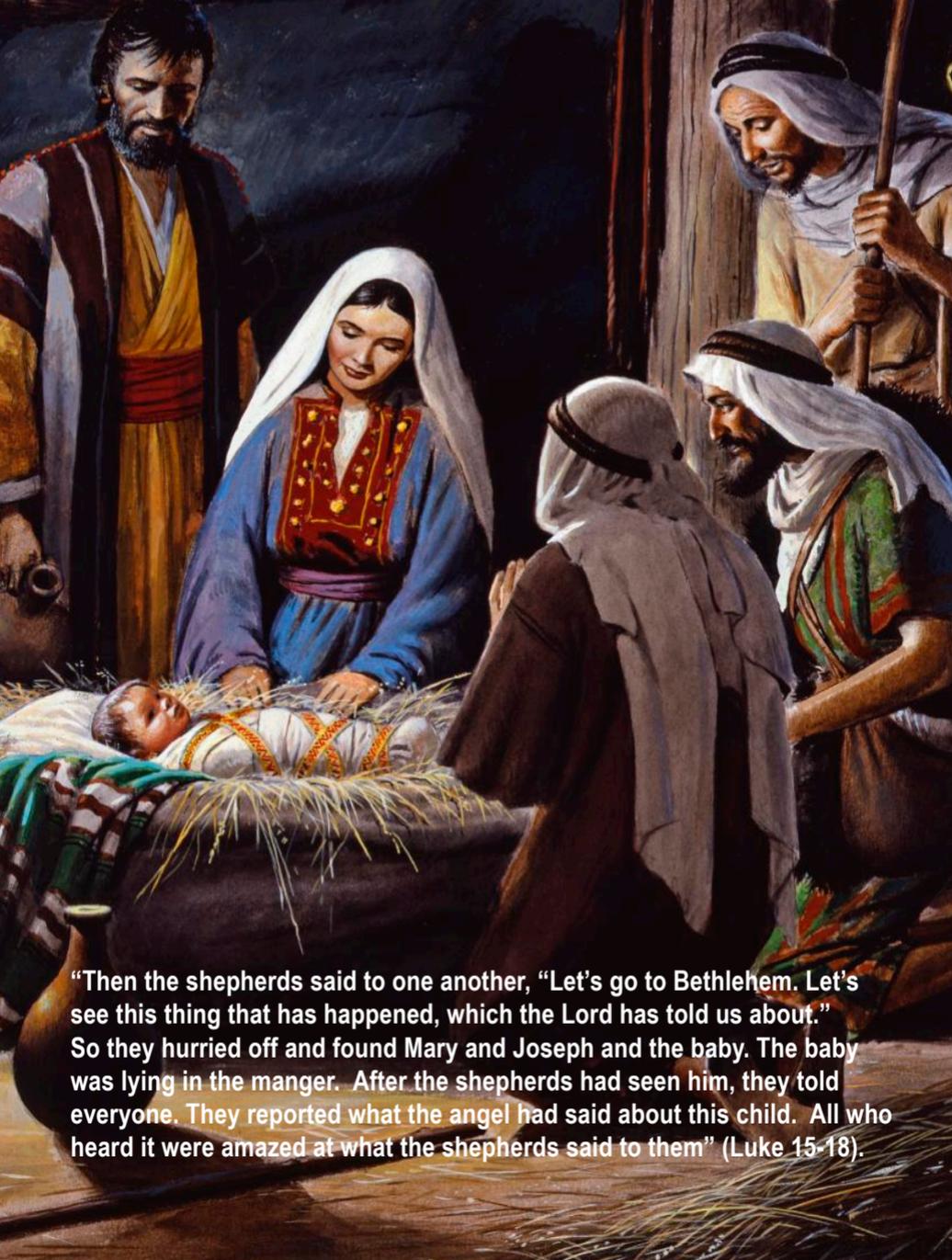


Autumn 2018

THE DEAF MESSENGER



“Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them” (Luke 15-18).

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P.O. Box 1946
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 VP/Voice: 301-850-0542
 Fax: 866-986-2122
 E-mail: 3adm@3adm.org

Editor: David M. Trexler

Consulting Editor: George Belsler

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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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Voice/VP: 301-850-0542

Fax: 866-986-2122

Email: 3adm@3adm.org

Web: www.3adm.org

This Christmas, Share the Good News!

