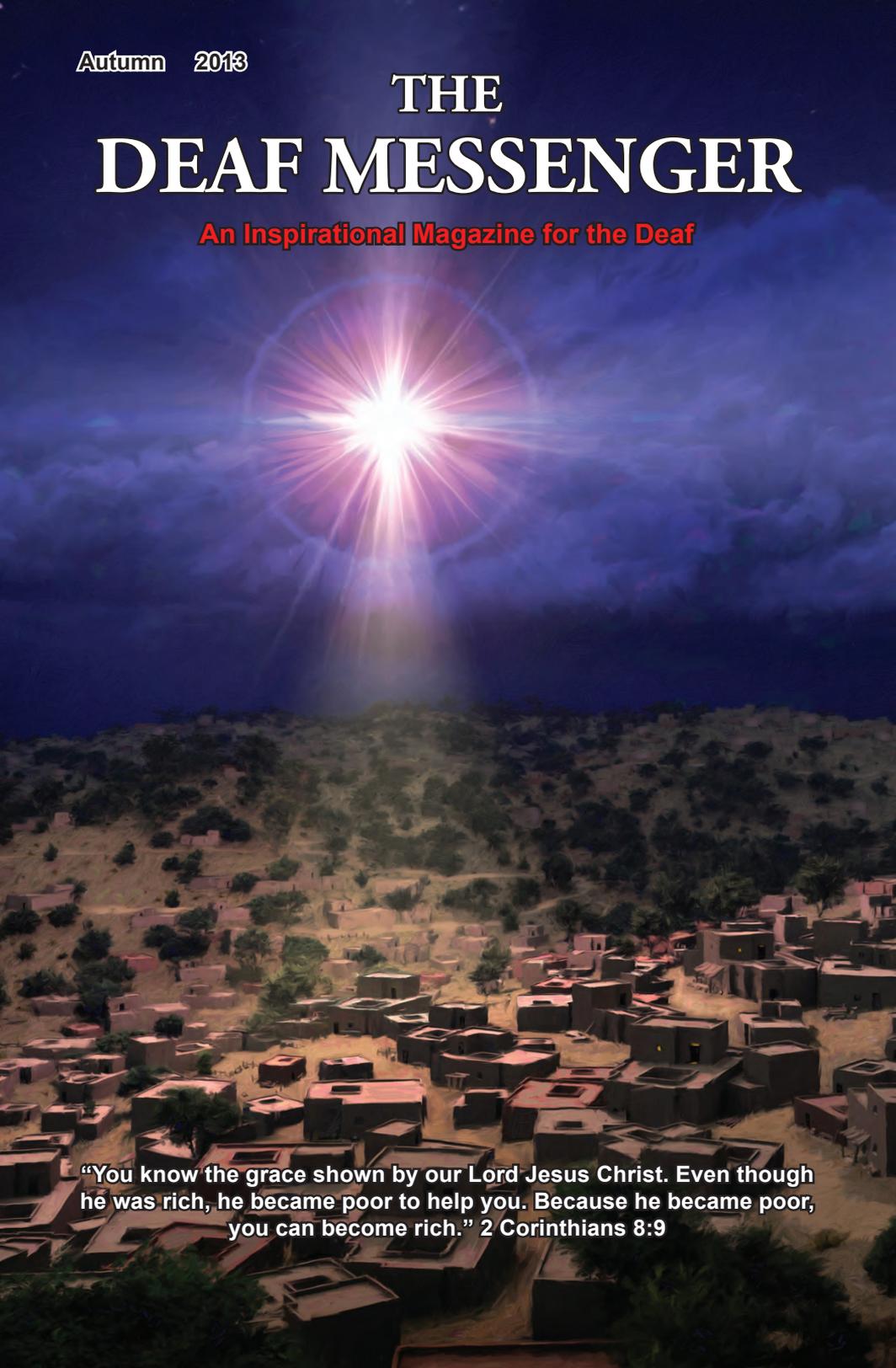


Autumn 2013

# THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



"You know the grace shown by our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, he became poor to help you. Because he became poor, you can become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

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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 Gift of Love

