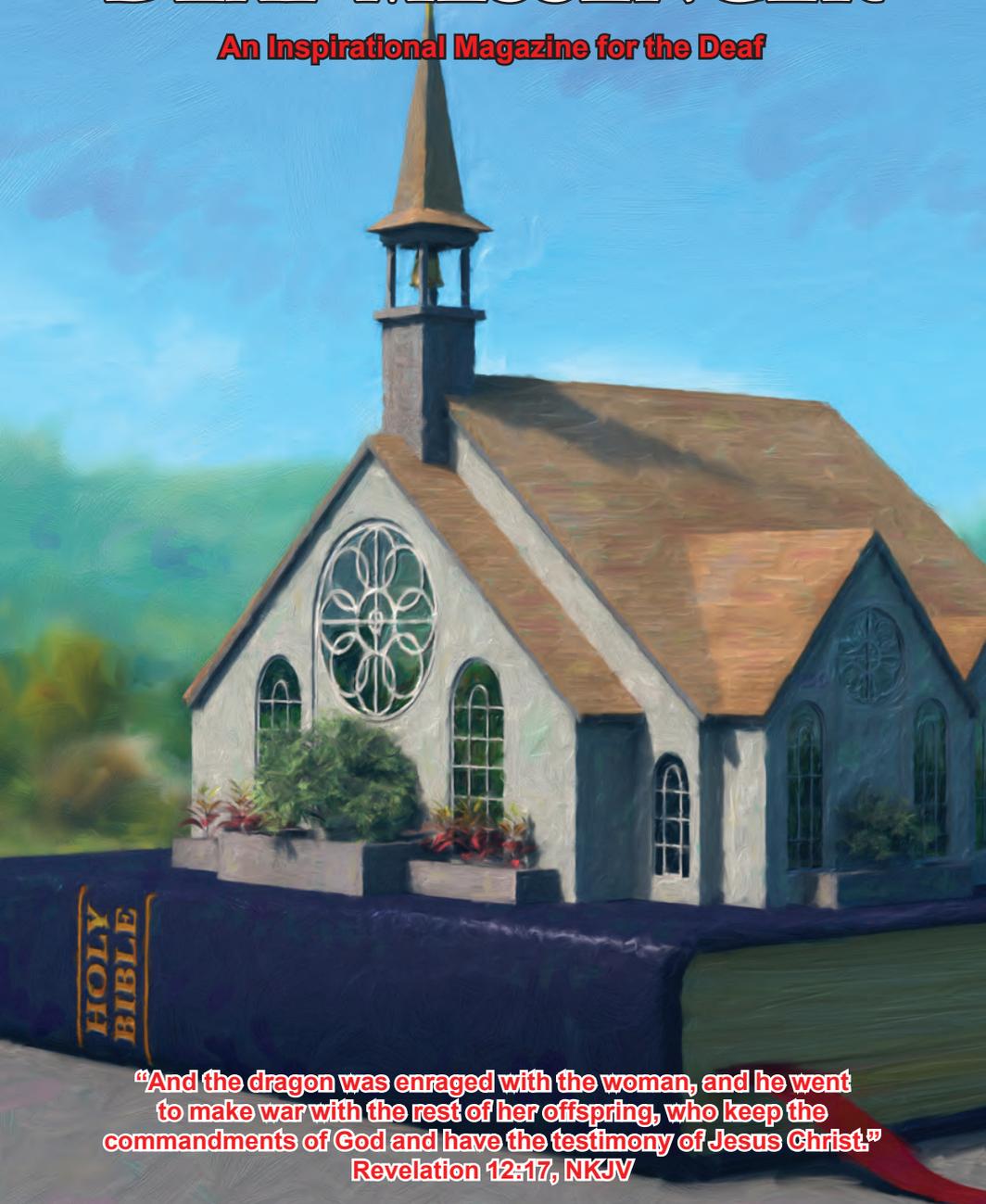


Summer 2013

THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 12:17, NKJV

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The purpose of this magazine is to inform the deaf reader about such topics as practical Christian living; basic Bible truths; and what the past, present, and future historical events mean to each of us. This magazine attempts to cover spiritual, mental, and physical aspects in its articles and columns.

