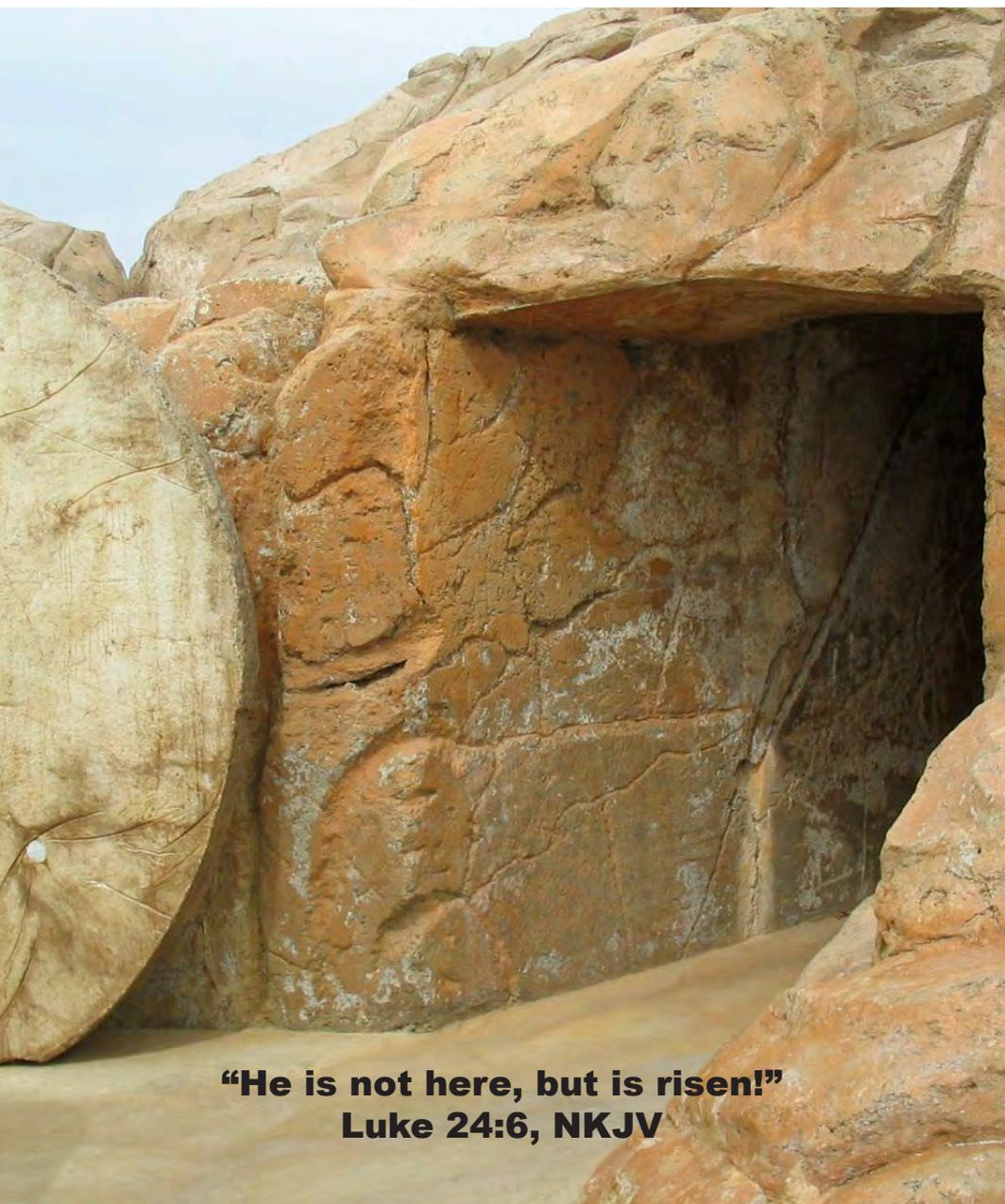


# The Deaf Messenger

An Inspirational Magazine for Deaf People



**“He is not here, but is risen!”  
Luke 24:6, 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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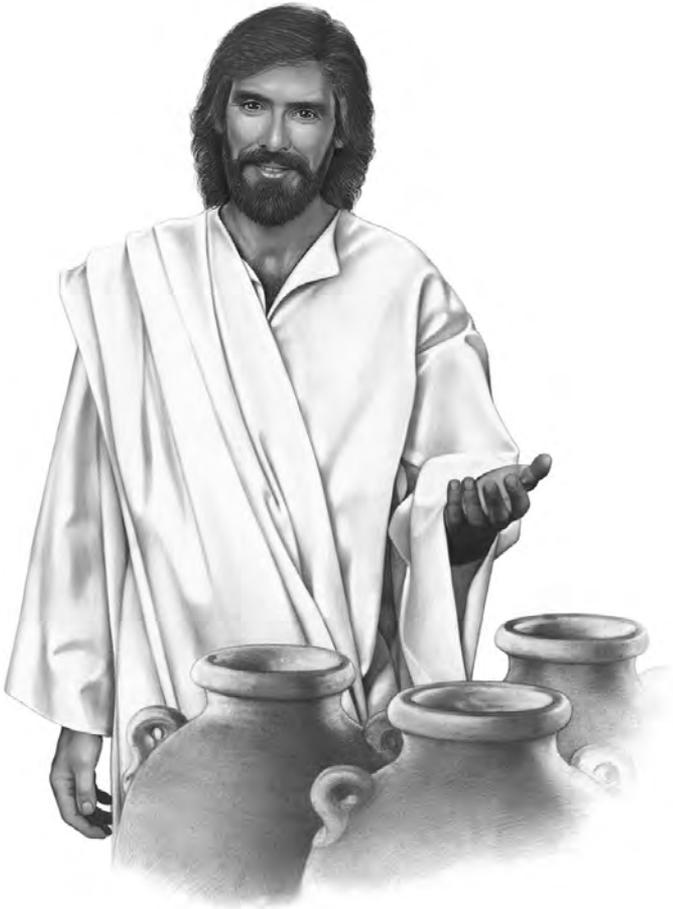
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Cover image: David M. Trexler

# Jesus Christ Is for All of Us!

By David M. Trexler



In the last issue of The Deaf Messenger I wrote an article about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as our perfect role model. Good role modeling in today's world of immorality and lawlessness

is almost gone. Daily we are seeing couples living together with kids without marriage; more parents beating and killing their innocent children; more kids abusing their parents; many

college and professional players giving poor examples of sportsmanship to the public, especially children and teenagers; church pastors and priests molesting children; CEO's stealing funds from the companies; etc. These problems are fulfilling the prophecy of the last days. "Here is what I want you to know. There will be terrible times in the last days. People will love themselves. They will love money. They will brag and be proud. They will tear others down. They will not obey their parents. They won't be thankful or holy. They won't love others. They won't forgive others. They will tell lies about people. They will be out of control. They will be wild. They will hate what is good. They will turn against their friends. They will act without thinking. They will think they are better than others. They will love what pleases them instead of loving God. They will act as if they were serving God. But what they do will show that they have turned their backs on God's power. Have nothing to do with those

people" (2 Timothy 3:1-5, NIV).

