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain [get] mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). Since then, many people including the theologians (religious teachers) have been having a difficult time understanding how Jesus was both God and Man after He was born on this earth. In the Bible, especially the New Testament, there are many verses saying that Jesus was the Son of God like in Matt 14:33 and was the Son of Man in Matt 9:6; 16:27. There are many studies on these subjects. Why it is difficult for our human minds to understand this? What was Christ’s role as the Son of God, especially His divinity (God’s nature)? What was His relationship with us as the Son of Man regarding His humanity? We shall go to our Bible to help us to understand just enough at present time with the help of the Holy Spirit. We will

never stop learning about the dual nature of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul said that Jesus as God being in the flesh was a “mystery of godliness” (1 Timothy 3:16). Indeed, it will always be a mystery.

Jesus as the true Son of God . . .

Jesus has unlimited power and authority. God, the Father, has given Him “all authority . . . in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).

Jesus has total knowledge. That means He knows everything. Paul said that in Him “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

Jesus is present everywhere. He is not far from us. He promised to be with us to the end of the world as He said, “Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). He also promised to be wherever we are as He said, “Where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

Jesus does not change.

So, His messages have never changed. Paul said in Hebrews 13:8 that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Jesus is eternal. He has always been there in heaven before the world was made—“He is before all things” (Colossians 1:17). “He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:2, 3).

Jesus has the divine (godly) power. All things live and continue to exist through Him (Colossians 1:17). He is able to raise the dead (John 5:28, 29). He healed many people (Matthew 11:4, 5). He has the power to forgive sin (Matthew 9:5-7).

Jesus is God who lives and works with God the Father. He identified Himself as “I AM” (John 8:58). He considered Himself as one in unity with the Father according to John 10:30 where he said, “I and My Father are one.” He is the one with the same characteristic to that of the Father. He said, “He who has seen Me has seen the

Father” (John 14:9).

Jesus is worshipped as God. People worshipped Him as God (Matthew 14:33). All angels of God worshipped Him (Hebrews 1:6). Paul said that everyone will bow, confessing that Jesus Christ is the Lord (Philippians 2:10, 11).

There are many more that can be said about Jesus Christ and His divinity (God’s nature). The next thing we shall see how He came to live as one of us humans.

Jesus as the true Son of Man . . .

Jesus came and lived among us. John wrote, “The Word became flesh and dwelt [lived] among us” (John 1:14).

Jesus was born of a woman named Mary who was a virgin. It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that she became pregnant (Luke 1:31-35).

Jesus grew to manhood. He “grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom” (Luke 2:40, 52). He was obedient to His parents (Luke 2:51).

Jesus was willing to

give up on being equal with God. He stepped down from heaven and to take up the human body (Philippians 2:6-8).

Jesus “was made a little lower than the angels” (Hebrews 2:9). He shared the same flesh and blood that we have so that by His death He might destroy the Devil who has the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). He was in “likeness of sinful flesh” so that He could put away sin through His death (Romans 8:3).

Jesus was called a “man.” Apostle Paul said, “one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

Jesus was “in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He “suffered when He was tempted” so that “He is able to help those who are being tempted” (Hebrews 2:18).

Again, there are many more in the Bible that can be said about Jesus and His humanity.

It was awesome that Jesus, as the divine God, was willing to come down to the earth and to take

humanity upon Himself to save us. Apostle Paul called Him the “last Adam” who was “the Lord from heaven” (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47). The first Adam was a perfect human in body and mind before he fell into sin. His sin had brought us death and destruction down to this day (Romans 5:12). Throughout four thousand years sins have affected people’s bodies and minds. They were far less perfect than the first Adam. Jesus is the “last Adam” who willingly took up the body similar to that of people’s bodies 4,000 years later! Throughout the gospel books, Jesus showed to have similar human characteristics that we have. He showed righteous anger at two-faced Jewish religious leaders (Mark 3:5), compassion (Matthew 9:36), and was filled with sorrow (Matthew 26:38). He even wept (Luke 19:41, John 11:35). He completely depended on God through His life of prayer (Luke 6:12, 22:44). Jesus successfully resisted temptations by Satan through His continual dependence upon the

Father. He quoted biblical texts when He was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). All His life, He faced temptations and had not done ONE sin (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). Jesus even died asking God to forgive those who had wronged Him (Luke 23:34).