By David Trexler



EVERETT COLLECTION/SHUTTERSTOCK

In the desert country of Mexico there was a poor family of three living in a one-room adobe house with dirt floor. The divorced and single mother lived in a very difficult financial life with two Deaf children. The oldest was Maria and the youngest was Armando. Maria was a very active, mischievous girl who “took care” of her brother when their mother went to work as a seamstress. Sometimes she worked at home. Sometimes Maria was sent to her aunt in Arizona. Her brother stayed with

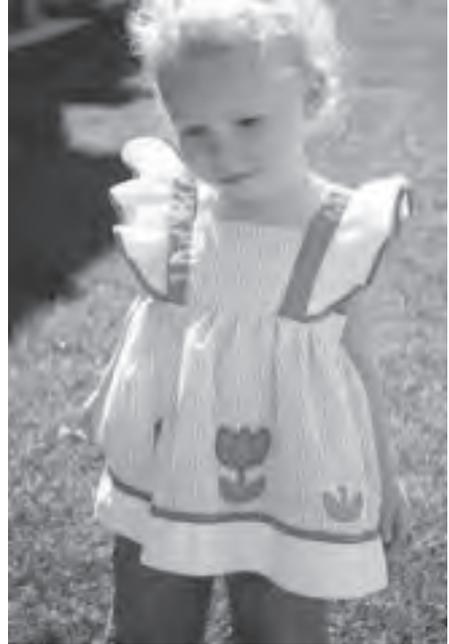
another aunt in Mexico. That helped her busy mother to focus on her work. The truth is that Maria gave her mother a lot of headache because of her hyperactivity and mischievousness. Trouble stopped when Maria and Armando were separated.

Their simple meals were not the same as the Americans had. Her mother provided the family pinto bean, tortilla, eggs and some vegetables every day. Most of the time they had only two meals a day. Often Maria’s uncle would come and give

the family some pesos that helped them to get some food. Her uncle was a farmer and poor, but he always supported this poor family. That was why Maria and Armando were very skinny.

Christmas was coming, and her mother really had no extra money for giving gifts to her children. She was wondering how she could give something for them so they could enjoy as many children in America do having many gifts. She was thinking of how to give something to them. She got an idea. Instead of having a pine or fir tree for Christmas tree, she got a small plant that grew in the desert. It wasn't as pretty as a Christmas tree, but it was better than nothing. Maria and Armando helped their mother with the little decorations. On Christmas Eve after the kids were in bed Mother started working on the gifts. The gifts were not new, just old. She polished up Maria and Armando's shoes and replaced the laces to make them look new. For Maria

she repaired her favorite dress/pants with a pinafore. (See the picture below)



GOOGLE IMAGES

The pinafore and the dress were worn out, but Mother repaired them and added some nice decorations on the dress. Armando's worn pants were repaired making them look new. While Mother was repairing Maria's shoes in the late of the night Maria woke up and saw her mother working on her shoes, making them look new. She was touched by her act of love. Mother worked all night, and finally she finished them before sunrise for the

Christmas surprise. She worked all night because she couldn't make Maria sleep early so that was why she started working on the gifts very late in the night. Of course, on the Christmas morning Maria and Armando were thrilled to have the gifts, even though they were old. They didn't look old, but new through the skillful hands, patience and love of their mother.

Maria has grown up to be a mother of two sons and she has never forgotten the act of love by her mother. Maria has followed her selfless act of love by helping the boys, other children and the community to get what they needed. Her favorite text that has been impressed in her mind and heart for years is found in Acts 20:35: "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus in that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" This text really has influenced her to be like her mother.

Maria's mother's selfless act of love reminds me of the

great sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. He became a human who was lower than the angel, and He did even more by accepting the punishment of eternal death in place of all of us. Jesus was poor in the world but very rich in faith in God the Father. Actually, Jesus surrendered all for us. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9, NKJV).

Why did Mother work all night making the gifts for her problem children? It was because of her true love for them. She went all the way to make sure that her children got what they really needed. It reminds me of Jesus Christ's love for us when He died while we were still sinners fighting against God. Amazing love!