Clearly, we are living in the last days of the earth's history. We are seeing what apostle Paul had seen in his vision about 2,000 years ago. We almost don't have a good person's example to follow today. We don't have any confidence in human beings who have given us bad examples. So, how can we survive in this confusing world? In fact, there is no safe guide we can follow in this world when we don't have the Bible. God gives us the Bible which is God's words for this dying and reckless world. God loves and cares about us. Interestingly, we have many Bibles all over the world, but most people even don't bother to read them. They are too busy to find time to read God's word of counsel and guidance. Anyway, the Bible is our only safe guide to follow. It gives us the "picture" of the Man (Jesus Christ) who daily associated with people who needed Him. Jesus Christ had come to this rebellious world to teach and give us examples

of how to live in God's way. We have not seen or met Jesus who lived here. But, we have the Bible that tells the true story about Jesus who had shown us what God the Father was like. He wanted to clear away our wrong ideas about God so we can love and follow Him. His living examples are very important for us to remember and do. But, He also told us that understanding and following the teachings of the Bible, God's Word, are very important. We need both—His example and teachings—so that we can have the whole correct picture of what God is trying to guide us. With the correct picture of our loving God we can follow Him safely in this world of darkness. "The path of those who do what is right is like the first gleam of dawn. It shines brighter and brighter until the full light of

day" (Proverbs 4:18, NlrV). Jesus is the true righteous person who made the path for us to follow. As long as we continue to follow Him the path shines brighter and brighter until Jesus' Second Coming.

The ministry of this magazine is to prepare us to meet our God. Amos said, "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12, NIV). Preparation requires us to know and follow God so we can be happy, healthy, and holy on earth as we look forward to the blessed hope of Jesus' Second Coming (Titus 2:13).

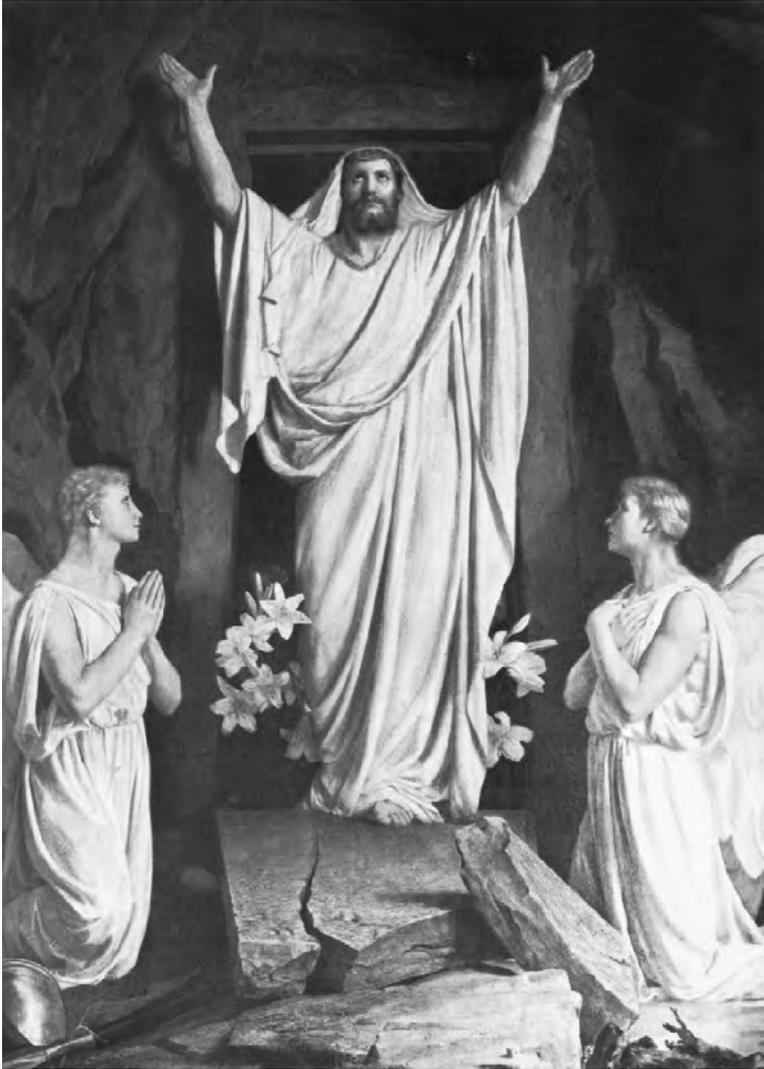
May God bless you as you read this magazine that will give the truths of the Bible so you can be happy, healthy and holy.