Adam failed to turn to God for God's help when he faced temptation by Satan. God has a great love to save us from sin and death (John 3:16; Matthew 1:21), so Jesus, as the Son of God, became the Son of man as the second Adam. He shows us a way of escape from sin and death. Jesus was like the first Adam before the fall with a perfect character, pure, and holy but His body was similar to people's bodies 4,000 years later. Jesus lived a perfect life without sin because He depended on God when He faced many strong temptations by Satan. The grave and death cannot stop Jesus from rising to life because He had not sinned once. He has the "keys" to free us from the grave and death (Revelation 1:18

Apostle Peter said that Jesus offers us His divine power to help us overcome the world of sin and to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3, 4). Apostle Paul, Peter, and John encouraged us to follow Christ's way (Colossians 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6). You may think that it is impossible to follow God's way. That is what the disciples and many people thought so but Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Matthew 10:27). What you need to do is to keep asking, seeking, and knocking, and it shall be given to you (Matthew 7:7-8). Furthermore, Jesus promised you the Holy Spirit to help us (John 14:14-16, 26).

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for being our Son of God and our Son of Man! Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Paul Kelly is a Deaf lay pastor and a teacher for the Deaf who lives in Rochester, NY.

Scriptures quoted are in New King James Version. Used with permission.

Christmas

By Chester Budd

Christmas comes once more
To our village old and calm
And the sacred Christmas feelings
Bring to all our hearts a balm.

Sure the world is full of trouble
Sorrow, sickness, death and pain;
So with joy we greet this season
And find sweet release again.

May the Son of God be born
In our hearts anew tonight,
And may each succeeding Christmas
Find us following the light.

Now we give to you this token
Of our love and high esteem;
May its sweetness bring you pleasure
Great as yours to us has been.



The Wise Men Still Seek Jesus!

By David M. Trexler

In time past I wrote about my vivid memory of the Christmas nativity play in a community's park. Now, Christmas is coming soon and it always reminds me of the Christmas play again. In the play I saw the shepherds and the wise men coming to see the baby Jesus. Right now, I am thinking of the wise men who traveled far from the East just to see the baby King.

The story about the wise men from the East is in the book of Matthew. But, it doesn't tell exactly where did they come from. Probably, they came from the area of Euphrates River where Iraq is located today. Often in the Bible wise men were magicians and astrologers. But these wise men who sought Jesus were of noble birth, educated and wealthy. They were the philosophers and the counselors who learned all of the wisdom of the ancient East. They studied the Hebrew Scriptures and they found

the truth about the Messiah. The Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament caught their attention. "There shall come a Star out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17, KJV). They also probably knew about the time prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 9:25, 26) and believed that the Messiah's coming was near.

The wise men travelled far to see the baby Messiah (Jesus). They worshipped Him and gave Him the gifts. They might have experienced dangers when they travelled more than 500 miles just to see the King.

What would the "wise men" of today would do in the 21st Century? I would like to give you some simple principles we can be like the wise men of old who were very sincere in seeking the truth that is Jesus Christ. I believe that there are many "wise men" in the world and they have found the truth.

At the time of Jesus' birth a special and unusual star appeared that guided the

wise men. That Star led them to where Jesus was lying in the manger. That Star was there to guide the truth seekers. Today, we have the Star, but we don't see it in the sky. Where do you think we find the Star? The answer is the Bible, that is the Word of God that tells everything about our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

“ ‘ Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures [the Bible]. He began with Moses and all the Prophets. . . . This is what I told you while I was still with you. Everything written about me must happen. Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms [the Bible] must come true’ ” (Luke 24:27, 44). Clearly, Jesus spoke about Himself when He explained to the disciples from the Scriptures that were the Old Testament. The wise men of old found the Savior when the Jews who were called to teach the truth missed it.

Jesus called Himself, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Like

the wise men of the past we seek to find the truth that is Jesus Christ. So, the Bible is the truth that is Jesus Christ. We don't have the star in the sky, but we have the Star in the Bible. We need to believe in the Bible that talks about Jesus Christ. He is the way to the heaven. We can't go to heaven in other ways. Only through Jesus we can go to heaven. That is why Jesus was born, raised, and died for all of us.

