

Summer 2012

THE DEAF MESSENGER

An Inspirational Magazine for the Deaf



“Jesus replied, ‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave has no lasting place in the family. But a son belongs to the family forever. So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free.’” (John 8:36)

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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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Independence Day

By Jeffrey Jordan



HIGHERCLIPS

As Americans, we all know that July 4 (also known as the 4th of July) is Independence Day. Many Americans watch fireworks at thousands of locations across the USA. Watching them is probably the most popular event for millions of Americans. When I was a seminary student at Andrews University, my

wife and I would stand by a street along with hundreds of people as we watched a parade going through the small town. Fire trucks, tractors, marching bands, clowns, and floats would pass by. Sometimes my family of 4 boys would have a BBQ in our yard and play in the water. It was a day of relaxing and celebrating our

independence as a country. What do you usually do on the Fourth of July?

Now, you may ask, what is America independent from? As many of you know, history tells us that America's colonies became independent from the British rule when they signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Before earning our freedom, England was the country that controlled early America. The Americans wanted to have their own government, but England refused to let them. So, many Americans decided to unite and fight against the British for independence. It was not an easy road to victory. Eventually, in 1783 a peace treaty was signed and America became a free nation.

History records many countries who have gained their independence from other countries. Canada Day is celebrated on July 1. Mexico celebrates on September 16. India on August 15. Philippines is on June 12. I can't list all the countries but I think you

get the idea. Many citizens in their countries want the freedom to be able to rule themselves without having to be ruled by other countries.

I believe it is the nature of every human being (person) to have freedom. We want to do whatever we want to do. We want to think and say what we want. We love freedom. We cherish independence. Having freedom makes us happy. Think about it: do you want to be controlled by someone else? Do you want to be oppressed? Do you want to be like a slave who must obey their oppressor? It makes us miserable, doesn't it? That's what Satan wants. Satan wants to destroy us because he is like "a roaring lion . . . looking for someone to chew up and swallow" (1 Peter 5:8). He wants us to follow him and be a slave to his ways of destruction.

Satan wants us to think we are free when we choose him but that is one of his greatest lies. We make ourselves slaves to Satan when we follow him and the things of this world!

The good news is that

Jesus Christ loves freedom! He cares. He created us to have the ability to choose for ourselves: the freedom of choice. However, there is danger to it because God knew that we could choose to rebel against God. It makes Him sad when we choose the dark side.

You may wonder why didn't God create us to obey Him all the time? What if He did not want us to make choices? It would be a lot easier! But, think about it. If God created us to obey Him without choices, we would be like a robot who obeys Him all the time without having the ability to think. Is that what God wants? No. He wants His people to gladly obey Him because of love. We do not have any fear in serving God because we know of God's love for us. God didn't destroy Satan because He wanted us to see the evil side. Now, when we compare Christ vs. Satan, we can easily make the right choice who will be our master.

When God created Adam and Eve as our first parents, He gave them the freedom

of choice whom they want to serve as their master: God or Satan. God warned them not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. Why? Because God said that if they eat the fruit, they would surely die. God allowed the couple the freedom of choice and that was risky.

Later, Satan was at the tree speaking through a snake and he told Eve a big lie. He said, "You won't die" (Genesis 3:4). He caused Eve to doubt God's word! Very sadly, Eve and Adam ate the fruit and, as a result, sin entered this world.

Satan is still here. We all have the freedom of choice. Because of God's great love for us, God sent His one and only Son Jesus to this earth about 2,000 years ago. Jesus had to die on the cross in order to save you and me. Praise the Lord! Jesus died for you and me! He came here to save us! "So if the Son of Man sets you free, you will really be free" (John 8:36).

Now, the real question for you is Who do you want

to serve: God or Satan?
God gives you the freedom of choice. He created your mind to have the ability to make the biggest decision ever: Jesus as your Savior and Lord, or Satan as your slave Master. Who do you want to serve? I have made my decision to serve Jesus and Jesus is my Lord. I pray you choose Christ today.

John 3:16 says that God loves you very much that He gave His one and only Son to die for you on the cross so that you will not die but have eternal life. Please make a wise choice by accepting Jesus into your heart now

And you will experience true Freedom in Jesus!