**"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father also. From now on, you do know him. And you have seen him."**

**John 14:6, 7, NlrV**

# He Is Risen!

By George L. Belser



There are a great many people in the world who are afraid of death. They seek ways of extending their lives on earth and spend

million dollars in keeping their bodies in a state of preservation in preparation for life outside the present world after they die. For

example, Egyptian pharaohs spent a good part of their reigns, making preparations for their entombment in pyramids and after-life.

Among these people is a group of people who are interested in investing a lot of money in cryogenic technology. They think that cryogenics may be the answer to their search for eternal life. What is cryogenics? It is the science of freezing dead bodies at extremely cold temperatures with hopes that at some future date science will be so advanced that frozen bodies can be brought to life again, given medicine to stop disease that has caused their death, and then these “rescued” people can have a chance to live forever beyond that point. An excellent case in point is baseball’s famous Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox slugging star. His will instructed that upon his death his body be preserved in cryogenic entombment. But the rest of his family had a serious disagreement over the wording and interpretation of his will. So

far we don’t know the result of the family’s argument.

By the way, the Bible offers a far better hope than the supporters of cryogenic technology can ever do. How true is the saying of John: “We accept the witness of people. But the witness of God is more important because it is God who gives it. He has given witness about his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have accepted that witness in their hearts. Those who do not believe God’s witness are calling him a liar. That’s because they have not believed his witness about his Son. Here is God’s witness. He has given us eternal life. That life is found in his Son. Those who belong to the Son have life. Those who do not belong to the Son do not have life” (1 John 5:9-12, NIV)! By the way, the word *life* in this verse comes from the Greek word *zoe*, which means eternal life. In other words when John talks about life, he really means eternal life that Christians hope to have when Jesus comes to gather His resurrected people and

take them home with him to heaven. Anyway, the aforementioned verse is one of the many examples in the Bible promising its readers eternal life upon belief in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

On early Sunday morning after Jesus' crucifixion, several women were making their way to His tomb to finish the work of embalming His body. To their amazement, the tomb was open, and the women discovered an angel sitting on the empty tomb. The angel announced that Jesus had risen from the dead. The fact that the tomb was empty gave evidence of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, so convincing that Paul supported it by reporting it in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, NIV: "He (Jesus) appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the Twelve (Disciples). After that, he appeared to more than 500 believers at the same time. . . . Then he appeared to all the apostles. Last of all, he also appeared to me." The empty tomb, in itself, gave a powerful testimony to the fact that Jesus, alone of all men, has

the victory and authority over death. He alone can give us eternal life, raise us from our future graves, and take us home to heaven when He comes again.

Paul makes an excellent point when he writes: "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 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 15:16-20, NIV, emphasis supplied)." What more powerful testimony can be presented than this? All of us who desire eternal life can choose to believe in and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, can you? This is our one-way ticket to eternal life in heaven, no kidding!

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George Belser is a retired deaf pastor who lives in Mesa, Arizona.

# That Is What Hurts the Army

By C. L. Paddock



*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”  
(Matthew 5:16).*

An Army captain and I were having dinner together on a transcontinental train headed East. He was in Korea for a long time. And he was on his way home. We enjoyed eating and talking. I enjoyed visiting with the nice looking young fellow. His uniform was neatly pressed. Every button was shining. The Army could be proud of

him for the way he looked. He set a good example to the public.

As we talked, another Army man from the coaches came into the diner. I noticed the captain’s face changed. Something bothered him. This other soldier had no Army coat on, and wore a plain white T-shirt and Army trousers. The trousers [pants] were wrinkled and the T-shirt was dirty.

“That’s what hurts the Army,” the captain said.

“I don’t understand you,” I replied.