One more is that we need to believe in Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah—the Savior and Lord. “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life” (John 3:16). We need to believe in Jesus Christ in order to have eternal life. The word, “believe” doesn't mean we in our mind believe Him. Satan believes and trembles at the same time. So, “believe” means that we commit our lives to Jesus Christ. We accept Him as our Savior and Lord at the same time. We walk with him daily. Walking with Him means we

stop doing sinful things we have done in the past. We no longer love sins. We now love God's way. As the wise men did we believe Him and follow Him. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The wise men are the saints "who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

Shall we be changed if we study the Bible? The wise men's life changed when they studied the Scriptures and found Jesus as a baby on the manger. Their life turned for better. They were filled with joy after worshipping the divine Baby. Many stories have been told over and over about some of the worst sinners changed into some of the best saints in the world. Let me share some of them.

First is Mary Magdalene who had a shameful life before she met Jesus Christ. When Jesus met her, He cast out seven devils from her. She became a changed woman who followed Jesus. Her search for someone who could free her from sinful life

led her to Jesus the Messiah. After the deliverance from sin and repentance she became a different person. Before Jesus was going to be betrayed Mary heard about Jesus' prophesy of His suffering and death. She decided to anoint Jesus' body when Jesus and His disciples were guest at one of the Pharisees' house. She did that because she loved Jesus who had saved her from her sins and gave her the power to become a daughter of God. She was one of the "wise men."

Second and last is a story of an old man in a city back in the late 1800's. He was at the street corner where a wealthy man met him. That wealthy man was not a believer in Christ, but he made fun of Christians. That wealthy man heard about the conversion of that old man, and he asked him if he were a Christian. The old man said "yes." Then the wealthy man asked him if he knew some of the Bible verses. The old man admitted that he didn't know some of the verses. The wealthy man then said, "Why did you

become a Christian without knowing the Bible?” He made some unkind remarks to him. The old man looked down shamefully, but after thinking he looked him to the wealthy man. He asked him if he knew of his past life.

The wealthy man admitted that he didn't know. Then the old man looked up to the wealthy man's eyes and said that he was one of the most wicked man in the city. He was a drunkard who beat his wife frequently and he lost his jobs often. Many people and friends thought there was no hope for him. But, one day he met Jesus who completely changed his life. He learned about Jesus through an evangelist who preached the gospel. That old man was an illiterate who couldn't read or write, but he heard the truth about Jesus Christ. His conversion shocked the community and he became one of the saints in the city. Their marriage turned for better. The wealthy man was impressed after that.

Are we like them in seeking Jesus daily? Are we willing to give up something

that is very precious for Jesus? Are we willing to surrender our time and lives to Jesus? Are we willing to “travel” across the dangerous lands in order to see Jesus? I encourage you to do.

Can we fail to find Jesus? Yes, we can if we allow ourselves to be distracted to many of the worldly things the same as the Jews did when Jesus was born. The wise men already knew about it because they studied the Scriptures carefully and found the Star. So, we don't want to miss Jesus at all. If we miss Jesus, we wouldn't be happy and satisfied people. We wouldn't want to lose the chance of going to heaven with Him who is coming back again soon. So, my friends we need to seek Him daily like the wise men of the past. They were spiritually prepared for the great event of His birth so we need to be prepared for the great event of His second coming. Let Jesus be your beloved Savior and Lord.

He's My Brother

by C. L. Paddock

*“Love each other like brothers and sisters.
Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves”
(Romans 12:10, NCV).*



to home when he passed a boy in his early teens. Something unusual about the boy caused the pastor to slow down a bit. The boy was walking slowly through the soft snow, and he carried on his back a heavy burden. The boy puffed as he walked, and his breath was visible in the cold, crisp evening air. His heavy breathing was showing that his load on his back was heavy.

The pastor stopped and asked the boy, “You have a heavy load for a boy your size. The boy stopped and said with a smile in his voice, “Oh, he ain’t heavy, mister. He is my brother.” The pastor was amazed at the great love of the boy for his brother who was on his back. He didn’t complain because he was devoted to his brother with love.

Some years ago William Taylor told an experience

It was a stormy, cold Christmas Eve. A strong wind from the north was blowing the falling snow into drifts. All the earth was blanketed in white as night came on a small town in the Midwest. The weather except the cold north wind was ideal for Christmas Eve.

A busy pastor was tired and weary from making last-minutes calls before Christmas. He was walking

of his boyhood days. On horseback, he was taking grain to the mill to be ground into flour for the family. The sack of grain was divided in the middle on the back of the horse. The half of the load was hanging on one side of the horse and the half was on the other side. The horse fell, and the sack of grain fell to the ground. The sack was heavier than the boy. He just could not get it back on the horse again.