Jeffrey Jordan is a Deaf pastor who lives in Cleveland, TN.



CLIPART COLLECTION VOL. 2

The Holy Spirit's Healing Work In the Three Angels' Messages

By Alfred Griffith



HIGHER CLIPS

People have always wanted something that would heal their sufferings. They hope to find it in pleasure, in power, and in things. Cain hoped to find healing from sin by putting his gift on the altar (a symbol of worship). The Israelites hoped to find healing from their suffering in false gods such as Baal. But these hopes did not bring true and eternal healing.

God sent Elijah to Israel to give the message of healing by rain. (Rain is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.) But first God

had to take away the rain for 3 years to lead the people to understand why they were so thirsty for false gods (1 Kings 17:1).

Elijah asked the suffering widow to give him water to drink and a cake to eat. The woman by faith in God's love gave to Elijah the last water and food she had left. God's water and food did not run out. This gave her peace of mind until her son died. By faith Elijah prayed to God for the healing of her son. The widow's son came back to life

again (1 Kings 17:2-23). Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth” (1 Kings 17:24, NKJV). Years later, John said “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13, NKJV).

An angel of the Lord said, “He [John the Baptist] will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Luke 1:17, NKJV). When asked, “Are you Elijah?” John the Baptist said, “No!” This teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the One whose power was given to Elijah, John, Christ and others to preach the truth and to heal. This work fulfills the prophecy in Malachi 4:5, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (NKJV).

What is this truth (last day message) that will fill the earth with God’s glory (Rev 18:1)? The message is that God is a

God of love as seen in the acts of creation and salvation.

Christ first taught this message to the universe and the angels. He gave this message to the peoples of the Old and New Testament. He wants to give you and the people around you this message. The Spirit filled life of Christ gave Him power to teach the truth about God and to heal. “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38, NKJV). “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23, NKJV). In the temple Jesus read these words in Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (NKJV).

The Holy Spirit wants to continue this work through all peoples who choose to worship God. But before this can happen we are to accept and follow Elijah's and John the Baptist's messages. Elijah said, "How long will it take you to make up your minds? If the Lord is the one and only God, follow him. But if Baal is the one and only God, follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11, NKJV). We see here God patiently calling us from a life of suffering and sin into a healing love relationship with Him. Elijah calls us to worship God by faith. John the Baptist calls us to repent of our sins. Then John tells us Christ will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire.

After Christ's disciples and the early church were baptized with the Holy Spirit they did the same ministry of preaching the gospel and healing as Christ did. "The followers

went everywhere in the world and told the Good News to people, and the Lord helped them. The Lord proved that the Good News they told was true by giving them power to work miracles" (Mark 16:20, NCV). Notice that the preaching of the truth about God as a God of love comes first and is most important. Then come the miracles of healing. In these last days God's people are to do the same work. False revival puts greater importance on the miracles and much less importance on the truth about God.

God's people are to give the message in Revelation 14:7 by the power the Holy Spirit promises to give. "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" (NKJV).

1. When a person worships God as one who was created by Him, it gives the person value and real purpose for their life.

2. When a person worships God as one who is saved by Him, it gives the person healing spiritual, mental, and

physical health (“a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 7:22, NKJV) and God, Faith, and Health by Dr. J. Levin, p. 80). The turning of the hearts of fathers and children together is the promise of emotional and physical healing. Then the prophecy in Malachi 4:5, 6 will come to pass again by the Holy Spirit working through God’s people.

Dear friends, Jesus is coming soon. May we all pray always to know Christ and receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then the truth about a loving God as seen in the three angels’ messages will bring a message of healing to our Deaf friends.

Alfred Griffith is a retired pastor for the Deaf who lives in Manteca, CA.



HIGHERCLIPS

Church Attendance Is Good for You

By Errol Webster



HIGHER CLIPS

Facebook, with more than 800 million members, proves that we are social people who like to be connected with each other. The Internet allows people to communicate with each

other that were never possible before. But, it can become a barrier to real communication. How can you hug your child over Facebook or kiss your wife through Twitter? Imagine a

couple who marry because their only contact with each other is through Facebook and Twitter. How long would it last? We were made to have physical, face-to-face fellowship with each other. The Bible calls one form of this type of fellowship “the church.”

