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THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



"My dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. But suppose someone does sin. Then we have one who speaks to the Father for us. He stands up for us. He is Jesus Christ, the Blameless One. He gave his life to pay for our sins. But he not only paid for our sins. He also paid for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 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 World's Most Wanted Terrorist Is Dead

By David M. Trexler



A few weeks ago the world was shocked to learn that Osama Bin Laden, the world's most wanted person, was killed in a daring raid by the U.S. Navy SEALs that secretly flew into Pakistan in the early morning. The president of the U.S. announced the news of his death ten years after the horrifying terrorist attacks that destroyed the World's Trade Center's twin towers, damaged the Pentagon, and the failed attempted crash of an airliner in Pennsylvania.

Those attacks killed over 3,000 Americans. The president said that justice was done with the killing of the most wanted terrorist. The world's reaction to the news varied (different). Some Americans celebrated with joy and cheer. Some Americans were relieved, thinking that the threat to our country has lessened dramatically. Some people in other countries were happy and relieved, while Bin Laden's followers were very angry. But, most people

of the whole world agreed Bin Laden was guilty of planning the terrorist attack against innocent people. And they agreed that Osama Bin Laden must suffer the penalty for killing someone. Bin Laden himself confessed that he was responsible for the terrorist attacks against the U.S. and other countries. But, he was not sorry about it. He was glad for killing anyone as he wished.

Now, Osama Bin Laden is not the only world's terrorist. There are and were many other terrorists and evil people in this world. But, we have the terrorist of all terrorists in the spiritual world. Guess who? Satan who is the most wanted terrorist in the whole universe. He once was a loyal and beautiful angel called Lucifer. The name, Lucifer, means "light bearer." He was the leading angel in heaven serving God. What happened to him? The Bible says that he became an evil angel himself. "Your conduct was without blame [perfect] from the day you were created. But soon you began to sin" (Ezekiel 28:15).

He deceived and won 1/3 of the angels in the universe. In heaven there was war between Satan and his angels and Jesus and His

angels. But, God cast him and his angels out of heaven (Revelation 12:4, 7-9). Later, Satan finally got our world when he deceived Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-6). Since then he has terrorized this world with death, fighting, natural disasters, deception, etc. (Job 1 & 2). He has had influenced many people to become wicked. They have been doing wicked deeds that have terrorized us. When will the terrorism stop forever? Some people believe that Satan and his angels are in charge of hell where they torture the lost forever and forever. Is that true according to the Bible? No! Right now there is no hell that is burning. Hell is reserved in the future for Satan, his angels and wicked people. In this issue you will learn about the facts about death and the judgment. These will help you to understand that justice will be done in the future for whole universe. Satan and his angels will be no more. "All of the nations that knew you [Satan] are shocked because of what happened to you. You have come to a horrible end. And you will be gone forever" (Ezekiel 28:19). They will be gone forever after all of the judgment is completed.

“The devil, who fooled them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur” (Revelation 20:10). So, sin will be no more forever.

We need to remember that Satan and sin are going to be completely destroyed because of the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ. He came to this dark world of sin to save us from sin and to deliver us from the power of sin. It is so amazing that Jesus, the Son of God who is equal with the Father, volunteered to be a man just like us, but with no sin. Human beings are lower than the angels (Psalm 8:4, 5). But, Satan failed to defeat Jesus. Jesus did this on purpose to prove that God is just and righteous in the war between Christ and Satan over this earth. Jesus became a man that is lower than the angels. Jesus was tempted and tortured by Satan who hated Him. “Since these children are people with physical bodies, Jesus himself became like them. He did this so that, by dying, he could destroy the one who has the power of death—the devil” (Hebrews 2:14, NCV). Because of Jesus’ great sacrifice and death He will be greatly honored by everyone in the whole universe.