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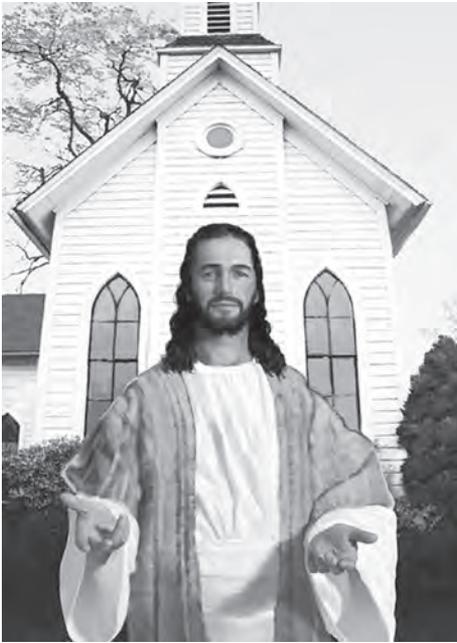
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Is There a True Church?

By John Blake



GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION

Does God have a special organized group of people in the world who He can call His own? More and more people today, especially young adults, are not happy with the organized churches in North America. They have heard too many stories of priests who have abused children, or TV pastors who have been shown as dishonest or adulterers. Many people look at churches and say, “I don’t need to be part of something like that. If I want to worship,

I can do it at home or out in nature!” Is there still a need for “a church”? Did God ever set up churches as part of His plan for people? Yes. Israel in the wilderness was God’s special church for that day. Jesus Himself talks about the authority of “the church” when He talked about how to settle problems between believers: “But what if he also refuses to listen to the witnesses? Then tell it to the church.

And what if he refuses to listen even to the church?” (Matthew 18:17). The book of Acts talks about the “church” in over 15 different verses.

If God has set up “the church” as part of His plan for His people, what is the purpose of the church? The church is to represent Jesus and show God’s loving character and way of living to all the world.

A church must be a place that tells the truth about our loving God and all He is

doing to save anyone who is willing to be saved. The church needs a clear set of beliefs, or doctrines, that agree fully with the Bible. A church needs to be carefully organized to take the Good News of salvation to all the world. This will involve using all type of media, printing, Internet, and even texting!

The people who are part of the church, by their consistent living, need to live like Jesus lived. What would it be like if the pastor took out a cigarette and lit it while he preached? There have to be standards of behavior or living that must be definite guidelines for pastors—and members, too!

A church will plan ways to educate and train its youth for service for Jesus. A church needs to help bring physical, mental and spiritual healing to the community. It will organize effective ways to bring help and development to the needy locally and in other countries

Someone has described a church as a spiritual hospital for sick sinners. The church is to be a place where God can perform

spiritual surgery on our minds and hearts. The Holy Spirit will change us from being selfish and sick sinners, to growing and healthy Christians. God wants to prepare a special group of Christians to be a living demonstration of what the Holy Spirit can do to change human hearts!

Someone will ask the important question: “There are 500 Christian denominations in North America—how can I know if there is a true church?” Many churches are teaching some truths. God is working with people in every church. But, there are some ways to identify God’s final church!

1. His final church will be teaching the pure doctrines found in the early Christian church and taught in all of the Bible. For centuries false doctrines (teachings) came into the church until nearly every true doctrine was mixed with the false doctrines. The Reformation began a return to the pure doctrines of the Bible. But, there were still errors that needed correcting.

2. God’s final church will

teach that when we die, we sleep in the grave till Jesus comes (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17); that Jesus will come back a second time and raise the dead (1 Corinthians 15:51-55); that the Ten Commandments are eternal and that God will help us keep them, including the 7th day Sabbath on Saturday (Romans 3:31).

3. God's final church will also be teaching the special message found in Revelation 14:1-6 about the judgment hour which began in 1844. It will also teach a literal six-day Creation as taught in Genesis. The Bible does not support the theory of evolution.

There is a text in Revelation 12:17, NKJV that reads: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 19:10 says that the "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Putting that all together we could say: "And the dragon [the Devil]

was angry with the woman [a church in prophecy], who keep all of God's commandments and have the spirit of prophecy [a people of prophecy and have the gift of prophecy]."