By Sheelah Kimbrough



proclaim and celebrate both of Jesus' comings and remind every person in the world that what

Christmas is the day we remember of Jesus' birth, even though we know that the 25th of December is not the right day of His birth. People around the world recognize the 25th of December as Jesus' birthday. Jesus' birthday is very important to us because it reminds us of our faithfulness to the Bible's teaching about Jesus' first and second comings. As of today, our faith is focused on Jesus' Second Coming, which is equal to the truth of His First Coming. The Christ who came as a baby will come again soon as our Savior and King!

As Christians, we

began with baby Jesus in Bethlehem will come as Promised Savior and King. This is when we find ourselves in a room at an inn of the New Jerusalem! Christmas is a holiday for telling the best of the good news.

We can tell the story of Jesus this Christmas, but we don't leave Him as a helpless baby in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes (not only about Jesus' birth). Make sure that we also hear about the stone (Jesus' Second Coming) from Daniel 2:34, "cut out of the mountain without hands," who promises to destroy all this world's kingdoms (power of

darkness).

We can tell about the angels and the shepherds, but don't miss the truth about the Great Shepherd (Jesus) who cares for sheep that still know His voice and follow Him when He says, "Come out of that city [power of darkness], my people" (Revelation 18:4).

Come, let us worship Him. Be sure to know that even if you don't choose Him as the Savior, a day is coming very soon when "the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone will kneel down to worship him. Everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will kneel down to worship him. Everyone's mouth will say that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory" (Philippians. 2:10, 11).

And when you read that the wise men offered their gifts and bowed low, make sure that you come to "fear [respect with love] 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"

(Revelation. 14:7).

This Christmas let us be a joyful witness to both of Jesus' comings. Go out, then, and proclaim His name to all the world!

Jesus came so that He showed His love toward us. And this is the reason we celebrate this season, when all the world is suffering, and love seems far away.

We might celebrate the power of the first words that God have said: "Let there be light!" Can we see that light ourselves: the first light of Creation still shining upon the stars. We might celebrate the Resurrection, when God showed his strength of triumph even over death, and proved that no power and no law could prevent Him from claiming His own forever. We might celebrate the promise that Jesus who left us will return to us, and during His second coming makes all things perfect.

The persons in Christmas story have much to teach us about what we ought to do for Jesus' Second Coming today.

Joseph. Mary was pregnant with a child and

Joseph knew that the child was not his. He had a right to break off their engagement. But his final decision shows his sympathy for her unborn Child and his dedication to following God.

Mary. At first, she was greatly worried by the angel's message that she was highly favored by God (Luke 1:28, 29). But, as soon as the angel explained to her that she would give birth to a son named Jesus, she said, "I serve the Lord, . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would" (Luke 1:38). In human's view, the plan that the angel explained to her seems impossible. But with trust in God, Mary agreed to be an instrument of His will.

The wise men. The old stories say that the wise men from the East traveled thousands of miles over the desert, following a star to meet the new Baby, King of the Jews in Bethlehem. Also, they brought Him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and worshiped Him. They did not ask for a birth certificate to prove His ancestry. By faith, they believed Him as King of the

Jews.

The shepherds. An angel appeared to them praising God with the good news of their Savior's birth. And with that good news, their terror changed to joy and they immediately left to find Him. Not only that, after they found Him, they went to tell other people the good news!

So God used those humble people with qualities of good character: 1) sympathy; submission to God's will and His impossible plans; faith; and an urgent desire to seek their Savior and to share Him with other people.

With the coming of Christmas, let us pray that these same qualities of character will grow in each of our hearts and change us into instruments of Jesus' Second Coming. Most importantly, Matthew 1:18–2:12, Luke 1:26–38, and Luke 2:1–20 re-create for us an amazing story, which for Christians, never grows old or too common.

Sheelah Kimbrough is a Deaf writer who lives in Fort Meade, MD.



Stand Firm

By Paul Kelly

We are facing increasingly difficult time today, especially for the born-again Christians like you and me. What was wrong before, people now think it is okay. They are greatly influenced by the media (TV, magazines and the Internet) and by those they socialize with every day. People are becoming bold, ready to oppose, oppress and even persecute us because of what we believe is morally right.

