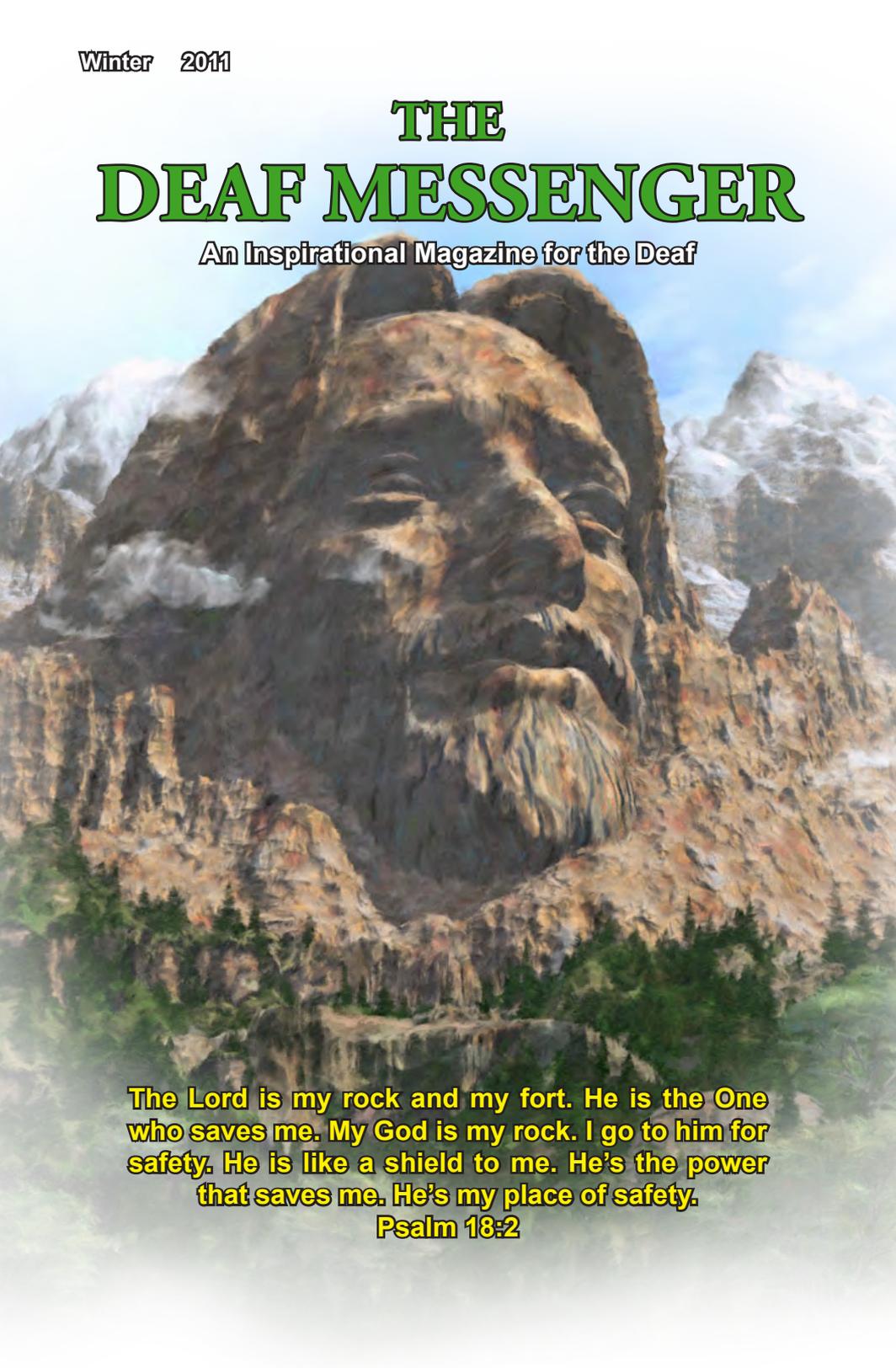


Winter 2011

# THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



The Lord is my rock and my fort. He is the One who saves me. My God is my rock. I go to him for safety. He is like a shield to me. He's the power that saves me. He's my place of safety.

