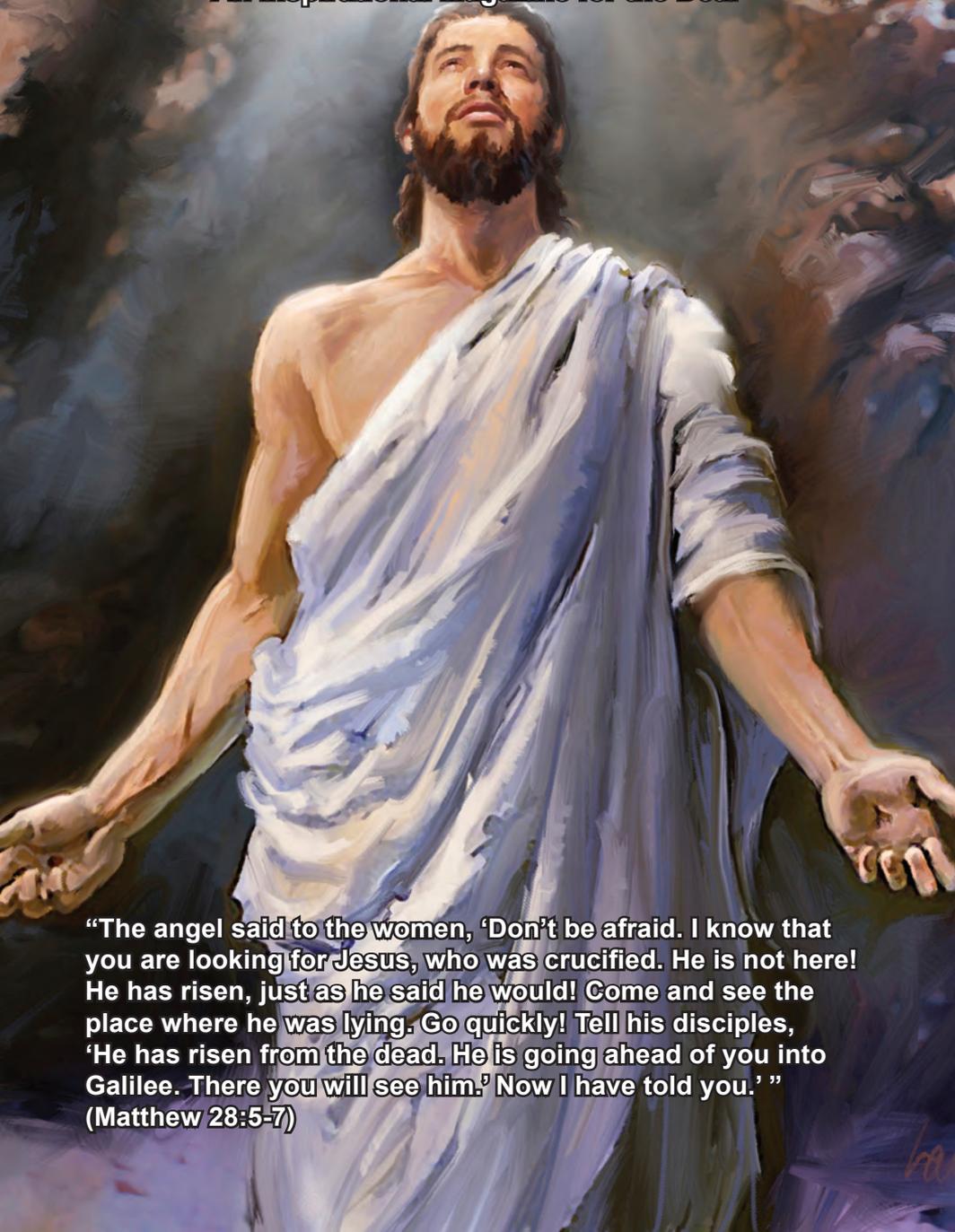


Spring 2012

THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



“The angel said to the women, ‘Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly! Tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.’ ”
(Matthew 28:5-7)