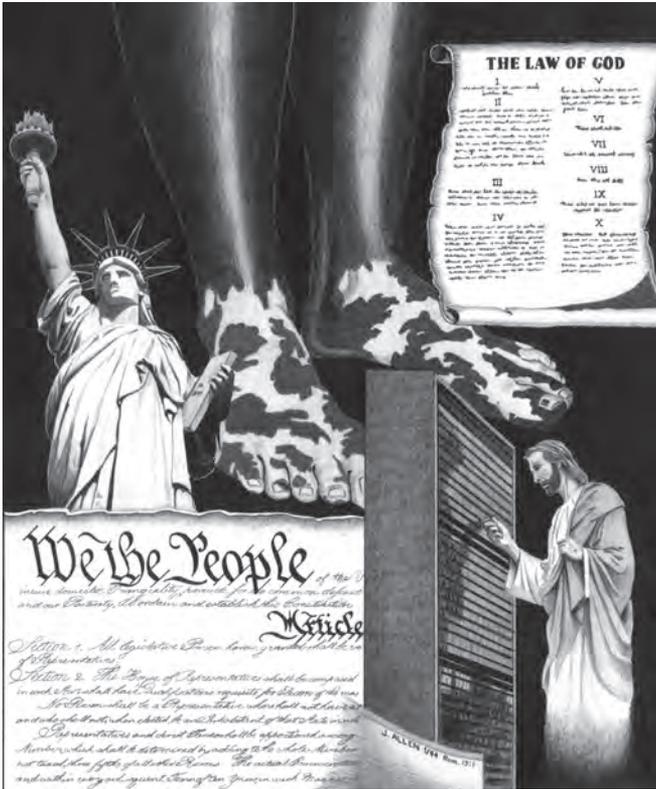
I personally can only find one major church that meets these tests of a true church and they are called, Seventh-day Adventists (SDA). Adventists should be very humble about being part of God's final church. Being a part of this church is a unique responsibility! This church is to help prepare a people to take God's final message of love and warning to the world—just before Jesus returns (Revelation 14:1-12).

There is so much more to this subject. It is part of the story of the great struggle between Christ and Satan and how it will end with Satan's destruction and the re-creation of the earth. Contact us for information on how to see the complete story and how you can have a special part in it!

John Blake is a retired pastor who lives in Clive, Alberta, Canada.

The United States in Prophecy

By Beth Dobson



HIGHER CLIPS

President Abraham Lincoln said, “America will never be destroyed from outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” America is known for protecting its citizens and making sure other countries do not attack her in any way. Consider the frequent threats from North Korea in recent days. “North Korea said they would turn South Korea into

a lake of fire and attack the United States with a nuclear missile.” (“Planet in Distress” blog dated March 24, 2013) Because of the warning from North Korea, the United States had to send bombers and fighter jets to South Korea, Hawaii and Guam. It was to show to the government in North Korea that America’s watchfulness is always 24/7 and will be ready to attack if necessary.

America has to maintain control of her power.

Can the United States government put control on its citizens? The answer is yes. For example, can the government really promote “a biometric national ID card that would force workers to submit to a fingerprint, hand or iris scan? Any worker failing to comply with this biometric tracking mandate, would be terminated from his/her job.” (“Biometric National ID Card could be mandated on all American workers” by Lance Johnson, March 28, 2013) How does this ID card work? According to the article, it explains that “the card has a digital encryption key that would be required to match work authorization databases. The micro-processing chip on the card would store the biometric identifier. The worker would be required to carry this card and the employer would be forced to scan it.” Apparently, two current senators are supporting this legislation that all American workers have a national ID. The senators met privately with

President Barack Obama not too long ago, and he welcomed their “new ID card law.” Will this become a reality? Probably.

Forced? Is this word part of the definition for freedom? No! Are we going to really lose our freedom? Will the United States follow the religious law using a national ID card? Does it sound impossible to you? God says that the United States is going to put the religious law one of these days according to Revelation 13 because of her world superpower status according to the second beast’s characteristics. The United States is identified as the second (land) beast in Revelation 13. John, while on the island of Patmos, received a vision from our beloved Creator years ago. In the vision, God showed that this specific beast would come out of the earth in an unpopulated area way before Europeans arrived. History books show today that all of this happened after 1798.