Maria's mother couldn't afford to buy gifts for her beloved children because she was very poor. But she had skills in making clothes so she was able to make the old look new. It was her hands that made things new

out of the old. Her rugged and scarred hands are now resting until the day when she will be resurrected as a brand new person through the power of Jesus Christ, who was once poor like us. Jesus came here the same as us in order to save us from sin so we can have eternal life without sufferings, pains, sadness, and poverty. Jesus is the greatest gift for this world.

This is why we have Christmas every year to remember the greatest gift for all people in this rebellious world. If Jesus didn't sacrifice for us there would be no Christmas and there would be no joy and happiness in our lives. We would have no hope at all. Praise the Lord! Jesus did it for us! Like Maria's mother Jesus gave up all for us. Let us never forget the act of love of Jesus Christ.

"But while he [Joseph] thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in

her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, "God with us" (Matthew 1:20-23, NKJV).



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MD.*

# Mark of the Beast

By Amanda Colgan



YUE/SHUTTERSTOCK

The economy and morality are getting worse and worse. The natural disasters—earthquakes, tornadoes, fire, flood, and hurricanes—are increasing. More and more people are thinking seriously about their future. These concerns lead us to consider what the Bible says in Revelation 14:6-12. Read it carefully.

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God

and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’ And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out

full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’ Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (NKJV). These verses tell about the three angels that give the special warning messages to the world at the last days of the earth’s history. We believe that we are in the last days.

In Revelation 14:6-7, the first angel calls people to worship God. He is worthy to receive glory and honor (Revelation 4:11). Worship is a recognition that God is the Creator of the universe. The second angel (verse 8) declares the fall of Babylon. Babylon is a symbol of false religion. In Revelation 18:4 we will see that God encourages His people to

come out of Babylon. The third speaks of a beast and a mark in verses 9-11. This third angel also warns of the consequences (results) to those “who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name” (verse 11, NKJV). The heart of the message is to worship the Creator, our God.

The earth is in the center of a great struggle between good and evil with Jesus Christ on the good side and Satan on the evil side. It is a struggle we all have a part in, because we must choose whether our allegiance (loyalty) is with Jesus or with Satan. The struggle will increase in the last days. It will be between two forms of worship—worshipping the Creator (Revelation 14:7) and worshipping the beast (Revelation 14:9).

Read carefully Revelation 13:1-8 that describes who the beast is. We believe the beast represents the Papacy (Roman Catholic system). As we continue to read in Revelation 13 we begin to read about a second beast that the first

beast (Papacy) gives power to. Amazingly, the second beast will “causes the earth and those who dwell [live] in it to worship the first beast” (Revelation 13:12, NKJV). A deeper study of the second beast shows that it is the United States of America. Please read Revelation 13:15-17 to see what the second beast (United States) will do.

The opposite of mark of the beast is the seal of God. If you study the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-10), you will find the seal of God. It contains three important things found on any government or king’s seal—his name, his title and location of his dominion (control). In the fourth commandment, specifically in Exodus 20:11, we will

see the Lord as His name, His title is Creator and his dominion is heaven and earth. When we choose to keep the Sabbath on the seventh-day (Saturday), we are showing our loyalty to God who is the Lord and the Creator and the Lord of Sabbath (Matthew 12:8). In Ezekiel 20:12, we read that God “gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the Lord made them holy” (NIV). In Revelation 7:2-3 it describes of an angel looking for people with the seal of God. Those with the seal of God will be saved from the destruction that will come upon the people on earth. “Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. . . . “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

Now we know who the beast is and what the seal of God is. This leads to the question: What does the mark of the beast mean? It is important to know so we can avoid receiving

**THE SEAL OF GOD**



this mark of the beast. Most Christians today believe that those who worship the beast and its image will receive the mark of the beast—"666"—on their foreheads or on their hands. Some believe that the government will force all people to have a microchip "666" put inside of their bodies. Actually, the Bible clearly shows that the mark of the beast is not a literal or physical mark. It is a symbolic mark (see Revelation 14:1; Ezekiel 9:4). The mark of the beast is a symbol of people breaking God's law when they worship on the day other than the seventh-day Sabbath.