Even though when things become worse and worse, we still have hope in our God. God is still in control. What is happening to us today is not new to God's people in the Bible. They even suffered in their days. Let us go to the story in Daniel 3 about Daniel's three friends who stood firm. They knew that they might die for what they believe was morally right.

First of all, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a gold, 90-foot tall statue

(Daniel 3:1). It was not 100% gold as it would be very heavy and expensive too.

They usually cover a statue with a thin plate of gold. The next thing, the king ordered "the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces" to bow down and worship the statue after they hear the music being played (Daniel 3:3-5). If anyone who did not bow down and worship the statue would be thrown in a hot furnace (Daniel 3:6). Before I talk further, remember the story in Daniel 2:1-13 about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue with different body parts (gold, silver, brass, iron, iron & clay). Each part represented a kingdom. At that time, the king could not remember his dream after he woke up and demanded his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers to find out what his dream was and to explain what it was about but they couldn't. The

king became so angry and ordered them to be put to death. But Daniel saved their lives by God showing the same dream to him. He then told King Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was (Daniel 2:14-35). He explained to the king that his kingdom was represented as the "head of gold" (Daniel 2:36-38). He then informed the king that his kingdom would not last forever but overtaken by the kingdom of silver (Daniel 2:39). Now back to the story about the whole gold statue in Daniel 3. This was probably why the king did not like the idea that his kingdom would not last forever so he built a statue of gold from the top to bottom, not just the head alone. He then tested the loyalty of his people by having them bow down to his statue to be sure that his kingdom would last much longer. Strangely, Daniel was not there but his three friends were. He probably was sick or was sent somewhere. The king seemed not to accept what God told him through Daniel that his kingdom would not last forever.

Now, imagine that you

were there where the statue was and you remember the ten commandments in the Bible already told us NOT to bow down and worship any statues (Exodus 20:4,5). Why? Our God in heaven is the only one who created us and the world (Colossians 1:16) so we should worship, praise and thank Him only (1 Chronicles 16:25). Now the music starts to play, you knew that if you refused to bow down and worship the statue, you would be thrown into the furnace and be burned to death. What would you do? Obey God or obey the king? Someone might tell you that you are a fool if you do not bow down to the statue and lose your life. Another person might say that bowing to the statue is one small simple act, then it will be over and you will be alive. When I was a student at Gallaudet University in the 1970s, a friend tried to encourage me that it was okay to sin and then ask God for forgiveness afterwards. I'm glad I didn't follow his advice. If a company you work for asks you to lie to the government. Is it okay

to lie now and ask God to forgive you afterwards? You may wonder if it is okay to steal and ask God to forgive you afterwards? You may be thinking of many other things and wonder if it is okay or not. This can become confusing for us to make a decision. The best thing for us is to go to the Bible and search for an answer that will help us know what we should do. Let us see what Daniel's three friends did in a real difficult situation. They chose NOT to serve the king's gods, not even the statue of gold (Daniel 3:13-18). The king gave them another chance but they told him that even though God might save them or not from that hot furnace, they would still not obey the king. Wow! It is like telling your boss that you refuse to do what is wrong and he became so angry at you. Daniel's three friends did not think over and change their mind as they already made up their mind to worship only their God in heaven. Do you know what happened next? The king became very angry and ordered the furnace to heat

up seven times hotter (Daniel 3: 19) and had them thrown in the furnace. (Daniel 3:20-23). Did they die immediately by superhot fire? In fact, they did not get burnt one bit! How? The fourth person whom we believe was Jesus was INSIDE the furnace protecting them from death (Daniel 3:24-27). Now about the people who did bow down to a statue of gold, naturally they probably thought Daniel's three friends were crazy not to bow down and allowed themselves to die in a furnace. Did God also think they were crazy enough for allowing themselves to die for not obeying the king to do a simple act of bowing to a statue? Not so! God saved them not while they were outside the furnace but while they were inside it! God saw their amazing faith in Him and saved them!