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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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Monday through Thursday

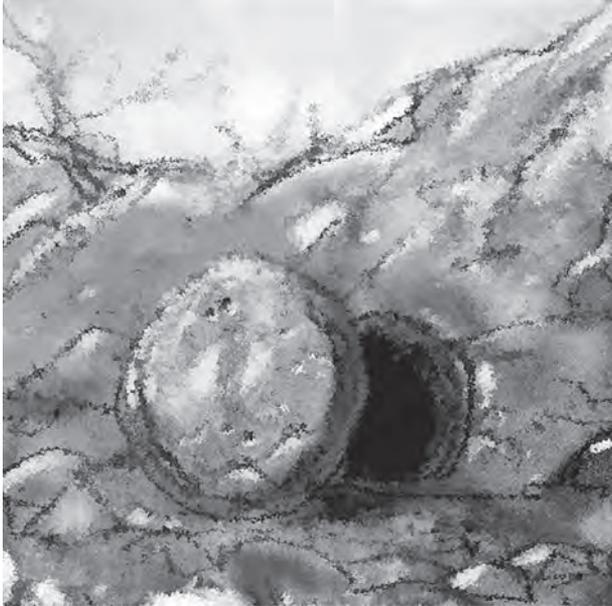
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Happy Resurrection!

By Chuck McGehee



Clear Collection Vol. 2

Easter celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is one of Christianity's most important holidays. I have had a bad habit of looking forward to celebrating Easter since I was a little boy. The reason I celebrated it is that I always loved to eat a medium-sized solid chocolate bunny every year. Now I am not disappointed anymore. I believe the new words for celebrating Easter is "Happy Resurrection," instead of "Happy Easter."

COMPARE KJV AND NKJV:
"And when he [Herod] had apprehended [arrested] him [Peter], he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people" (Acts 12:4, KJV).

"So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover" (Acts 12:4, NKJV).

Many modern English translations of the Bible use “Passover” or “Pesach” or “Pasch.” “Easter” is the wrong translation for the “Passover.” “Passover” is the actual translation. “Easter” in KJV is actually “Passover” which is one of Jewish’s seven festivals in the Old Testament. The only one Bible that mentions “Easter” is the King James Version. Why did the translators of King James Version use “Easter” instead of “Passover?” I don’t know why.

Do we hunt eggs or adopt rabbits on Easter? Of course, no! Easter actually comes from the word “Eostre.” What is “Eostre?” It is the Germanic goddess of spring. Easter is the mixture of heathen teachings and Christ’s resurrection. We do not accept the heathen’s part of Easter. Easter is not biblical. But, Easter is very popular among Christians, but we do not celebrate Easter with rabbits and eggs. We only celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul shares with us the purpose of the

resurrection. First of all, let me introduce Paul’s encouraging message based on 1 Corinthians 15. Read it first. The whole chapter gives us the hope of the resurrection such as what happened to Jesus after His death on the cross. He was raised from death, and we will be raised in the same way as Jesus was. Here is another text that gives us the picture of the resurrection of the saved when Jesus returns here.

“We believe that Jesus died and rose again. When he returns, many who believe in him will have died already. We believe that God will bring them back with Jesus. That agrees with what the Lord has said. When the Lord comes, many of us will still be alive. We tell you that we will certainly not go up before those who have died. The Lord himself will come down from heaven. We will hear a loud command. We will hear the voice of the leader of the angels. We will hear a blast from God’s trumpet. Many who believe in Christ will have died already. They will rise first. After that,

we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them. We will be taken up in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with him forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

It is difficult for many people to believe in the resurrection. The Sadducees, one of Jewish groups at Jesus’ time, didn’t believe in the resurrection. They challenged Jesus about it. Paul understood the possibility for some people to doubt the story about the resurrection. So, Paul used witnesses to prove that Jesus did rise from the dead—resurrection. Paul mentioned the names of the witnesses. “He [Jesus] appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than 500 believers at the same time. Most of them are still living. But some have died. He appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles” (1 Corinthians 15:5-7). The witnesses saw Him physically, but the first witness on the spot of the resurrection was Mary Magdalene who told Peter.

“Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. So she ran to Simon Peter and another disciple, the one Jesus loved. She said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb! We don’t know where they have put him!’ ” (John 20:1, 2).

A Bible writer, Luke, spoke of other witnesses—Cleopas and his friend.

“That same day two of Jesus’ followers were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. Jesus asked them, ‘What are you talking about as you walk along?’ They stood still, and their faces were sad. One of them was named Cleopas. He said to Jesus, ‘You must be a visitor to Jerusalem. If you lived there, you would know the

things that have happened there in the last few days.’ ‘What things?’ Jesus asked. ‘About Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the eyes of God and all of the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn’t find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn’t see Jesus’ body there.’

“Jesus said to them, ‘How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said! Didn’t the Christ have to suffer these things and then receive his glory?’ Jesus explained to them what was

said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets. The two men approached the village where they were going. Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they tried hard to keep him from leaving. They said, ‘Stay with us. It is nearly evening. The day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. He joined them at the table. Then he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, ‘He talked with us on the road. He opened the Scriptures to us. Weren’t our hearts burning inside us during that time?’

“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them. They were all gathered together. They were saying, ‘It’s true! The Lord has risen! He has appeared to Simon!’ Then the two of them told what had happened to them on the way. They told how they had recognized Jesus

when he broke the bread” (Luke 24:13-35).

I pray that all of us do believe in the New Testament witnesses’ statements. What’s more! Jesus Himself was with the believers and non-believers for 40 days after His resurrection. “After his suffering and death, he appeared to them. In many ways he proved that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of 40 days. During that time he spoke about God’s kingdom” (Acts 1:3).

Do you think it is good enough to believe this statement? We should be joyful to know He was alive from His death.

One more time, why do we celebrate Easter annually like everyone does? Let see what Paul has to say for us about the risen Christ, our hope.

“We have preached that Christ has been raised from the dead. So how can some of you say that no one rises from the dead? If no one rises from the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, what we preach

doesn’t mean anything. Your faith doesn’t mean anything either. More than that, we would be lying about God. We have given witness that God raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if the dead are not raised. If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith doesn’t mean anything. Your sins have not been forgiven. Those who have died believing in Christ are also lost.

“Do we have hope in Christ only for this life? Then people should pity us more than anyone else. But Christ really has been raised from the dead. He is the first of all those who will rise” (1 Corinthians 15:12-20). It is really Good News for us!

This gospel story gives us the hope of salvation and the resurrection. Paul again puts an emphasis on the fact that the wonderful gospel is to be shared with other people.

“Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it.

Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you. If you don't, you have believed it for nothing. What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The main reason we have the joy is that "Because of Adam, all people die. So because of Christ, all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). We have a good reason to be joyful, because we will not taste eternal death, Amen!

Come and join us in the blessed hope. (Read Titus 2:13).

Chuck McGehee is a Deaf contractor who lives in Vancouver, WA.



BIBLE PICTURES

The Millennium

By George L. Belser



**1,000
YEARS**
Satan Bound
Earth Desolate



We believe that God's judgment comes in three phases: (1) the Investigative Judgment, (2) the Millennial Judgment, and (3) the Executive Judgment. The main purpose of my article is the second one. The word millennium comes from French, as well as Latin, words mille and annum meaning a thousand years. Our belief is based on the verses in the 20th chapter of Revelation, verses 4-6: "I [John] saw thrones. Those [saints] who had been given authority to judge were sitting on them. They came to life and ruled with Christ for 1,000 years. This is the first resurrection. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1,000 years were

ended. Blessed and holy are those who take part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them. They will be priests of God and of Christ. They will rule with him for 1,000 years."