“That does hurt the Army,” he continued, “for men and women to disobey Army rules and dress in such a sloppy manner.” He wasn’t pleased to see that man giving the bad example to the public about the Army. The captain wanted to protect the organization.

“Well, captain,” I said, “most all organizations have men and women connected with them who don’t hold up the standards of their group. They are careless, disloyal, and cause embarrassment to their fellow workers.”

The evening before I had seen a military police stop to talk to a soldier in the lounge car. The young man had his Army coat unbuttoned.

“Button up your coat,” the police quietly warned him. The United States Army has high standards for its men. Unfortunately, there are a few careless individuals who do not live up to these standards. That is why the Army hires military policemen.

“That is even true of the Christian church, captain,” I

continued. “The church has high standards. Christians are supposed to be like Christ. But, not everyone who professes Christianity is a true Christian.”

“The trouble is,” the captain replied, “that people judge all of us in the Army by the few men who are not good soldiers, or good Americans.”

Some who are Christians only in name bring embarrassment to the church and Christianity in general. The world often judges Christianity and the church by the men and women who are church members. Young people often bring disgrace on their parents, too, by their wrongdoings.

Lowering the standards hurts the Army, and it hurts the church more, perhaps. It is not fair to judge a whole army by one man or a few soldiers. It is not fair to condemn the church because of a few of its members are not real Christians.

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Adapted and reprinted from *God’s Minutes* by permission from Review and Herald Publishing Association.

# A Discovery

By Judy Johnson



I have been struggling with the parable of the ten virgins from the Bible (Matthew 25:1-13) for a long time. I can remember as a child trying to understand the meaning behind that parable. Jesus told it to his disciples, and they wrote it down. Then a discovery came for me! First, we need to understand the important meaning of the parable.

What makes us different from one another is our character. This came as a surprise, but this part is the key to understanding the parable. How do we recognize what puts the five virgins apart from the other five? Why are they called, “the wise” and “the foolish” virgins? Both the foolish and wise virgins have the exact same thing, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit whispers into

their ears, or puts ideas into their minds to know which is right or wrong. All the ten virgins loved Jesus. They serve the Lord. Then what is it that makes them different? The Bible talks of the “extra oil” and that puzzled me for a long time. I first thought it meant more of the “Holy Spirit” living in our hearts. I was almost right. But there is more to it than that.

A discovery came when I realized the meaning of the “character.” I wondered what it has to do with the “extra oil” that the five wise virgins had. When they woke up, the five foolish virgins found out they did not have “extra oil.” They went and asked the five wise virgins to give them some of the oil that the wise virgins had saved. What does character have to do with the “extra oil”? First, we need to understand what character is. Character is what you are thinking and feeling, even when people are not around or looking. It is the real you. I would like to quote from D. L. Moody’s writing, “Character is what you are in the dark.”

The five wise virgins

asked the Holy Spirit to help build their character—to be a better person. The Holy Spirit is to help shape their thinking and feeling. It is their responsibility every day is to ask the Holy Spirit to step into their hearts to renew their spiritual commitment to God. Also, the Holy Spirit helps them to improve their relationship with God. That is the “extra oil” Jesus was talking about with the five wise virgins. It is found in the character and the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). The Holy Spirit improved their thoughts and feelings. So, the true character of Jesus was shown in their hearts. This gives them the “seal” of eternal life from Jesus—to be with Jesus, the Groom.

When the groom finally comes, all ten virgins wake up from their sleep and find that their oil has run out while they were sleeping. The five foolish virgins panicked when they discovered they were not prepared because they did not have “extra oil.” The five foolish virgins did not bother to ask the Holy Spirit to come into their hearts.

The five foolish virgins did not bother to change their way of life. They did not let the Holy Spirit help build their thoughts and feelings. The Holy Spirit would guide them to think of Jesus. That is the important part that they have missed. They may have gone to church regularly, paid their tithe faithfully, and been very involved in doing in the “duties” within the church. Life may have become so busy that they may have had no time set apart for praying, studying and talking with Jesus. They did not invite Him into their hearts daily, or they may not have wanted to change their lifestyle. They were still the same people as before. They may feel no need to improve the character of their thoughts and feelings in their daily life. They may think they have plenty of time to “enjoy” life before they change their lifestyle.