This story tells us that not only Daniel's three friends did face the pressure of following the king's order, but there were many other Bible people who stood firm for God and did suffer because of it. More so,

Jesus our Lord even refused to follow the Pharisees' and Sadducees' wishes that He would die on the cross (Philippians 2:8). Remember that Jesus rose to life on the third day because He totally obeyed His Father in heaven and is now sitting beside Him. Every time we suffer from others who went against us, we need to remember that we have a great reward waiting for us in heaven (Matthew 5:11,12). In Matthew 6:24, Jesus cautioned us that we must choose be loyal to God or to the world but not both at the same time. We have nothing to be afraid of except to lose eternal life if we choose to follow the world's expectations of us.

According to Foxe's Book of Martyrs published in 1500s, it says that there were millions of Christians who suffered and died just because they stood for their beliefs in the Lord. Not only they who suffered in the past time but even today, there are millions of Christians around the world who suffer all kinds of persecution and even death. The Christianity

Today magazine published in January 2017 mentioned that there were about 215 million Christians in the world who experienced extreme persecution just simply because they loved and followed Jesus.

Today in our very own country, people are becoming bolder in living a sinful life. What was wrong before they now think it is okay. They called us bigots because we do not support what they were doing. They don't like us to call wrong actions sins. They think we are judging them when we take a stand for Christ. More and more people, government leaders, judges in the court and even religious leaders give up to pressures from those people living in sins. Should we give up to their pressures? Apostle Paul encouraged us to separate ourselves from them and not to do what is not right so God can receive us into His kingdom (2 Corinthians 6:17). Should we be afraid of them more than God who is the all-powerful Ruler of the universe?

Apostle Paul suffered a lot most of his life. He mentioned in 1 Corinthians 11:23-27 that he had been in prison many times, suffered from beatings, was stoned almost to death, was in a shipwreck, was in many dangers and many more all just because he preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified. He spoke strongly against doing what is morally wrong. He said that “the sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be shown to us” (Romans 8:18, NCV). He further added that “troubles or problems or sufferings or hunger or nakedness or danger or violent death” shall not separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35, NCV).

Satan is very angry with us. He blames us before God day and night just because we choose to follow Jesus Christ and to do what is morally right, that is, by following the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:10-12, 17). Don't let anyone scare you, trying to make you

follow what they want. As Apostle Paul said, “So my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Do not let anything move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is never wasted” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NCV). Let us stay close together, encouraging each other till Jesus comes again (Hebrews 10:25).

In a moment before Jesus appears in the sky during His second coming, He invites you to join with Apostle Paul by saying, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now, a crown is being held for me—a crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day—not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for Him to come again” (2 Timothy 4:7, 8, NCV).
AMEN!!!

Paul Kelly is a Deaf teacher for the Deaf and lay pastor who lives in Rochester, NY.

The Lost Hearing Aid

By Beth Ann Dobson

John 14:14, “If you ask anything in my name, I will do it” (NKJV) is to be used for the right reasons, never for selfish reasons. The early evening of August 9, 2018 on the island of Turks and Caicos will always be remembered for the wonderful truth of this statement.

Mike Dobson (my husband), David and Francisca Trexler, Jorge Escandon, and I spent most of the day on the island sightseeing and traveling to different places since we had never been to Turks and Caicos Islands before. After a very relaxing lunch in a vegetarian café, we went for a long swim in the clear, warm and colorful ocean water. We very much enjoyed swimming in the delightfully warm water and witnessing the colorful tropical fish swimming around our feet! Several of us took turns guarding our items that we left on the white lounge chairs. When

it was my turn to keep an eye on the valuable items, I carefully removed Mike’s black backpack and placed it on a different chair so that I could sit down. Without my knowledge, David had already lost 50 cents in the deep white sand, and Mike had put two of his hearing aids inside his black backpack.

When it was time to leave the beautiful beach around 5:15 p.m., everyone gathered up his/her belongings. Mike asked me to get his hearing aids from his black backpack, which I happily did. But, only one hearing aid was taken out of his backpack. I looked inside for the other hearing aid, but it was not found. Mike was concerned but calm when he tried looking for it. Nothing! Mike said several times that he put his two hearing aids in his backpack, and he could not understand how one of them suddenly disappeared!