How is the mark of the beast associated with Sunday keeping? The Catholic church says that it is the only true church. They say that they have the power to change even the laws of God. They claimed to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The Catholics said that Sunday is their "MARK of authority. The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance (to

Sunday) is proof of that fact" (Catholic Record on September 1, 1923).

There will come a time when the government will force people to worship on Sunday. Revelation 13:16 says "It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads" (NIV). What does it mean to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads? Receiving the mark on their forehead means that you believe in it (worshipping on Sunday) and are loyal to it. Receiving the mark on the right hand means people go along with it, not because they believe in it, but just to be able to buy or sell, to keep their jobs and save their lives. The hand is a symbolic of work and employment (earning money for a living).

Revelation 13:17 says "that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." If you do not have the mark of the beast or in other words, do not worship

on Sunday, then you cannot buy or sell. It is the beast's way of forcing us to worship on Sunday even though it may be against our beliefs. In Revelation 13:15, it says that if we refuse to accept the mark of the beast, our punishment will be death.

It is hard to believe that we would be forced to keep Sunday as our Sabbath in this free country. Large religious groups such as the Lord's Day Alliance want to make a federal law to make Sunday as the national Day of Rest. At first, it may sound nice but eventually it will take away the religious freedom of those who choose to keep God's day which is the seventh-day Sabbath. There are already "Sunday Blue laws" in some states that force some stores to be closed on Sundays. Someday people will come up with reasons to enforce Sunday Blue Laws for economic and moral reasons. People who oppose to this law (Sunday Blue Law) will be viewed as "rejects of society".

In closing, there will be a time when we will have to

face one of the two choices which is worshiping God or worshiping the beast. The Bible gives a strong warning against worshiping the beast and receiving his mark: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath" (Revelation 14:9,10, NIV). This God's wrath will be in the form of the seven last plagues (see Revelation chapters 15 & 16).

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21, NIV). May God help us to stand for Him regardless of the costs.

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

# Life Is NOT Fair!

Adapted by Francisca Trexler



HIGHER CLIPS

There is a common belief in American society that if you are not healthy, wealthy, and prosperous, then God is not blessing you. We serve a God who often does not save us from troubles, but who is with us in troubles. At times God does not deliver us from pain or sickness, but He is with us in sickness and pain. Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because

of me. In this world you will have trouble. But cheer up! I have won the battle over the world” (John 16:33). Jesus did not promise a life without trials, pain, or suffering. He was honest and told us we would have trouble in this world!

We have many examples in the Bible where God was with His people in tribulation:

God was with Noah during

the flood.

God was with Joseph when he was thrown into the pit and in jail.

God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.

God was with Daniel in the lions' den.

God was with Paul when he was stoned.

God was with Elijah and fed him when he had no food.

God was with Jesus on the cross.

God allows trials to let us trust Him more.

When you teach a bird to sing, it learns the song better in darkness. The song it learns in the darkness it will never forget.

“And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

“Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty!

Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!”  
(Revelation 15:2, 3, NKJV).

God will teach us a song, a song of our special experience. The song of Moses represents Israel's deliverance from Egypt. The Israelites sang the song of Moses when they went through the Red Sea. The song of the Lamb represents the song that Jesus will teach us during the time of trouble. It is when we are experiencing heartache, pain, and suffering, that we learn to trust God and learn the song of His deliverance.

Jesus is saying to us, “Come to me, all of you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). If you are going through a time of trouble now He is here for you today.

God wants to teach us through our times of trouble now through our experience of learning how to trust Him today, so that we can trust Him tomorrow. Jesus learned

to trust in times of trouble before the cross, so He could fully trust in the greatest time of trouble on the cross.

God is teaching us today to trust Him now, so that we can trust Him to the end!

Will you trust Him today? If you trust Him today, He will teach you how to trust Him so you will have no trouble staying in trust in Him to the end.

### **Jesus' Experience**

Jesus went through a trial.  
He went through ridicule.  
He went through betrayal.  
He was unjustly condemned.

He was hungry and beaten.  
He went through a time of death.

He had a glorious resurrection.

He ascended to heaven.