Too often, someone has told me that they would wait until they get older, and then invite Jesus into their lives. I wonder what if their plane

crashed, or they had an auto accident or were shot by some drive-by gangster? What if their lives were taken away from them and they were unprepared? All is completely lost. How that grieves me! Another interesting part that I learned is this. All the ten virgins heard that the groom was coming around the corner. When the five foolish virgins found out that their oil had run out, they turned to ask the five wise virgins to share their “extra oil” with them. That interested me. How did the five foolish virgins know what they needed to do? They needed their lamps burning so the groom could identify who they were. The five foolish virgins did not have light in their lamps because they did not have “extra oil.” The five foolish virgins were left in total darkness.

Now, the five wise virgins’ response to the five foolish virgins was: “We are sorry that we cannot spare the extra oil with you. If we give it to you, we will not have enough left for ourselves. You must go and buy it at

the store.” The five foolish virgins hurried off in search for the store in the middle of night. Stop there a moment. Why can’t the five wise virgins share the extra oil with the five foolish virgins? Let’s go back to the “character” that I was talking about. Our character is our thoughts and feelings in the dark when no one is looking. The very nature of your decisions and your choices that comes up in the light is who you are. It is like a pearl produced in the oyster. When it is pried open, the beautiful shape of the pearl comes to light to please the eyes of the creator. That is like the secret work of Holy Spirit working inside your heart. When the character is opened, the true colors of your character appear. The whole point is, the foolish virgin cannot copy your character, because you cannot give them your own personal experience with Jesus. Your character is like a blueprint. Character is

not transferable. It cannot pass on to another person. It is your own individual character. Jesus makes you that way. You will have to tell them to go and ask the Holy Spirit to give it to them, but the “store” is closed in the middle of the night. There is a time coming when the door to the Holy Spirit will be closed. Then, no one can get that holy oil from their neighbors.

Character is the only thing that the five wise virgins can carry with them to the Groom’s wedding. It is hard to believe how very boldly the Groom says to the five foolish virgins knocking at the door, “I am sorry, but I do not know who you are.” It is then too late for them to change when Jesus, the Groom, comes.

Let us think about how serious this is. We must get that extra oil NOW!

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Judy Johnson is a deaf homemaker and lives in Vancouver, WA.



# How to Treat Your Spouse Kindly

By Francisca Trexler

Would you hit a lovely fragile flower on the wall or on the table? The flower would have been damaged if you hit it. The flower would not be pretty anymore. You and I would not be able to fix the flower at all. It is impossible for us to fix the damaged flower.

I am sure most of you would say “No!” or “No Way!” I myself would say, “Never!” because I love flowers so much. They are beautiful, but they are very fragile and easily damaged.

The flower is the same as your spouse (husband or wife). When you say ugly or insulting words, you know how your spouse feels. Of course, he/she feels down and would feel not worth living for. Here are examples of insulting words: “You know better than that!” “Why did you do that for?” “You look heavy.” “You make no sense!” There are so many negative, insulting words that do more harm than good. We all should not say ugly or insulting words to

your spouse, even to your children, neighbors, friends, or parents. People cannot forget the negative, insulting words. Let me share a story about a little cute baby elephant that was abused by a mean zookeeper. Years later, the mean zookeeper quit the job. That little elephant grew to become an adult. But this elephant had a bad memory of the mean zookeeper. The new zookeeper didn’t know that adult elephant that had had a bad experience with the old mean zookeeper before.