Everywhere in the backpack was searched at



least three times to try and find the second hearing aid. Still nothing! But Mike did not panic and he became very quiet because he knew that in order to replace a hearing aid, it would cost about \$2,500! We began discussing about a new hearing aid, as Mike believed that his health insurance would cover the cost of a new one. It was during this careful discussion that David said that he lost 50 cents in the same area where we left our items on the three lounge chairs. David, Jorge and Mike knelt down in the sand and used their fingers to find the hearing aid. I put

Mike's one hearing aid in my white purse for safety reasons. Both Francisca and I then joined the search. During the search, we all stopped as Frances felt the need to pray to the Lord.

"Dear Heavenly Father, we are here because we cannot find Mike Dobson's other hearing aid. Please help us find it if it's your will. Thanks for hearing our prayer and protecting us. In Jesus' Precious Name, Amen."

After she finished the prayer, we all started searching again for the lost hearing aid. I looked inside my purse and checked to make sure the hearing aid that I took out was still there. It was, so I double-checked to see if the second hearing aid would be there by chance. NOPE! I then checked Mike's backpack again. Nothing!

Jorge carefully raked the sand in the area to see if anything worthy would show up. One 25 cents coin came up which gave us some hope that Mike's hearing aid would also show up. Sadly,

we had to stop our one-hour search without the other 25 cents and Mike's second hearing aid. We were very discouraged, especially Mike for very obvious reasons. I said to Mike, "You lost your glasses in Key West, Florida last August and now, we are here one year later on the island of Turks and Caicos where you just lost your second hearing aid. What's going on?" Mike was silent because he clearly did not have an answer for my question.

We then gave up our search and went to the house where the Trexlers' oldest son, daughter-in-law and invited guests were staying. We told the folks about the lost hearing aid that was buried in the deep sand and which would probably never be seen again. While Mike was discouraged, he did not let it spoil our time at the house, because he wanted to have a cheerful night with his friends. It was getting late, so I told Mike that it was time to return to our hotel for the evening. In response, Mike signed,

"Honey, please get my hearing aid."

I unzipped my white purse to get Mike's one remaining hearing aid using my right hand. As I put my hand in my purse, I was shocked. Earlier in the evening at the beach, I only felt one hearing aid, but now, my right fingers were touching two separate hearing aids! Mike saw my shocked face, and he signed, "No way!"

Behold! I took out two hearing aids to my surprise. Mike kept asking me how was that possible! I did not have an answer except to say that I only felt one



hearing aid at the beach and had no explanation for how two hearing aids ended up in my white purse now. We notified the Trexlers immediately and then Mike told Jorge who was shocked and speechless. Jorge said in sign language, "We searched for the hearing aid for one hour for nothing!" In response to the miraculously found hearing aid, we all thanked and praised the Lord

for answering Francisca's heartfelt prayer.

What an amazing miracle!

Giggling angels and the Lord were likely watching the scene unfold that night. There is nothing wrong with having a sense of humor in heaven!

Beth Ann Dobson is a Deaf teacher for the Deaf and lives in Dumfrey, VA.

The Parrot's Advice

By London Freeman

Once upon a time the deacons of a church met to discuss their minister. There were few conversions, many empty pews, and the collection plate was often empty. Some said the minister preached too long, others that his doctrine was wrong, still others that he didn't visit the members enough.

It happened that in one corner of the room there was a green parrot in a cage. The bird had spent most of its life at sea and had learned the rough language of the sailors and their bosses. It cocked its head and listened as the deacons argued about how to solve the

problem.

One deacon gave a long speech and completed it by saying, "Our minister may be a good man, but I see no ways to fix the problems except . . ."

Suddenly the parrot shouted out, "Work, you lazy people, work!"

The deacons were shocked and decided that maybe the bird was right, and they decided to try solve the problems. They organized the members to work, and soon, everyone was happy with the church and with their minister.

Adapted and reprinted from Signs of the Times, February 20, 1901.

Integrity

By Francisca Trexler

The dictionary shows the word “integrity” meaning the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

People will ask you—“What is the difference between honesty and integrity.” There is no real difference between honesty and integrity. For example if a person who is of integrity would be honest with everyone and behave in the right way. President Abraham Lincoln was an honest man and known for his integrity during his time as President from 1861 to 1865. Many people love him as a good man. That is why his nickname was Honest Abe. Another example is that you are to be true to yourself, to know what is right and wrong, and to be honest in everything you do, say and act. A person with integrity would have responsibility, loyalty, and truthfulness. Jesus Christ has integrity in his beautiful character. With

integrity in his heart Jesus Christ refused listen to Satan to sin that can destroy the plan of the salvation for His people. On the opposite is Judas who didn't have integrity because he had been dishonest, greedy and selfish.