While he was trying to figure out to put the sack on the horse again, he was relieved when he heard another rider coming. But, the rider was the lord of the manor who was a wealthy landowner. The boy was disappointed because he felt sure that this great man would not stop not stoop to help him in his difficulty.

But, he was surprised that the gentleman stopped his horse, got off from the horse and said, "Sonny, you need help." He went on to put the heavy bag of grain back on the horse again. Young Taylor was nervous when he was trying to say his thanks and to ask if he

might do something to pay for his help.

The gentleman said, "I will tell you how you can repay me. As long as you live, whenever you find someone else needing help, you just get right down and help." Taylor never forgot this good advice.

What a different world this would be if all of us looked upon anyone in need as our brother. If we looked on every human being as our physical brother, and really loved that brother, doing things for others would not be a burden.

We don't need to go far today to find someone in need. And anyone in need is really our brother, whether he speaks the same language, or whether his skin is of different color. And if we give a helping hand with real love in our hearts, a blessing will come to the helper and the one helped. Someone has said we cannot love without giving. It is not difficult to do for our brother.

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School Lunch

By Alberta Blake

Now, school has started for another school year. Our thoughts are about lunches for our kids. What can I make for lunches? Do I want my children to have a balanced lunch? Are you responsible for making school lunches or other lunches? Aren't peanut butter and jam sandwiches good enough?

There are several things to think about when making lunches for children or for anyone who needs a lunch.

Whatever is for lunch should be part of the daily food intake. Lunches should have different kinds of foods. The lunch should not be the same everyday. The foods should be of different colors that help the food to look appetizing (delicious and tasty). One lady says again and again that each meal should look like the colors of the rainbow. I don't think we need foods of all of the colors but there should be more than only one basic color.

Plan to have eight or ten different lunch menus and use one for each day of the week for two weeks. Then begin the plan over again. Some lunches may be your children's favorites. You may want to change some of the menus as they may not be ones that are well liked. Make your list of things to buy and then on that day or the night before put the menu together. Some dishes

can be frozen for the day they are part of the menu. If a person plans well lunches can be a fun experience to work with and even more fun at lunchtime.

Some examples might be:

1) soup and buttered bread or crackers with fresh vegetables;

2) peanut butter on bread with a banana and an apple or other piece of fruit and some nuts;

3) lettuce, cheese (regular, soy cheese, or tofu cheese) and tomato slices—in a container and added at the meal and a homemade pickle slice or two. Have a piece of nut or banana cake or a cookie. Finish off with carrot or celery sticks;

You can think out some ideas for yourself. You may want a day a week for something different and unusual to make lunches more appealing.

Make your plans and work on them. Your children will enjoy good and balanced meals and you will enjoy making them. Also, your children will be healthy if you plan well for them.

Good eating!

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

Vegetarian Recipe

Reuben Sandwiches

Reuben Sandwiches

- 2 slices of rye bread
- 1 slice mock Canadian bacon by Yves
- 1 Tablespoon Better the Mustard (see below)
- 1 Tablespoon Jack Cheez (see below)
- 4 Tablespoons sauerkraut

Better Mustard:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/4 cup water | 2 teaspoons Turmeric |
| 1/3 cup lemon juice | 1 clove garlic, mashed |
| 1/4 cup unbleached flour | 1/2 teaspoon soy sauce |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | 1/4 cup Canola oil |

Method:

In blender, process first 5 ingredients on high until creamy. Pour into saucepan and cook to boiling point, stirring constantly, until thickened. Cool. Return to blender and add garlic and soy sauce. Process on high speed, and slowly add oil through the lid spout. Continue to blend for one more minute. Spoon into a glass storage container. Chill before serving. **Yield:** 1 cup (24 Table-spoon portions)

Jack Cheez:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 cup water | 1 tablespoon Nutritional yeast flakes |
| 1/2 cup raw cashews, rinse (wash them well) | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup cooked rice, white or brown | 1/4 teaspoon powder |
| | 1 teaspoon onion powder |
| | 1 1/2 tablespoon Lemon juice |

Method:

In a blender, combine water, cashews, and cooked rice and process until smooth and creamy. Add remaining ingredients and blend well. **Yield:** 2 cups (or 8 - 1/4 cup portions)

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