One day the zoo was having a parade on the street of the town so that all the people could enjoy seeing the animals marching or being carried in cages. During the march, all of the sudden, the elephant saw the mean zookeeper. It ran toward the old zookeeper who was so surprised that this elephant remembered him after so many years. The new zookeeper tried to keep the elephant on the street, but did not succeed.

The elephant killed the old zookeeper. How sad!

So, it was clear that we need to know how to treat animals, people, children, and even spouses carefully. We all need to be very careful of what to say to anyone.

There is another story that made me sad. A lady, who was about 60 years old, had a habit of covering her mouth with her hand when she laughed. I asked her why she covered her mouth whenever she laughed. She had very nice looking teeth. She said that when she was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, her classmates and friends made fun of her because her front teeth looked like a rabbit's teeth. Her classmates and friends' ribbing (teasing) made her feel bad and she became very self-conscious (embarrassed about the way she looked). Even in her 60's she still felt embarrassed about smiling or laughing. That is not healthy. It took her a while to learn to smile without covering her mouth with her hand. Let us be careful what we say to each other.

Let me share Bible verses with you. "Suppose you think your beliefs are right because of how you live. But you don't control what you say. Then you are fooling yourselves. Your beliefs are not worth anything at all" (James 1:26, NIV). "All of us get tripped up in many ways. Suppose someone is never wrong in what he says. Then he is a perfect man. He is able to keep his whole body under control. We put a bit in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us. We can control the whole animal with it. And how about ships? They are very big. They are driven along by strong winds. But they are steered by a very small rudder. It makes them go where the captain wants to go. In the same way, the tongue is a small part of the body. But it brags a lot. Think about how a small spark can set [cause] a big forest fire. The tongue also is a fire. The tongue is the most evil part of the body. It pollutes the whole person. It sets a person's whole way of life on fire. And the tongue is set on fire by hell. People

have controlled all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea. They still control them. But no one can control the tongue. It is an evil thing that never rests. It is full of deadly poison. With our tongues we praise our Lord and Father. With our tongues we call down curses on people. We do it even though they have been created to be like God. Praise and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it shouldn't be that way" (James 3:2-9, NIV). "For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech" (1 Peter 3:10, NIV). "Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love. That is how we know that we hold to the truth. And that's how we put our hearts at rest, knowing that God is watching. Our hearts may judge us. But God is greater than our hearts. He knows everything" (1 John 3:18-20, NIV). "Anyone who serves the Lord must not fight. Instead, he must be kind to

everyone. He must be able to teach. He must not hold anything against anyone" (2 Timothy 2:24, NIV).

We can overcome our bad habit of saying bad words with the help of Jesus Christ through prayer. "With man, that is impossible, But, with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26, NIV). This verse makes you feel good to know that Jesus can help you to overcome your bad habit of saying bad and unkind words. Give your hearts of stone and bad feeling to Jesus when you pray to Him. He will give you a new heart so you can control your tongue or signing. Let us be thoughtful and kind to anyone as well as to your spouses. Kind and positive words make people feel so good and happy. Keep it in your mind: What would Jesus do when you plan to say something? May God help you to say positive, encouraging and kind words to your spouse.

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Francisca Trexler has a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, and is active in Deaf work in different capacities. She lives in Lanham, MD.

# Oven Fries



Wash the potatoes and peel.

Slice potatoes into uniform strips, about one large potato for one person.

Put strips in a mixing bowl and mix with 1 Tablespoon of olive oil. And add the herb mixture listed below and put on the Pam prepared baking cookie sheet.

Bake 30 minutes in 375 degree oven. Baking time will vary according to size of strips (if nicely thin slices of potatoes, baking time would be reduced to 25 minutes)

3/4 cup crushed corn flakes

3/4 teaspoon chicken seasoning (McKay's)

3/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon salt

Great idea!

Goes well with scrambled tofu egg and waffles for good breakfast.

It is better than common French Fries we get from fast food restaurants. It fries in deep oil that is bad for our hearts. Let us take good care of our hearts. Oven Fries is good for your heart.

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