I like to share with you about Ann (not real name). During World War II Ann moved to America with her family and relatives from Germany. Ann had a boyfriend who joined Hitler's army. She and her boyfriend loved each other very much and planned to get married after the war. But her whole family moved to America and she lost the connection with her boyfriend for a long time. She didn't know whether her boyfriend was alive or dead in the war. Then one day Ann met a nice man whom she fell in love with. They got married and had children. They really lived happily.

After the war one day her grandmother asked Ann if

she would be interested in joining her in traveling to her hometown in Germany. Ann asked her husband if it was okay with him for her to go with her grandmother and parents to visit Germany. Her loving husband allowed Ann to go with them. Once in Germany she and her family were sad to see her home area destroyed from the war. Then they went to see another area where the family normally get together for socials. Without her knowledge, her old boyfriend caught her hand. She was completely surprised that he was still alive and missed her. For a long time he was looking forward to seeing her one day by surprise. He still loved her and he wanted to marry her by elopement. Sadly, she could not. He was shocked and asked her why? She showed him her wedding ring on her left hand. Naturally, he was disappointed, but he admired her honesty that she would not do such bad thing behind her loving husband. Because of her honesty he highly respected her. Sadly, he let her go.

Here are several the Bible verses about integrity and honesty.

“The honest person will live safely. But the one who is dishonest will be caught” (Proverbs 10:9, ICB).

“Good people will be guided by honesty. But dishonesty will destroy those who are not trustworthy” (Proverbs 11:3, ICB).

“But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me” (Psalm 26:11, ESV).

There are several more Bible verses about integrity. It is clear that God wants us to have integrity in our Christian life. Satan will try to tempt us to do wrong and sin. Let us ask God to help us to stay true and increase our faith in Jesus Christ.

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

The Healthiest Spreads

By Sue Radd

Should you use butter, margarine, or something else on your bread?

Butter is natural. It makes bread taste better. It has only two or three ingredients. But butter has more than 50 percent saturated fat! Margarine is like an artificial butter. It blends together more than five ingredients (including additives). Margarine has 65 percent less saturated fat than butter and no cholesterol. But it can hide bad trans fats. And even the nonhydrogenated variety (trans fat free) can give a lot of saturated fat to your diet when use regularly. Over a year's time, spreading just a few slices of bread each day with margarine will add more than two pounds of saturated fat to your diet!

In the Mediterranean, bread is not usually covered with a yellow fat spread. They eat it plain! The costly plant-sterol rich margarines may be better than ordinary margarine, especially if you have high cholesterol, but neither butter nor margarine is the best spread. Spreads made from whole foods are better for you and better for the planet.

The following substitutes to margarine and butter are delicious and easy to get or make.

Avocado. Cut open a ripe avocado and enjoy it on your

bread. If you keep the seed in the leftover part, it will last longer in the refrigerator.

Hummus. Use this Middle Eastern "butter" as a dip or spread. It is made from chickpeas (garbanzos), tahini (see below), and lemon juice. And it has a lot of antioxidants and other phytonutrients.

Baba ghanoush is a lovely, smoky eggplant puree that works well as a savory sandwich filling. It also lowers your cholesterol.

Tzatziki. It is made with yogurt (can be low fat), garlic, and cucumber, and you will like this Greek winner on bread and vegetables.

Tahini is a sesame seed paste (similar to peanut butter) that is delicious on bread with a drizzle of honey and sliced banana.

Nut butters. Peanut butter was made to replace dairy butter, and it is a good way to lower your cholesterol and protect yourself from a heart attack.

Extra virgin olive oil. When olive oil is refrigerated in a small dish, it becomes semi-solid and make a good spread. Or dip some bread into it when it is room temperature.

Sue Radd is a nutritionist who is the award-winning author of "The Breakfast Book" and coauthor of "Eat to Live." www.sueradd.com

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