The Second Coming of Jesus to gather and take His saints home to heaven marks the beginning of the second phase of God's judgment. When the saints have arrived in heaven, Jesus gives the responsibility of judging people to them (Revelation 20:6, last part). But does Jesus have the authority to do so? Yes, by all means, for John 5:22 says, "The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son" (ESV).

So, the saints will sit in judgment with Jesus for one thousand years. A thousand years? That long? The answer is yes, especially when we think of how many people have lived in the world since the beginning of Creation during Adam's time until the Second Coming. Let me give you an example: my father, who was himself deaf, and I had a very close relationship, much closer than that of father and son. In my eyes Father was a good man, showing more Christian love, character and patience than I can ever hope to do in my lifetime. Father had a disease called osteomyelitis, which means infection in the marrow of the bone. The pain can be very bad, and Father had many surgical scars to show for it. For example, when the bones in his arm were infected, the physician operated on the upper half of the arm to remove the rotten part of the bones and then let it heal. When it was healed, the doctor operated on the lower half of the arm. This went on for many years, and eventually Father's left

arm was so rotten that it had to be amputated so that the infection would not spread out to the rest of his body. When Father lost his left arm, he was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life because he was a cripple and could no longer use a crutch for support. But, the invention of antibiotics in the 1950's helped him to live longer until he died when he was 75 years old. Father had suffered from much pain in his life, but he always was very positive while I tend to not to be positive.

Now, suppose I go to heaven with Jesus and discover that Dad is not there. Of course, I will want to know why. Jesus probably will open books showing that Dad was not a believer of Jesus, even though he had a beautiful character. He had become bitter by his painful life and blamed God for his sufferings so he did not accept Jesus as his Savior. Once I know the truth about Father I will accept Jesus' judgment as just and fair. Suppose you go to heaven and discover that your spouse or family

member or even best friend missing there, you will want to know why, too. There you can see that judgment in heaven is a long process, even a thousand years, to understand why.

Judgment is a scary word, isn't it? But do we need to be afraid of it? The answer is "No"! The third chapter of Zechariah, verses 1 to 5 (NCV), also is an example of the judgment scene. "Then he showed me Joshua, the high priest, standing in front of the Lord's angel. And Satan was standing by Joshua's right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, 'The Lord says no to you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem says no to you! This man was like a burning stick pulled from the fire.' Joshua was wearing dirty clothes and was standing in front of the angel. The angel said to those standing in front of him, 'Take off those dirty clothes.' Then the angel said to Joshua, 'Look, I have taken away your sin from you, and I am giving you beautiful, fine clothes.' Then I said, 'Put a clean turban

on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head and dressed him while the Lord's angel stood there." In this judgment scene Joshua, who is man's representative is standing before God as Judge. And on Joshua's side stands Jesus as his Advocate (1 John 2:1) and on the other side is Satan, who is Joshua's accuser (Revelation 12:10). Satan tries to argue that Joshua is his because he is a sinner, but Jesus rebukes Satan by saying, "No, Joshua is mine because he has accepted me as his Savior." Jesus also orders that a clean robe of righteousness be placed upon Joshua. Now Joshua is honored as having accepted Jesus as Savior and belonging to God.

This analogy (example) shows that we do not need to fear God's judgment if we have chosen to accept Christ fully as our Savior. Have you?

Now comes the question: What will happen after the Millennium Judgment ends? Several events will happen at the end of the thousand years, but I will elaborate

on one important event. Revelation 21:2-5 (NKJV) describes this exciting scene: “And I [John] saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband [Jesus]. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle [tent or home] of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there will be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new!’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ ”

Revelation 21 continues to describe the Holy City

as pure, transparent (see through) gold with the foundation, consisting of 12 layers of precious jewels giving the effect of a rainbow with brilliantly iridescent colors, descending from heaven and landing upon the Mount of Olives, which will have been split into flat land (Zechariah 14:4) in preparation for its arrival. Boy, what glorious scene awaits us at the end of the millennium! Wouldn't you like to be there to witness this spectacular and inspiring scene, which marks the beginning of our eternal home on the earth that Jesus has promised us? If so, now is the time for you to open your hearts to Jesus' invitation to accept Him as your Savior and lay claim on His promise that He will come again soon to take you home. Let us all say with John, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20, KJV).