“He [Jesus] appeared as

a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross. So God lifted him up to the highest place. He gave him the name that is above every name. When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone’s knee will bow to worship him. Every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow to worship him. Everyone’s mouth will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory” (Philippians 2:9-11). Thanks to Jesus Christ for His great sacrifice for us. Soon one day we will hear the news: “Sin is dead!”

In closing, “Now God makes his home with people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be” (Revelation 21:3, 4).

The Judgment and the Judge

By Alberta Blake



DELSNAHAN, 1991.

The courtroom is ready for the court hearing. The people are ordered to stand. The judge enters the room and sits behind the judge's bench. Law books and the gavel are in front of the judge. Then the people are seated. The accused person or prisoner sits in the prisoner's box. A clerk gives the case. A witness is called and comes to stand in the witness box. The trial

begins.

Have you ever had to go to court? Going to a court hearing can be a scary experience. Sometimes people win the court case and sometimes people lose the court case. Sometimes the innocent are proven guilty and sometimes the guilty are proven innocent. Do the court judge and the jury make mistakes? Yes, sometimes mistakes

are made in the court proceedings here in our country.

Do you think there is a court proceeding taking place that gives a fair verdict (guilty or not guilty)? Read the following evidence and then you may be able to answer this question.

The Bible tells us of a court case that is taking place right now. We can not see the court room but we can read about the proceedings. John in Revelation 14:7 tells us to “Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come.” Daniel tells about this judgment in his prophecies in Daniel chapters 7-9. These prophecies tell what will happen from Daniel’s day until the time of the judgment and after the judgment. A picture of the courtroom is described in Daniel 7:9, 10. When does this judgment start? First of all we need to find out when the prophecy begins. Daniel 8:14 (NKJV) says, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”

To understand this very important prophecy better, (the 2300 day-year prophecy) you can get some

help from Deaf Bible School at www.deafbibleschool.com. History shows that the beginning of this time prophecy is 457 B.C. or the time given to rebuild Jerusalem. This beginning date is found in Ezra 7:13-26. The end of the time prophecy then would be in A.D. 1844. Many more important dates and happenings are mentioned in Daniel’s prophecies taking place between the two dates.

Before the year 1844 came, Bible students around the world and especially in North America were interested in studying this prophecy. The Bible students realized that the time was very soon. They thought that the sanctuary was the earth. The Bible students thought that Jesus would come and clean the earth. The Bible students did not realize that what was to be cleaned was the temple in heaven. Jesus’ work in the heavenly sanctuary shifted from one phase of intercession for His people to include another phase of investigation of His people.

The work in the earthly sanctuary was a copy of the work in the heavenly sanctuary. In the earthly

Jewish sanctuary the High Priests worked in the Holy Place. But, once a year, the High Priest shifted his work from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place. This was on the “Day of Atonement.” He would take blood from the slain (killed) victim, a lamb, to sprinkle on the mercy seat that was in the Most Holy Place. This act was a symbol of Jesus erasing the people’s sins in the Heavenly Sanctuary. The people would also be searching in their own lives to see if there were any personal sins left that were not forgiven during the past year. The blood of the slain lamb represented Jesus’ blood when He died on the cross for the sins of all the people on the earth.

The following questions give answers to some of Jesus’ work during the investigative judgment.

1) What kind of work does Jesus do during the Investigative Judgment? Every work is judged. Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NKJV) says, “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

2) How will people be judged? People will be judged out of the books.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:12, NKJV).

3) Who is to be judged? All people are to be judged. “I said in my heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked” (Ecclesiastes 3:17, NKJV). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10, NKJV).

4) Should we be afraid of the judgment that is happening right now? My answer would be “Yes” and “No”. If we do not know the judge of this judgment then we would be afraid. If we do not know who the lawyer is— we could be scared too. But, if we do know Jesus and the work He has already done for us, then we do not need to be afraid of the judgment. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus returned to heaven and has been interceding for His people. Since 1844 Jesus is also investigating to see who is safe to take to heaven with

Him. Jesus is investigating the people who have their names recorded in the Book of Life. These people have chosen to be in the Kingdom of God with Jesus.