1. What things were involved in the early church worship? Acts 2:42-47

“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed. . . . All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold what they owned. They gave each other everything they needed. . . . In their homes they broke bread and ate together. Their hearts were glad and honest and true. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”

2. To what does Paul compare the church? Ephesians 1:23, NCV

“God put everything under his power and made

him the head over everything for the church, which is Christ’s body.”

The church is also compared to a sacred (holy) temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).

3. The church is built upon whom?

“No one can lay any other foundation than the one that has already been laid. That foundation is Jesus Christ.”

4. What is the central teaching of the church? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8, 9

“Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it. Because you believed the good news, you are saved. . . . What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture (the Bible) said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be.

“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 earning it."

5. What unity exists (appears) "in Christ"? Galatians 3:28

"There is no Jew or Greek. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one."

6. How does Peter describe the church? 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (NCV).

7. What Great Commission (Command) did Jesus give to the church? Matthew 28:19, 20

"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And

you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

The church is for all who accept Jesus and trust in Him (John 1:12).

8. Why does the writer of Hebrews say we need to meet together? Hebrews 10:25

"Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope. Let us do it all the more as you see the day coming when Christ will return."

A study reported in the Journal of Religion and Health found that people who attend religious services regularly are more optimistic and less depressed than nonreligious people. Previous studies have also shown that they are happier, more satisfied, and live longer as well. So, church attendance is good for you!

Adapted with permission from the author, Errol Webster. His article was printed in Signs of the Times, March 2012.

Is God Real?

By Amanda Colgan



Higher Clips

“Is God real?” I questioned myself when I was in college. I was raised going to church only on Christmas and Easter. I didn’t have a relationship with God nor read the Bible. However, I believed that if I believe in Jesus Christ, then I’m saved. With that belief, deep inside of me I knew something was missing.

One day, my friend came to visit from another state. She is a devout (faithful) Christian and she mentioned

about Jesus and His Gethsemane experience before the cross. “That’s new information to me, this is so interesting!” I thought to myself. I was suddenly so thirsty to know more about Jesus and why He came to earth. A few days later after that conversation, I went to a store and bought my first Bible at age 23. Oh!

I could not put it down as I kept reading and reading the Bible. As I read I wrote down a list of questions that I didn’t understand.

I went over to a friend’s house one day. That’s where I met Pastor Paul Kelly who is Deaf. When I learned that he is a Pastor, I told him that I started reading the Bible and had questions about it. Paul saw my interest and he asked me if I would like to have Bible study with him. “Oh, yes! I would love that!”

I said to him. That's the answer to my inner longing to study more about God.

The first Bible study with Pastor Paul Kelly was on Daniel, chapter 2. Everything I learned was so new and so interesting. I realized that the history shows that the prophecies in the Bible are accurate. "God is real!" I thought to myself. The Bible gave me the proof that the prophecy matches history. That gave me the answer that God exists (lives).

The Bible accurately foretells specific events in detail many years, sometimes centuries, before they happen. About 2,500 prophecies appear in the Bible and about 2,000 of them have already been fulfilled with no error. The remaining are not yet fulfilled but will be in the future. God throughout the Bible spoke through His prophets to prove He is God. God always foretold the future through them to prove who He is, to prove to the people that those who spoke were true prophets, and to draw people to worship Him only.

If you look around

outdoors, you can see the beauty and creativity of God's nature. The beauty of nature shows He created it and His love. Romans 1:19-20 says, "Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about his eternal power and about the fact that he is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made."

In other words, God's existence and creation is shown through what you can see around you on earth and in your own internal world. Your conscience, emotions, memory, desires give proof that there is a Personal God, One who feels, thinks, chooses and judges.

Can you believe that a painting could exist without a painter? Or could a watch exist without someone to first design it? Could all the mysteries and complexity (difficult make-up) of the world really come into existence without a super-intelligent and wise Creator?

Now why do we exist? God made the earth and put people on earth. In Isaiah

45:18 it says “The Lord created the heavens. He is God. He formed the earth and made it. He set it firmly in place. He didn’t create it to be empty. Instead, he formed it for people to live on. He says, “I am the Lord. There is no other Lord.”