Psalm 18:2

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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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# The God of a Second Chance

By George Belser



BIBLE PICTURES

After graduation from college, I accepted a position as a printing instructor and social studies teacher at a certain state residential school for the deaf. Unfortunately, I got involved in a rebellion of teachers against the school's administration and was asked not to return next year. Among schools for the deaf there is a code that prohibits teachers who are fired from returning to the teaching profession. In other words they are blacklisted

for life. That means they have no hope of ever returning to a teaching job. But the superintendent of another school for the deaf had known well my family and my background so he decided to give me a second chance when he asked me to return to my alma mater to teach there. My alma mater is the Deaf school where I graduated from. This time I had a successful teaching career and remained at the school until my retirement many years later.

In the same way, all people in the world need a second chance. The Bible says that all the people became lost when Adam and Eve fell into sin. Romans 3:20 says, "No one is right with God, no one at all." Romans 5:12 makes it clear that, "Sin entered the world because one man [Adam] sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people." Isaiah makes a very clear illustration when he says, "All of us have become like someone who is 'unclean.' All of the good things we do are like polluted rags to you" (Isaiah 64:6). So, is there no hope for us? No, not true! God has provided a wonderful plan that offers hope to all people. Let Romans 5:10 explain, "Once we were God's enemies. But we have been brought back to him because his Son has died for us." Galatians 4:3-5 adds, "When we were children, we were slaves to the basic things the people of the world would believe. But then the right time came God sent his Son. A woman gave birth to him.

He was born under the law. He wanted us to be adopted as children with all the rights children have." This gift of God is called grace, which means unmerited favor or pardon. But what is grace, really? Ephesians: 2:4, 8-10 defines grace clearly, "But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you. . . . God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about it." Again. Grace is God's gift of eternal life to all who have believed in and accepted Christ as their Savior, nothing else!

But, wait a minute! Does this mean we Christians can do anything as we please, such as stealing things and killing people? This is not what the Bible teaches us. It is true that the Law in itself does not save us, but we are encouraged to obey it in

response to God's love for us. Doesn't Jesus Himself say, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, KJV)? Many people claim that Jesus abolished (removed) the Law, but Jesus makes it very clear that He did not. "Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do that. Instead, I have come to give full meaning to what is written. What I'm about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest stroke of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed. Do not break even one of the least important commandments. And do not teach others to break them. If you do, you will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called important in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19). A very powerful warning, isn't it? James also offers another

powerful warning, "Suppose you keep the whole law but trip over just one part of it. Then you are guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10). You simply cannot ignore this warning from God's Word, can you?

Now, permit me to give you an illustration of the close relationship between grace and the law. Take a rowboat with two oars for example. If you row the boat with one oar the boat will, of course, go circles in one direction. If you pull on just another oar the boat will still go circles in the opposite direction. But when you pull on both oars at the same time the boat will move straight ahead in the right direction. The same is true with grace and the law as one cannot work without the other, nor vice versa. Both grace and the law provide the right balance as long as we keep Jesus Christ centered in our lives.

In closing, I would like to share with you a story showing how important Jesus Christ is to all Christians. The setting of the story happened during

the closing days of the infamous French Revolution. A nobleman by the name of Jean Simon de Loiserolle, Sr. had been arrested and placed in prison. Wandering about in the dungeon, he recognized his son sleeping on the floor. A prisoner told the father that the sleeping man was to be executed next morning. Shocked, the father sat down beside the son, wondering how he could save him from his death. Then he had a bright idea and waited until morning. When the bell rang in the morning, the father quickly rose while the son was still sleeping. As he was walking to the guillotine, the jailer asked the father if his name was Jean Simon de Loiserolle, aged 37. The father quickly replied that the name was correct, but the numbers of his age should be reversed. "Stupid mistake," remarked the jailer as the father walked on to his death. Some time later, the son woke up, finding the dungeon rather empty. A prisoner told him that an older man had walked away in his place. A few days