Look at what history has shown for many generations. We have evidence that the pilgrims landed in this

unpopulated country (USA) in the early 1600s. The colonies grew really fast, and more and more people started living in America. The colonies and the British fought hard because the colonies wanted freedom and got it by breaking away from the Great Britain for good. The colonies did not want to be under British control—enough is enough. Thomas Jefferson, who later became our third president of the United States of America, wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The United States Constitution was written in 1787, and the Bill of Rights was set up in 1789 and finally adopted in 1791. In 1798, a pope was taken prisoner by General Berthier. “The United States was recognized as a nation by France, the same power that inflicted the deadly wound on the first beast. The United States arose exactly as prophecy had shown. (*The United States in Prophecy page 4*, Review and Herald Publishing Association) The United States, at that time, was like a lamb, but she

would change her character according to prophecy in Revelation.

Revelation Chapter 13 verses 11 and 12 show that the second (land) beast has changed big time. “A nation with lamblike qualities causes the earth and those who dwell (live) on it to worship the first beast (Papal Rome), whose deadly wound was healed.” Verses 15 to 17 of the same chapter explain that as church and state unite, two evil acts are imposed on the people of the United States.

- 1) Death to those who do not worship the beast (Papal Rome);
- 2) No purchases or sales will happen.

Yes, the United States will work with the Papacy by using the government (Congress/Legislators/ White House) to enforce a religious day of worship on a Sunday, which we all know is not the true Sabbath (Saturday) according to the Bible. This has not happened yet, but during the time of a very serious crisis, the US

government and religious leaders will likely put huge pressure on the Congress to enforce the religious law.

Christian people need to remember that they will be protected by God during difficult times. The Holy Spirit will be in Christians' hearts, and Christ has promised them that He will never leave or forsake them (Hebrews 13: 5, 6). Christian people will be protected because they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ according to Revelation 12:17.

It is all about control of the United States of America. "Issues like these are almost always about control. The real fight is not right vs. left, democrat vs. republican. The real fight lies in the freedom

from government controlling and monitoring Americans' every move." (Biometric National ID Card could be mandated on all American workers)

Is this the type of America you want to live in or is God's type of living freely without sin the one you desperately want? Have people, like the legislators, have already or will have destroyed themselves? Do you choose to be with those who keep God's commandments and to be with everyone else in heaven? It will be a glorious celebration, and the control of choice is ours to make and no one else, including the US government!

Beth Dobson is a Deaf teacher for the Deaf and lives in Dumfries, VA.

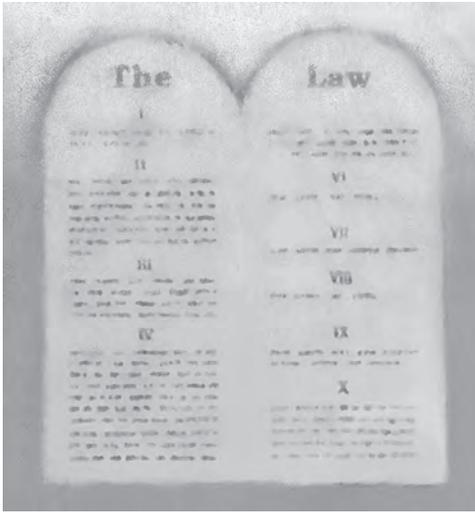


HIGHER CLIPS

The Ten Suggestions

By David M. Trexler

GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION



Do you stop at the red light or the stop sign? It depends on where you are driving in. In the USA you will get a ticket if you fail to stop completely at the stop sign. Or you would be very unlucky by getting in an accident. But, in the third world countries like India the stop signs are just suggestions. People there don't see it as the law that you must stop completely before you move on. I remember the time I was driving with an African Deaf man near our home and we stopped at the traffic light while there were no cars at

the intersection. He said that he would move on against the red light. He said that in his country people would beep the horns if you stopped and wait for the green light! They would go straight ahead anyway. One day we were riding on a taxi from our home going to the Metro station and the taxi driver seemed to be an immigrant who didn't stop at the red light. In the USA and some countries the red light and the stop signs are the law that you must stop period whether there is car or not on the intersection. But, in other countries where police is weak people there see the red light and stop signs as suggestions, not the law!

This reminds me of today's religious and secular (non-religious) views of God's laws. Many years ago many people were careful about following the laws of God. Christians, especially, were law abiding people.

They followed the Bible with much respect and love. But, now look at the world today. It is very different from the past. Christians should learn and grow progressively according to the knowledge and wisdom of God's word.