5) Who will judge the wicked people? The saints or the good people will help judge the wicked people. “Don’t you know that God’s people will judge the world? And if you are going to judge the world, aren’t you able to judge small cases? Don’t you know that we will judge angels?” (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3). “And I saw thrones, and they (the saints) sat on them, and judgment was committed to them” (Revelation 20:4, NKJV). This part of the judgment takes place when the righteous people live with Jesus in heaven. The righteous people live with Jesus for a thousand years.

Today, we can give Jesus our hearts, our lives. We can give Him our wills so Jesus can work with us. Jesus then covers our lives with His blood. Jesus’ blood covers people who choose to walk with Him. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7, NKJV). Will people still make mistakes and sin? Yes, people will

still make mistakes but as Jesus becomes a closer friend people will want to serve, love and obey Jesus. Becoming like Jesus helps people to not want to sin. Jesus promises us the victory over sin if we surrender our hearts and minds to Him completely. “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [the Holy Spirit], to be with you forever” John 14:15, 16, ESV).

Jesus is coming back to this earth to take His people to heaven with Him. Jesus will take the people who have their names written in the Book of Life to live with Him. Jesus will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Keep close to Jesus now. Give Jesus your heart every day and all day. Obey Jesus’ commands. He is our best friend. The verdict and the reward in the judgment will be “Not Guilty & Life Eternal” for the people who love Jesus. I can not wait to see Jesus come again, can you?

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

Sleeping in the Grave

By Esther Doss



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A few weeks ago, my 2-year-old son Ethan and I went to an old cemetery for the burial of my great-aunt. Many of my family members are buried in this cemetery, including my grandparents, great-grandparents, and even my sister who died as a newborn. As I walked from grave to grave, I looked at the headstones. I had not been there in a long time and my heart felt warm to be there. I had many memories in my mind.

This little cemetery is hidden by old oak trees in the middle of the farmlands of Arkansas. The air was

filled with the sweet smell of honeysuckles. There was a lazy creek slowly flowing by. As I looked around me, I thought, “What a beautiful place!”

Then I scratched my head and asked myself, “What? Is this really a beautiful place?” I remembered that when God made this earth fresh and new, He did not make cemeteries. Cemeteries were not needed until sin came into this world. These headstones are reminders that people have died because of sin. I imagined how family and friends cried each time

someone was buried in this cemetery. Then I shivered when I thought about the many people who have died all around the world for thousands of years. Death is not beautiful. Death is an ugly thing. Sin is an ugly thing, too.

Is there any good news? Yes! Jesus is coming soon! When Jesus comes again, those who love Jesus will come to life again. I Thessalonians 4:16, 17 tells us, “The Lord himself will come down from heaven. We will hear a loud command. We will hear the voice of the leader of the angels. We will hear a blast from God’s trumpet. Many who believe in Christ will have died already. They will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them. We will be taken up in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with him forever.”

Wait a minute! What does that verse mean when it says that some have died already and they will rise first? The Bible tells us that death is the same as sleep. Daniel 12:2 says, “Huge

numbers of people who lie dead in their graves will wake up.”

Jesus also explained this to His disciples. In John 11 we read the story about Lazarus, who was a close friend to Jesus. Messengers informed Jesus that Lazarus was very ill and needed his help. Jesus waited several days and then, “Jesus went on speaking to them. ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,’ he said. ‘But I am going there to wake him up.’ His disciples replied, ‘Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get better.’ Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead’ ” (John 11:11-14).

The Bible tells us, “People who are still alive know they’ll die. But those who have died don’t know anything. They don’t receive any more rewards. And they are soon forgotten. Their love, hate and jealousy disappear. They will never share again in anything that happens on earth. No matter what you do, work at it with

all your might. Remember, you are going to your grave. And there isn't any work or planning or knowledge or wisdom there" (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10). This verse tells us that dead people do not know anything at all.