George L. Belsler is a retired Deaf pastor for the Deaf who lives in Vancouver, WA.

The Priceless Gift

By Amanda Colgan



BIBLE PICTURES

The woman said to Jesus, “ ‘Sir . . . you don’t have anything to get water with. The well is deep’ ” (John 4:11). Jesus was seated there at the well before the woman came. He was hungry and thirsty. The disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. As He sat there by Himself, He was hungry, thirsty and tired He had walked since morning (verse 6). His thirst

increased by the thought of cool water in the well in which He couldn’t get it. Jesus, who made the great ocean and springs of water, sat there thirsty. When the woman came to the well, Jesus asked her for a drink and then He led her in a conversation to accept the living water He had come to give.

The woman said, “Sir . . . you don’t have anything to

get water with. The well is deep. Where can you get this living water.’ ” The well that I would like to think of is your heart and mine. The water that Jesus longs for is our love.

How about a gift for a man who has everything? Suppose you are going through your Christmas list and here is your uncle Bill Gates. He is a billionaire. What are you going to give him? Anything you can give him he can buy or already has it. Give him a tie? He’s already got 400 ties. A picture? Walls are already full of pictures. A car? That is if you have money for that expensive gift. He’s already got many of them. What would you give Uncle Bill anyway?

Now with that in mind, what would you give to Jesus? He has 10 billion times more (really infinite times more) than Uncle Bill Gates. He owns the universe. Any money you would give Him is a tiny bit. What can you give to Jesus? There is one thing you can give Him, and He would rather have it than

all the gold and silver. It is your love! That is the water. As cold water is for a thirsty soul, so is love for a thirsty heart. Will you give Jesus your love?

So many people are coming to Jesus to satisfy their thirst and hunger. In Revelation 22:17 “The Holy Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come! Let those who hear say, Come! Anyone who is thirsty should come. Anyone who wants to take the free gift of the water of life should do so.’ ” Coming to Jesus will certainly satisfy our hunger and thirst. But I am talking about Jesus’ hunger and thirst. He deserves everything and we deserve nothing, but the beauty of it is: when you feed Him, He feeds you. When you give him something to drink, He satisfies your thirsty heart. We have in our hearts the need to be needed. God made us that way because He longs us to love Him, to understand Him, to have fellowship with Him, to talk with Him, and to listen to Him. He likes to know how we like Him. And when we tell Him we love Him

that makes Him so happy. Parents, aren't you glad when your children tell you that they love you? The love of the human soul can choose whether it will give love or not, but when we choose, give love to Jesus! That's the priceless gift.

This is the meaning of the Calvary. Jesus will risk His life rather than lose your love forever. He will give His life, that He may not only pay for your second death, cancel your sins, but also win back your love.

In Matthew 18:12-14 it tells of Jesus' parable about the lost sheep. "What do you think? Suppose a man owns 100 sheep and one of them wanders away. Won't he leave the 99 sheep on the hills? Won't he go and look for the one that wandered off? What I'm about to tell you is true. If he finds that sheep, he is happier about that one than about the 99 which had not wandered

off. It is the same with your Father in heaven. He does not want any of these little ones to be lost."

Jesus came to earth to seek the lost sheep (people). How many sheep did the shepherd seek out for in this parable? Just one. One sheep was worth the time and sacrifice seeking. It is the same for Jesus. It was worth of His coming to earth and sacrificed Himself to redeem the lost. He was willing to do that for only you!