### **What We Will Experience**

We will go through a trial.  
We will go through ridicule.  
We will go through betrayal.  
We will be through unjustly condemned.

We will be hungry and beaten.  
Some will go through a time of death.

We will have glorious resurrection.

We will ascend to heaven.

GOODSALT CLIP ART



*Francisca Trexler is a Deaf chaplain at Gallaudet University who lives in Lanham, MD.*

# I Then Shall Live

By Gloria Gaither and Jean Sibelius

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.  
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.  
I know my name is clear before my Father.  
I am his child and I am not afraid.  
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother.  
The law of love, I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.  
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving too.  
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges.  
I'll try to understand another's point of view.  
And when relationships demand commitment.  
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your kingdom comes around and through and in me.  
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.  
Your hallowed name, oh may I give with honor.  
And may Your living kingdom come in me.  
The Bread of Life, oh may I share with honor.  
And may you feed a hungry world through me.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

# The World's Ten Most Deadly Diseases

By Alberta Blake

There was a discussion on the human body on the website “Life and Earth Science.” The human body can do many amazing things. The body can be a healthy body or a sick body. In the article I was reading the world’s ten most deadly diseases were discussed. Following are some of the symptoms, causes and how to avoid the ten most deadly diseases.

1. Ischemic Heart Disease— This happens when an organ in the body (here the organ is the heart) does not get the proper blood flow as the blood circulates in the body. The heart doesn’t get the nourishment it needs and slowly dies if there is no repair to fix the problem.

2. Cerebrovascular Disease—a stroke or blood clot that stops and affects the circular blood flow to the

brain. It may cause death or paralysis to other parts of the body.

3. Lower Respiratory Infection—two types 1) bronchitis and 2) pneumonia. This is caused by a bacterial or viral growth or infection in the lungs.

4. HIV/AIDS—An immunodeficiency virus that began to show around in the 1980’s. This is one virus that humans cannot fight against. HIV infection weakens the immune system that fights disease. People can get this virus by blood transfusions, sharing of needles and by bodily fluids.

5. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD—There are two different kinds 1) chronic bronchitis—a long term cough with mucus and 2) emphysema—a person

usually has both. This is another lung problem.

6. Prenatal Conditions—This will happen most in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where many mothers die from complications while giving birth to babies. Sometimes the babies die, too.

7. Diarrheal Diseases—This disease causes loose or watery stools which if over a long period of time can lead to serious hydration (not enough water in the body) and even death. Men and women have at least one attack per year and children more often.

8. Tuberculosis—This disease causes a lot of mucous, high fever, fatigue, too much sweating and weight loss. These are part of pulmonary tuberculosis or TB. This bacterial infection affects the lungs and can affect other organs too, and may be contagious or A-typical TB which is not contagious. Elderly, infants and those with weak immune systems may be at risk.

9. Malaria—A parasite

passes from a person to another person by a bite of a mosquito. Most of this happens in the tropics and sub-tropic areas of the world. People living in these countries and others travelling to these areas have to take precautions. There are special medications to take and when sleeping at night using net screening to keep the mosquitoes away.

10. Trachea, Bronchus, Lung Cancer—Smoking is a cause of lung cancer. This cancer kills more people than does prostate, breast and colon cancers combined. This is the deadliest of all cancers. Breathing in second hand smoke is very deadly and also a cause of lung cancer.

Following the health laws can help to live a longer and a happier life. How are you living?

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

# Vegetarian Recipe

## Roasted Garlic Brussels Sprouts



FOOD NETWORK MAGAZINE

### Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ pounds Brussels sprouts, halved—wash them well.
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 3 chopped garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon cumin seeds
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flake
- 1 Tablespoon Balsamic vinegar
- A bundle of cilantros

### Method:

Turn the oven on to 450 degrees.

Heat olive oil in a small pot over medium heat; add minced garlic cloves, cumin seeds and kosher salt. Cook 2 minutes. Stir in brown sugar, lemon juice and red pepper flakes. Toss with Brussels sprouts on a baking sheet. Roast at 450 degrees until tender about 18 to 24 minutes. Toss with torn cilantro.

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