Dead people do not know anything because they are asleep. Dead people do not go to heaven as soon as they die. They are sleeping in the grave. Psalm 115:17 says, "Dead people don't praise the Lord. Those who lie quietly in the grave don't praise him." Dead people are not in heaven praising God. In Acts 2:29, 34 Peter claimed clearly that "the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to the day. . . . for David did not ascend into heaven." King David does not know anything what has happened to this old world since his death more than thousand years ago. He is sleeping in the grave until the day of resurrection when Jesus Christ will call all dead believers out of their graves at His second coming. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Death is the same

as sleep. There is no consciousness of what is happening, or time passing, etc. Your next thought will be when God brings you back to life when Jesus comes again. It will seem like just a moment! "Those among you who have died will live again. Their bodies will rise from the dead. You who lie in the grave, wake up and shout with joy" (Isaiah 26:19).

I believe that Jesus is coming very soon. This is good news! Revelation 21:4 says, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be." Praise God! When Jesus comes again, we will no longer need cemeteries.

Esther Doss is a CODA and mother who lives in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Resurrection Day

by Arthur Griffith

**That glorious morning comes at last
The tears of partings all are past
From plain and valley, hill and glen
The earth gives up the sons of men
And hark! A shout upon the deep
Which can no more its victims keep
As ransomed ones from every land
Are gathered in a shining band.
They knew and trusted Christ their Lord
And in their hearts His truth they stored.
In life and death, their faith was shown,
And now He claims them as His own.
The glory of His face they see
While wicked from its brightness flee.
Now sweeping onward through the sky,
No more to suffer or to die,
In vastness of eternal space
They catch new visions of God's grace
Who to their tiny, fallen earth
Had sent His Son by human birth
To rescue them from death and loss
By His own death upon the cross.**

Late Arthur Griffith was a retired Deaf pastor.

Temptation

By Amanda Colgan

Parenthood is a good example of showing us the importance of obedience (obeying) to God when facing temptation. As parents, we know what is important for our children. We love our children, and we want the very best for them. We try to see to it that they not do things that would be harmful to them. We ask them to eat their vegetables. We tell them to do their homework. We send them to bed at night so that they will not be too tired the next day or get sick. Our own view on these things is very different from that of our children. They often think that we are being too strict when we try to get them to do what is best for them.

My daughter Amy who is a baby may fall down while trying to stand up and hurt herself. It is part of her learning experience. She will experience many trials and errors as she grows up. But, she will mature and learn from them. It is like our Christian experience. We start as babes on milk. We become mature and stronger Christians through time and experience reading God's words and with prayers and God's guiding hand (1 Peter 2:2). We do not like to experience trials and

temptations, but it is part of our refining process as God said it will make us stronger (1 Peter 1:6, 7). Praise God that temptations and trials are only temporary. "The only temptation that has come to you is that which everyone has. But you can trust God, who will not permit you to be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, he will also give you a way to escape so that you will be able to stand it" (1 Corinthians 10:13, NCV).

Temptation and trial can be very helpful in showing us if there are areas in our lives that need improvement. If we yield (give in) to temptation, it is God's way of showing us that we have certain weaknesses that need to be fixed.

May we all watch and pray and ask God for strength to resist temptation that may occur in our lives. We find in James 1:12 a wonderful promise to those who love God, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (KJV).

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

Alzheimer's

By Alberta Blake

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Alzheimer's—what a scary word! Many people have Alzheimer's these days, and we dread getting the disease. Some people are older when the disease attacks them. But, some people who get Alzheimer's are younger people. What is the cause of Alzheimer's? Does anyone know for sure what the cause is? If people know for sure what causes Alzheimer's more changes would and could be made in the lifestyle choices.

What is Alzheimer's that everyone is afraid of?