Genesis 2:7 describes the creation of man: “Then the Lord God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.” This verse is enough to tell me that God made us, not from evolution; evolving from a cell or a monkey or any other creature. God formed man from dust of the ground. Notice something here, God “breathed the breath of life into man.” First, God made the body from dust and then He put in breath of life from Him. He made the body come to life by His breath. That’s amazing!

Do you know what Jesus said about creation? Let’s look in Matthew 19:4 which it says “Jesus replied, ‘Haven’t you read that in the beginning the Creator ‘made

them male and female?’” My friends, whoever believes in evolution is against the Bible. We are created in the image of God by God to know Him, to love Him and to enjoy Him forever. 1 Peter 2:9 says this beautifully: “But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are a people who belong to God. All of this is so that you can sing his praises. He brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” God created us so we can have a relationship with Him. That’s love, my friends!

In closing, I encourage you to get to know God more and have a deeper relationship with Him who created you. He desires you to get close to Him because He loves you. Study the Bible, pray and fellowship with Christian friends will surely help you appreciate and love God more.

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

Obesity

By Alberta Blake

creacantini/Stockphoto.com



A Report from the World Health Organization Fact Sheet #311

- Obesity (excessive weight) has doubled in the world since 1980.
- 65% of the world's population live in countries that kill more people from overweight than from underweight.
- By 2008 1.4 billion adults 20 and older were overweight. 200 million men and 300 million women million were obese.
- More than 40 million under the age of five were over weight in 2010.
- Obesity can be prevented.

What is the definition of obesity? How do I know if I am obese? What problems do I face if I am obese? Is there anything that I can do to help myself if I am obese?

In looking for some answers to the above questions, I came across some articles posted on

the Internet that I found helpful. I would like to share some of these thoughts with you, too.

The top 8 things to know about obesity are:

1. Being obese is different from being overweight. Obese and overweight are words used to describe a person's weight when it is more than what is called healthy. Both

words do not mean the same thing. To find out if a person is overweight or is obese must know the person's body mass index (BMI). This is another way to measure body fat by using a comparison of weight with height with a special formula. If a person's BMI is between 25 and 29.9 that person is said to be overweight. If the BMI is 30 or higher, the person is obese. To find your BMI check on the internet at: www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi

2. Obesity affects children, too. About 9% of Canadian children are obese with 26% being over the healthy weight. These children will grow up to be unhealthy adults with risks for many health problems that come from being obese.

3. Obesity is a major health problem. Obesity increases

a person's chance of getting heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, gall bladder disease, breathing problems and some types of cancer.

4. Obesity can affect daily life in a negative way. Obesity increases the chance of 1) chronic back pain, 2) sleep apnea (breathing problems when sleeping at night), 3) osteoarthritis, 4) chronic health problems making it difficult to climb stairs, get enough exercise and get a good night sleep. The emotional and mental effects (results) of obesity are also important leading to 1) low self-worth, 2) depression, 4) anxiety and 5) isolation.

5. Obesity can be harmful if a female wishes to become pregnant. Being overweight can make it harder for a woman to become pregnant and for a man to make enough healthy sperm.

6. Obesity is not all about not having enough will power to say "no" when someone offers you food to eat or you see food and wish to eat. Eating too much can make a person obese, but there are other risk factors, too. 1) Poor eating habits, 2) lack of physical exercise may cause obesity as well as 3) what a person inherits from the family genes, 4) social and cultural habits can help a person gain too much weight, 6) some medications and 7) medical problems can cause a person to

become obese, too.

7. Treating obesity is more than just losing weight. Treating obesity is done in different ways. Changes in eating habits and becoming more active will be helpful. A person needs to understand better the problems that can come from being obese. A doctor may need to help with the risks an obese person faces. There may be some problems and some health conditions that may need to be treated. Sometimes medication or surgery is required.

8. Physical activity is most important in preventing obesity. Adults and children are a lot less active today than years ago. People lived in the country and had to do a lot of walking and working in the gardens and fields. Children used to walk to school. Today many people ride to work and to school. After work and or school is finished the choice of many people and children today is to sit on the couch and watch TV or work on games by the computer without moving around.

So the results of our little fact finding discussions on obesity would be to 1) get active, 2) eat healthfully, 3) see your doctor if necessary and 4) work on a plan to help to lose weight if needed or to keep down weight if already at a healthy weight now.

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

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