In the past many Christian churches taught that God's law was important for obedience, but now they are teaching that the Cross has done away with the law of God. Ten Commandments have become ten suggestions. To some people, or at least many people, are calling those who keep the Ten Commandments legalistic! Have you been accused as legalistic? Sad to say is that most people who call someone a legalist do not know the meaning of the word--legalism! We know that Pharisees were legalists. It is true that some Christians are acting like Pharisees. But too many times accusers criticize those who love The Lord and keep the Ten Commandments as legalistic! It is sad to know the fact that some of the Christians are calling other

Christians legalistic.

In the past we would not be considered legalists, but now yes because the world's views have changed a lot. Christians of today and in the past tend to follow the morality of the world. If the moral is high then the Christian's standards are high, but if the world's morality is low then the Christian's standards are low in likeness of the world. For example, years ago it was not common for the Christian married couples to divorce while the divorce among non-Christians was common. Today, divorce in Christian churches is as common as the non-Christian. Why is that? Jesus predicted, "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12 NKJV). We are attracted to fun and things of the world so our love to God grows colder. Therefore, we don't want the Ten Commandments to rule our life. We feel that Sabbath keeping and other commandments are too restrictive. Here is what Jesus had judged the

church in Revelation. “. . . you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (Revelation 2:3, 4 NKJV).

I believe that many sincere Christians believe that the Cross had done away the Ten Commandments, but they really do not understand the Bible correctly. They just listen to what their pastors are preaching. Sad to say, their wrong ideas have a great influence on their behavior, making them more worldly than before. They are giving the wrong message to the world. No wonder, we see much lawlessness in the world today. We should never allow the world to influence or force us to be different from the Bible teachings. Many Christians are following the world. I am concerned about the growing influence of the wrong teachings about the law of God. The law of God is our standard. We are not saved by keeping the law,

but we obey the law because we are saved through faith in the grace of God. The law is written in our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. The more we grow into Christ the more we become different from the world.

The questions are: Are you afraid to pray in public? Are you afraid to tell your friends that you can’t join them because of their activities would not be right for a Christian to do? Are you afraid to tell your boss or friends that you do not work on the Sabbath and you go to church to worship God on the Sabbath? Are you afraid to called legalists by your friends or parents? Let me tell you, Don’t be afraid! Be proud of being a true disciple of Christ. Learn of Him. The world mocked Jesus because He wasn’t like the Pharisees (legalists) and the Sadducees (liberal and worldly). Let us be like Jesus the Perfect Model and Example of obedience to the royal law of God.

*David M. Trexler is Speaker/
Director of Three Angels Deaf
Ministries who lives in Lanham,
MD.*

Praying Powerful Prayers

By Amanda Colgan



GOODSALT CLIPART COLLECTION

Growing a relationship with God is the most important thing in a Christian person's life. When a man wants to date with a woman, they go out on a date to get to know each other. It is the same with God. To grow a relationship with Jesus is to spend time with Him. Study the Bible, not because you "should" but because you

want to hear from God and learn what He is saying to you through the Bible. Talk with Him in prayer. Pray not because you have to and not just to ask Him for a list of things, but as a way to know Him and experience Him. That's what God desires, for us to spend time with Him. As we spend time with God, we will naturally grow in Him.

Our minds will become more aware of His will and His plan for us.

Prayer is very important for developing our relationship with God. Prayer requires faith to believe that God will answer. God will not say 'yes' to everything we ask for in prayer but He will answer to our prayer even though it is not what we asked for. Most often times His answers are far better than what we ask for!

There are some points that help prayers to be answered more successfully. Let's go through some of the points:

You must have faith.

Mark 11:24: "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Jesus said to "pray and believe." We can believe if we are asking according to God's will. God promises and He cannot go back on what He says He will do. Unfortunately, many of us do not believe that God is true to His Word. The reason we do not have the faith that He is true to His Word

is because we do not really know Him (Hebrews 11:6). We do not trust Him because we are not really walking with Him. We are not really seeking Him, so we do not know Him. *"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith"* (Matthew 21:22, ESV).

You must be thankful.

"Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him" (Philippians 4:6). Giving thanks to God humbles us. God is worthy of praise and thanksgiving. When we give thanks in prayer it strengthens our belief in God that He hears our prayers and will grant our prayers if it is according to His will. It is easy to focus on the negatives. Being thankful makes a cheerful heart (Proverbs 17:22).

You must be at one with God. Jesus said, *"If you remain joined to me and my words remain in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be given to you"* (John 15:7). It is important to continue to have a relationship with Jesus and keep His words.