Friends, let us give Jesus the one gift that nobody else can give and that's your personal love. Jesus wants it so much that He would come all the way just to get you. Will you give Him your love?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

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

The Race

By Alberta Blake

Do you like to race? Maybe you like to race by running, by racing on bicycles, by racing on motorcycles or racing in some other way.

When my sister and I were young we would run in races with other school children. The two of us always came in last. We had short legs and somehow were not fast runners.

In most races there is always only one prize for the first winner of the race.

Did you know that the Apostle Paul compares daily living to a race? To begin with in Chapter 11 of Hebrews Paul talks about people from the past. These people were faithful to God and lived good lives. Some of these people died for their faith. In the race of life, people all died, believing and waiting for Jesus to come back to this earth. These people believed Jesus would raise them from death and then give them a home in Heaven.

People running a racing

take special care of their bodies. They feed their bodies with only good food. These people eat special kinds of food to develop muscles in the right places. They do exercises in the gym. These people practice running. These people race in preparation for the final race. They exercise everyday to keep their bodies in shape. These people have a good sleep every night without getting over tired or getting too much sleep. People do a lot of things to prepare for races here on earth.

What about the race that Paul wants us to prepare for? Some things that Paul wants us to do to prepare for the race of life are:

- a. Put away the sins that we know we should not be doing.
- b. Give our life to Jesus every morning and ask Jesus to cover our life with His blood.
- c. Rest in Jesus knowing that we are safe with the blood of Jesus on the

doorpost of our heart.

d. Keep our eyes on Jesus. Don't look to the right or to the left, but straight ahead.

e. Be prepared for trials to come—as trials will come.

f. Don't become discouraged when God allows things to happen in our lives to test us.

g. The trials that come will help to keep us dependent on Jesus and keep us close to Him.

h. Jesus gives trials to teach us lessons in life. Jesus is like our parents or teachers.

Jesus is preparing us for the last part of the race. Hold on to Jesus. Don't give up. The race will be run and won by all who put faith and trust in Jesus. Jesus will help us win the race.

There is a monument at the PNE site in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The monument is of two runners who were in a mile-run race. Roger Bannister from England and John Landry from Australia both had won races in their own countries. Both had been trying to run a mile in

less than four minutes. In November 1954, the two runners raced in the British Empire Games that were being held in Vancouver, BC. During the race Landry was running along at his steady speed. He glanced sideways to see how Bannister was doing. Just as Landry took his eyes momentarily off the goal, Bannister, with an extra spurt of energy, pushed ahead and won the race. If only Landry had kept his eyes on the goal he would have made it. By taking his eyes off the goal Landry lost by just a second or part of a second. Both runners ran the race in under four minutes. But only one of these two runners won that race.

The race we are all running each day may be won by each person taking part in the race. Everyone can be a winner. Let us all keep our eyes on Jesus. Only Jesus can help us win the race we are in. I want to win my race. How about you?

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

Vegetarian Recipes

Vegetarian Chili

- 8 cups cooked beans (cook 4 cups dry beans)
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 4 minced garlic cloves
- 4 tsp cumin
- 1 quarts canned tomatoes
- 1 tsp basil
- 2 T honey
- 1 T onion powder
- 4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 4 tsp paprika
- 4 T nutritional yeast flakes
- 1 cup TVP (Texturized Vegetable Protein)

Saute onion, green pepper, and garlic. Then add the beans and other ingredients. Add tomato paste for color and consistency if desired. Simmer 30 minutes or more and serve.

Lentil Roast

- 2 cups cooked lentils
- ½ cup oil
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 pkgs George Washington broth
- ½ cup oats
- 1 tsp sage
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 1 tsp celery salt
- 1 cup nuts, chopped
- 2 evaporated milk
- 2 cups Pepperidge farm seasoning crumbs

Mix all the ingredients together well. Put in a greased 11 X 7 pan. Bake for 1 hour at 350.

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