later, the French Revolution collapsed. Jean Simon de Loiserolle, Jr. walked away from prison a free man because of his father's loving sacrifice. This story reminds us of another loving sacrifice, that of Jesus Christ, who willingly became our Substitute and Redeemer on the Cross. The word redeemer means that Jesus has suffered and paid the penalty for our sins and offered us the priceless gift of salvation and eternal life. 1 John 5:11 states, "Here is God's witness. He has given us eternal life. That life is found in his Son. Those who belong to the Son of God have life. Those who do not belong to the Son of God do not have life." Jesus loves you very much. So, would you accept the second chance by: 1. surrendering your hearts to Jesus, 2. believing in Him as your Substitute and Redeemer, and 3. deciding firmly to follow all the principles of the Bible according to His teachings?

George Belser is a retired Deaf pastor who lives in Mesa, AZ.

# Jesus Christ Our Salvation

By Amanda Colgan



BIBLE PICTURES

Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates [shows] His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” God showed His love for us through the death of His Son. Why did Jesus have to die for us? Because the Bible says “Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory” (Romans 3:23). In other words, our sin separates us from God who is perfect holiness and God must therefore judge sinful

men. “For the wages [results] of sin is death . . .” (Romans 6:23a). There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. So what is the solution?

God has not left us without hope and a solution because of His great love and grace. God made Jesus to be sin for us. Did Jesus ever sin? Certainly not! Jesus never had a wicked thought or said any evil thing or did a sinful act (2 Corinthians 5:21). What does it mean that Jesus became

sin for us even though he never sinned? It means that He was condemned (punished) for sins we have done. Jesus was willing to do this because of His great love! The thought that He was willing to be lost than have us miss heaven is amazing! (John 10:17). Jesus is unselfish, loving God who gives His own life to redeem (save) His people.

All of our guilt and sins are nailed to the cross. In Jesus there is “now no condemnation [punishment]” (Romans 8:1). The power of grace is greater than the power of sin. Grace frees us from sin and sin is no longer our master. The cross offers hope of salvation! “God’s grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn’t come from anything you do. It is God’s gift” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Everyone the Father gives me will come to me. I will never send away anyone who comes to [accepts] me” (John 6:37). Jesus accepts people as they are (sinners) and will cleanse them from sin. The whole heart must be

surrendered to God in order for the change to happen in our hearts. When Christ lives in your heart, it will be filled with love. Jeremiah 29:13 says “When you look for me with all your heart, you will find me.”

Once you accept Jesus in your heart, ask Him to “examine [test] me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life” (Psalms 139:23, 24, NCV). A daily preparation of your heart through prayer and Bible study is very important and it will strengthen your relationship with God. Witnessing to people about Jesus and attending a church will also help increase your faith and love for God.

First John 2:3-6 (NIV) says “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This

is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” We should follow Jesus’ steps because He is the perfect example. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). We must first deny ourselves (confess our sins) and take up the cross by following Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34). “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:22, NKJV). As we grow to love God, we become confident that God loves us and we will only do things that please Him.

No one I know has made a straight line to spiritual maturity (completeness). We stumble along but we must get up and move forward. By faith we grow up in Him (Ephesians. 4:13). Depend on Jesus to lead us. Put away all doubts. It is a lifetime growth to become more like Jesus. The following verse is helpful

during my walk with Christ: “Think about things that are in heaven. Don’t think about things that are on earth” Colossians 3:2. This verse helps me to focus on Jesus, not on self or on the world as they keep us busy or distracted from our relationship with God. Look to Jesus, not self. Tell Jesus “*Lord, I do believe! Help me overcome my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:24, italic supplied). Do not trust your faith but in God’s faithfulness. Mark 11:22 reads “Have faith in God.”

Do not doubt God’s mercy and say “I don’t know whether I am saved or not.” By faith we hold onto His promise that He will save us. Come to Jesus as you are—sinful, helpless, lost. Have desire to be cleansed from sin and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Rejoice as Christ is your personal Savior!