This shows our love to God. In 2 John 1:6 it says, *“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.”* Our prayers will be much more effective if we keep His commandments and have faith in Jesus (Revelation 14:12). Because of God’s love and grace, these encourage us to love Him and desire (want) to do His will.

You must surrender to His will. *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us”* (1 John 5:14, NKJV). Prayer requires us to surrender ourselves to God and trusting Him to work in our lives and to grow into the person He designed us to be. Being able to surrender completely to God means we have to know God. We have to believe that He loves us. He will not forsake us. He has the best plans for us. It puts God in control as we surrender our lives to Him and allow Him to change us into Christ’s image or character.

You must cherish no sin. *“If I had enjoyed having*

sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18). This does not mean we need to be perfect before we approach God. Jesus invites sinners to call on Him. The verse means if we are sorry for our sins and are willing to turn away from sins and be cleansed by God, then our prayers will be more effective. If we pray for selfish reasons such as winning the lottery, He will not hear our prayers. *“When you do ask for something, you don’t receive it. Why? Because you ask for the wrong reasons. You want to spend your money on your sinful pleasures”* (James 4:3).

We can come to Jesus in prayer and tell Him our needs, our struggles and our troubles. God will not turn us away empty. He invites, *“Come to me, all of you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). *“The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen”* (James 5:16).

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

Cancer

By Alberta Blake



RADEYELSTOCKPHOTO

That word is coming up more and more in daily conversations. It just seems like more famous people, friends and relatives are getting cancer than ever before. Cancer can hit anyone.

The earlier that cancer is found the more we can help treat and stop the disease. But, if cancer is found later at the late stage it would be very difficult to stop it. The person has less chance to survive even with the treatment.

If a person gets cancer once can he get it again?

Yes, it can come back. Two siblings in my family got it once and then twice and they both are dead. Each had a daughter who also got the same type of cancer and it came back a second time for each of the two. One has three little ones and she seems to be doing O.K., and the other one is just getting over the surgery for her second exposure. She has two little ones. You can see that this is very close to home for me. In fact cancer seems to run in our family. I have another sibling who was tested to see if she was

a carrier on the gene. The test showed that she was a carrier. So, I went with her to get my blood checked to see if I was a carrier too. The test showed that I was not a carrier. She is a carrier and I am not.

Can a person do anything to prevent from getting cancer? Certain foods seem to help in the prevention of cancer if eaten such as cruciferous vegetable—cabbage, kale, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and some others. Dark green vegetables are good also. Fruits will help to flush out toxins (poison) collected in the body. Whole grains and legumes will help to keep the colon cleaned so disease cannot settle into the bowel. These foods work in the body like a broom works.

There are also some foods that may start cancer growth in the body cells. These foods are those which have too much fat, no fiber and too much salt and sugar. Examples could be most meat, most dairy products and foods made with too much salt or sugar added to unhealthy foods. A person

could avoid all foods made with white flour, white rice, white sugar. Try to get foods made with whole grains and using more natural foods as grown.

Get out and exercise everyday to get the blood circulating. Getting fresh air for good blood is very helpful. This is especially for those who are fighting cancer and other diseases. Getting enough sunshine helps to control bad germs that may be trying to fight with the body. Getting enough rest and sleep at night is very important to help in preventing cancer or to strengthen the body once cancer has attacked the body.

I think the most important part of the illness is to keep a positive and happy atmosphere around you. God is good to us and gives us many blessings. Why not thank Him for the health He has given you and then ask Him for present help in fighting the disease. He promises to help us in our time of need.

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

Vegetarian Recipe

Vegetable Stir-Fry with Brown Rice



- 1 pound seitan (wheat gluten like meat), sliced into strips
- 1/2 onion, sliced into half rounds
- 8 ounces mushrooms, sliced
- 1 bell pepper, seeded and sliced thin
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- 1 can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
- 2 Tablespoons low-sodium tamari (or Braggs' soy sauce) and
1 Tablespoon brown sugar, combined
- 3 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 bunch basil for garnish, rinsed and sliced.

Heat a large, sprayed skillet or wok for 3 minutes. Add the first nine ingredients in the order listed, stirring for 1 minute after each addition. Serve warm over rice. Garnish with basil. Serves 2 to 3

Source: *The Engine 2 Diet*, Rip Esselstyn

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