Do you remember Ronald Reagan and Charlton Heston? Ronald Reagan was former president of the United States. Charlton Heston was a famous movie star who played in "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur." Both Reagan and Heston suffered from Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes confusion, long-term memory loss, withdrawal from the society and death.

In a study done in China, researchers found that diet and lifestyle affected not only

people with heart problems and cancers in different organs of the body, but also affected people's nerves and tissues in the brain. People had more health problems depending on the diets being eaten and on the activities being done. The more active people were, the less disease the people got. The more of a vegetarian diet the people ate the less disease the people got.

To keep muscles strong and healthy a person needs to keep active. Keep using the muscles of the body. As the saying goes, "what you don't use you lose" is true of the muscles in the arms, legs upper and lower body movements. This saying is also true about our brains. Keep your brain active. "What you don't use you lose." Do word puzzles, read books and magazines, play word games, take night courses to exercise brain function abilities.

Taking walks and/or doing other exercises in the out-of-doors helps to provide oxygen to the brain. This is most important for healthy brain functions.

Eat a healthy diet without foods that raise the blood sugar in the blood stream too fast. The blood sugar is raised too fast when eating "the white foods." The white foods are the refined foods made from white sugar, white flour and etc. The simple sugar (glucose) in the blood stream causes the blood sugar to rise too high and then drop too quickly. Instead eat foods as grown, such as whole grains, fruits and vegetable, nuts and other simple foods. These foods will keep the level of sugar steady in the blood stream so a person will not get the "highs" or "lows." There is actually a loaf of bread made from sprouted wheat and raw apples. The apples are used for the sugar that the yeast needs to multiply. This loaf of bread is named, "Steady Eddy". It is recommended for the people with heart and blood sugar problems. The bread is high in fiber because of the skins of the apples and the whole grains used. All this slows down the digestion of the food to a slower steady process.

Recently one of Loma Linda University's team of researchers discovered what could be a method to better find and treat Alzheimer's disease. The neuroscience researchers found a trail of biomarkers—proteins in the bloodstream. These proteins show the severity or presence of a disease by their high concentration—that could lead to early discovery of the brain-destroying disease. Discovering the biomarkers for early stage Alzheimer's is important because that is the only time the disease is treatable, according to Liotta, one of the researchers. Alzheimer's destroys

nerve cells and tissue in the brain. Individuals with advanced Alzheimer's lose their communication skills, memories and the ability to care for themselves.

Is there anything that can be done for Alzheimer's? Can we do anything to help prevent the disease? Yes, we can keep our brain active through brain function activities. We can exercise to provide good oxygen to the brain. We can also eat a healthier diet to feed the brain good brain food. Let us do what we can to keep our brain healthy.

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



Vegetarian Recipes

Tofu Fajitas

For a quick and exciting meal, this healthful version of a popular Mexican dish is hard to beat. The baked tofu replaces beef and, along with olive oil, provides good fat. Nonfat whole-wheat tortillas make very good fajitas. They have none of the hydrogenated fat of conventional white-flour tortillas and give you some fiber. The freshness of the ingredients makes these fajitas both visually appealing and delicious.

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and julienned
- 1 green pepper, such as ancho, Anaheim, or bell, seeded and julienned
- 1 hot pepper, such as jalapeno or serrano, seeded and minced
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms, such as crimini or portobello
- 2 cups sliced, baked, pressed tofu (preferably savory or hickory-smoked flavor)
- Salt to taste
- 6 nonfat whole-wheat tortillas, or corn tortillas (either white or yellow) warmed

Garnish

Tofu sour cream, salsa, chopped fresh tomatoes, avocado, and scallions

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat, and then add the onions. Sauté, stirring, until the onions are translucent. Stir in the peppers and mushrooms and sauté until the vegetables begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add the tofu and stir-fry for 5 minutes more. Season with salt to taste and serve in the tortillas.

Top the fajitas with low-fat sour cream, salsa, chopped fresh tomatoes, avocado, scallions, or a combination of these.

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