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

# Prayer is the Answer

**Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It connects with divine wisdom which knows how to change everything perfectly.**

**So often, we do not pray because there seems to be no hope.**

**But nothing is impossible with God.**

**Nothing is so messed up that it cannot be fixed.**

**No human relation is so bad that God can not fix. God can fix all relationships.**

**No habit is so deeply rooted that it cannot be overcome.**

**No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong.**

**No one is so ill that he cannot be healed.**

**No mind is so dull that it cannot be made bright.**

**Whatever we need or desire, if we trust God, he will give what He knows is best for us.**

**If anything is causing worry or anxiety, let us stop thinking about the problem and trust God for healing, love, and power.**

Paraphrased  
Review & Herald October 7, 1865

# Why Lincoln Was Loved

By C. L. Paddock



given me any pleasure. Die when I may, I want people, who knew me best, to remember that I plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”

Lincoln’s life was spent in giving. He did not think much of what he

It would be interesting to know how many pardons Lincoln gave during the war between the states (Civil War). Often he arose from his sleep to go and send a message that someone should be pardoned. Some of his fellow workers protested to him and urged that he stop giving too many pardons. His answer was, “Things you have just seen don’t hurt us. It is the only thing today that has made me forget my problem or

might get personally from his labors or his office.

In the spring of 1830 the family moved from Indiana to Illinois. After crossing an ice-filled river one day the family noticed that Abe’s dog had been left on the other side. The father decided they didn’t have time to get the dog, so Abe re-crossed the river alone and returned in triumph with his dog.

A fellow lawyer of Lincoln’s time charged an

aged, very poor widow of a Revolutionary soldier \$200 for getting a \$400 pension for her. Lincoln urged her to sue the lawyer. He took her case and won it. He returned the money to her. He also paid her hotel bill and bought a ticket for her to return home on the train. It is not hard to understand why people loved him.

An elderly man came to him with a sad story. His boy had been guilty for breaking some military rules and sentenced to death. Lincoln wrote a few lines on a sheet of paper and handed it to the crying father. It read, "Job Smith is not to be shot until further orders from me."— Abraham Lincoln.

The old gentleman received it with a look of surprise and disappointment. "I thought it was a pardon. You may order him to be shot next week."

The President said, "My friend, I see you do not know me well enough. If your son never dies till orders come from me to shoot him, he will live to be a great deal older than Methuselah."

At one time he gave an

order forbidding the shooting of twenty-four deserters (soldiers who illegally ran away from the military). "There are already too many crying widows. Don't ask me to add to the number, because I won't," he said.

Lincoln was born in a pioneer home that had no floors, windows, or doors. It had a pile of leaves in the corner for a bed. He knew poverty and difficulties. No wonder he knew how to sympathize with the lowliest of men! With only a few months in school, he read and studied and struggled to get an education. From his humble pioneer home in Kentucky he made his way to the White House and the highest office. In this high office he remained humble, kind, sympathetic, and helpful.

He exemplified in his life many of the teachings of Jesus, and left the old world better for his having lived in it.

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

# 6 Stupid Things Singles Do To Mess Up Their Lives

By Nancy Van Pelt



101 DALAMATIONS/ISTOCKPHOTOS

In Cathy Guisewite's comic strip, Cathy, Cathy says, "I'm beautiful, charming, talented, and ready to share my life with someone, Charlene. I want to dream with someone . . . plan with someone . . . I want to be there for someone, and I want someone to be there for me!" Charlene responded, "My husband has a really cute friend who—"

"Auck!" Cathy screams. "A fix-up? No fix-ups! I'm ready to be married. I'm not ready to date."

Many single people are like Cathy. Marriage is their goal, but they don't want to go through the process of preparing for it. They have busy lives. They have their own businesses. They have successful careers, and they have plenty of friends. But they are not successful in having long-term relationships. But, it is possible to have more control over relationships. They can learn from the stupid mistakes of other people. So they can make better choices

in the future. You can learn to recognize stupidity. Don't go there!

## **Stupid Mistake 1—Marry Too Soon**

There are seven steps in dating, and each step has a purpose. Rushing or skipping any step can damage the development of the relationship. Problems can happen. Strong, lasting relationships must take a long period of time. "Getting to know you" is very important for every single person. Step 1 is friendship. At this step, a couple gets to know each other while they are doing in nonromantic activities. In step 2, occasional, not serious dating, the two friends move away from the group to get involved in couple's activities. Step 3, special dating, is an in-between step when there is a growing emotional attachment between the two, but they have not made a commitment yet. During step 4, steady dating, the couple will not date others. In step 5, pre-engagement, the couple begins discussing the possibility of marriage—"someday." But their understanding is private and personal rather than final. Step 6 begins the formal engagement when a wedding date has been set and wedding

plans are in progress. Step 7, marriage, is final and binding. The romantic part of courtship should continue.

Unfortunately, many couples do not follow these steps in order. They are so eager to be in love sooner so they skip the steps and jump into romance. Adult singles, especially the previously married, tend to rush to marry too quickly. Every couple should date for two years before getting engaged. They should spend one whole year at steps 1, 2, and 3, carefully helping their friendship. During the second year, the "masks" begin to slip, and character weaknesses show up that were hidden until then.

Research supports this point. Researchers at Kansas State University found "a strong relationship between length of time spent dating their current spouses and marriage satisfaction." The researchers found that "couples who had dated for more than two years scored high on marriage satisfaction. But, the couples who had dated for shorter periods scored in a wide range from very high to very low."

Some of the biggest failures I have seen have been with previously married persons who thought they could skip all the kid stuff and rush into marriage.

The stupidest mistake of all is to rush into marriage.

### **Stupid Mistake 2—Live Together Before Marriage**

You have been dating someone wonderfully. You get along great. So you say, “Let’s live together before getting married to make sure it works.” That is another stupid decision. Seven big and important studies show that couples who live together before marriage have a higher divorce rate. Moving in with someone is an act of immaturity (not mature) that gives a loud message: “You don’t have to do much to get me! Date me a few times, and we’ll play house.”

Only 15 out of 100 couples (15%) who lived together before marriage stay married. Marriage has some advantages. It offers commitment, status, rights, and opportunities that living together doesn’t. Marriage offers mental, social, physical, and spiritual oneness.

Don’t play Russian roulette with your future! Don’t live together first!

### **Stupid Mistake 3—Begin Dating Before the Divorce is Final**

Tom and Becky were legally separated. Becky had planned

to date someone to marry, but Tom refused to date until the divorce was final. Just before the divorce was to be final, Becky surprised her attorney and Tom when she announced that she wanted to try again. Now she and Tom are working toward reconciliation.

Remember—no matter how lonely you feel about yourself you are still married until the divorce. Also, a recently separated person is not emotionally ready to date. Failing to date for two years before marriage is stupid, but to begin dating before the divorce is final is the stupidest mistake!

### **Stupid Mistake 4—Become Sexually Involved Before Marriage**

Many singles look to sex to fill their empty life and make themselves feel loved. But sex is not the answer to feeling unloved. Sex outside of marriage only makes the problems worse we already have. Let’s look at some of the problems.

\*Those who have sex before marriage are more likely to divorce. One study showed that they have a more than 50 percent higher divorce rate.

\*Those who have sex before marriage are more likely to break up.

\*Those who have sex before marriage are more likely to have extramarital affairs (adultery).

\*Those who have sex before marriage experience a terrible blow to their self-worth. Many couples sacrifice their self-worth for sex and get nothing in return. They can find answers to such problems if they have given their lives to Jesus.

### **Stupid Mistake 5—Ignore Danger Signals**

People who are serious in love tend to ignore danger signals. A Gallup study showed that while they were dating, 38 percent of those who divorced later knew about the problems that led to the divorce—but they ignored them! You need to do some serious investigation early in a relationship. If you want to know something, ask questions. If the person you're dating doesn't answer, that raises a red flag. It's another flag if he or she doesn't have friends or never introduces you to family or friends.

If your friends speak positively about your date and what they say agrees with what you know, you're probably OK. But if you pick up negative feelings of any kind, you must do some serious investigation.

Listen carefully for information about a former mate and the reason for divorce. If you don't do some serious investigation now, you may spend a lot of time and money in counselor's office later on. Remember, people who want to hide about their past mistakes don't want you to know about it.

### **Stupid Mistake 6—Marry Without Premarital (Before Marriage) Preparation**

"What do I need premarital preparation for?" one man argued. "I've been married three times!" That is exactly why he needs premarital preparation!

Most churches require couples who are engaged to have only two or three counseling sessions. Often those focus on planning the wedding service. They don't require a waiting period. They don't ask the couple to do any reading, train them in communication skills, or test for compatibility (ability to live together in harmony). Churches that do like this become machines that make couples for tomorrow's divorces.

A good marriage-preparation program should have both a required waiting period and compatibility testing. An instrument called

PREPARE (Premarital Personal and Relationship Evaluation) is a useful tool for predicting a couple's compatibility. PREPARE give an diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses of the couple's relationship and tests their ability to solve disagreement and conflict.

PREPARE can predict with 86 percent accuracy which couples will divorce and with 78 accuracy which couples will enjoy a happy marriage. Couples who plan to have second or future marriages need PREPARE too. People who have been married before are less likely to seek premarital guidance. The older the couple is, the more likely they will marry with little or no waiting period or premarital guidance. PREPARE MC is available for those previously married with children and MATE for those over 55 years of age. All of us face life's potholes, but single people must avoid them alone. But, through Christ, single adults can have a hope for the future that goes beyond the broken promises and broken dreams and the hurts they may have experienced. Through Christ, the divorced people can have hope for better future if they get the courage to face whatever problems they may have. Remodeling may require growing pains, but look

to the Master Architect (Jesus) for the finished product.

\*\*You can obtain formation about PREPARE by contacting PREPARE-ENRICH, PO Box 190, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

Source for statistical statements: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2009."

In 2009 53% of North American women 18 years and older were unmarried.

In 2009 61% of unmarried Americans 18 years and older had never been married.

In the United States there are 88 unmarried men 18 and older for every 100 unmarried women.

In 2009 31.7 million people lived alone in 2009. They are 27 percent of all households.

In 2007 Americans spent \$900 million on online dating services. In 2008 it was \$1.2 billion.

\$1.7 Billion revenue is predicted for dating services in America in 2013.

—New York Times, citing Piper Jaffray investment research.

Nancy Van Pelt is an author and speaker on courtship and marriage.

# Vegetarian Recipes

## Apricot Glazed Chic-ketts

- 1 roll of Worthington Chic-ketts—an imitation meat
- 2 cups of Kellogg's Cornflake crumbs
- 18 oz. jar of apricot preserves or jam
- 16 oz bottle of Kraft Thousand Island Dressing
- 3 dashes of Goya seasoning (optional)
- 2 beaten eggs or substitute eggs (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and heat cooking oil in deep frying pan or wok. Rip thawed Chic-ketts roll into pieces. In a separate bowl, beat two eggs, pour over meat, and sprinkle on Goya seasoning. Coat the meat with cornflake crumbs, brown in about 90 seconds, and drain too much grease on paper towel.

Spoon preserves into a baking dish or separate bowl. Pour salad dressing into the preserves and mix. Do not heat to dissolve mixture! Fold deep-fried meat into the mixture until every piece is covered. Bake for 30 minutes.

## Waldorf Salad

- 1 apple (Gala), chopped small cube
- 1 celery stalk, chopped very small cube
- 3 dates, chopped small
- 1 cup of red grape (seedless), wash well
- 1/4 cup of walnut, chopped
- 1 tablespoon of Vegannaise (mayonnaise) with 2 teaspoons of rice milk - mix well before putting it in the bowl of salad

Method:

Mix well and if you like to add a little sweet of brown sugar, just a sprinkle.

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- Does God hear my prayers?
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- Where do I go when I die?
- Is Jesus coming soon?

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