

The Magothy Deaf Messenger

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Forty Days in the Wilderness with Jesus

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is the 40 days before Easter (not including Sundays). It reminds us of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

Forty is a number that shows up again and again in the Bible. Noah and his family spent 40 days on the ark with the animals.

Moses was on the mountain with God for 40 days to seal the covenant. The children of Israel were in the desert for 40 years. The prophet Elijah spent 40 days traveling to escape from Jezebel. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. Jesus rose to heaven 40 days after he was resurrected from the dead.

Was it literally 40 days? Many scholars of the Bible believe that when there is mention of 40 days/nights, it means simply an event that lasted a long time and preceded some great act of God.

In the case of Jesus' time in the wilderness, the 40 days was certainly a long time,

because Jesus was fasting while he was in the wilderness. He was taunted by Satan with many temptations during that time, but the gospels only mention three of those temptations specifically.

The first temptation was with food. Satan wanted Jesus to prove he was really the Son of God by turning stones into bread. Jesus had been fasting for a long time and must have been very hungry. Think about it—if you skipped dinner for just one night, you would probably be so hungry the next day you would eat the stones whether they had turned into bread or not, right? Somehow Jesus managed to ignore his growling stomach and ignore Satan, not turning the stones into bread so he could eat. Jesus relied on God giving him spiritual food instead.

In the second temptation, Satan takes Jesus to the top of a tall temple in Jerusalem and insists that he jump off of it to see if God will catch him. Satan is trying to turn Jesus' trust in God into a test of God. But Jesus knew that he should not test God

that way. God shows his love without being tested.

Then Satan tells Jesus that he can have power over the whole world, if he would just bow down and worship Satan. But Jesus knows that only God has power over the whole world, and Satan does not have that power to offer.

Were there really only three temptations? Surely not. But the gospel writers would have gotten writer's cramp if they had tried to list every possible temptation that Satan could have tempted Jesus with. Instead, they used three examples of temptation that illustrated some of our most important commandments: The temptation to turn stones to bread reminds us not to let anything be more important than God—not our physical comfort, not our hunger, not our wants. The temptation to jump off the temple reminds us not to test God and to simply trust that he loves us. And the temptation to bow down to Satan reminds us not to worship anyone but God.

Jesus did not go into the wilderness to get away from temptations. He went into

Volume 2, Issue 5

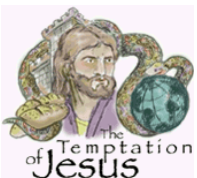
February/March 2007



- 1—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 2—Groundhog Day
- 2—Sign Dinner @ 5 p.m.
- 3—Sign Choir Rehearsal @ 9:30 a.m.
- 4—Boy Scout Sunday
- 5—UMW @ 6:30 p.m.
- 8—Bible Study—7 p.m.
- 9—UMM @ 6 p.m.
- 14—Valentine's Day
- 15—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 17—Sign Choir @ 9:30 a.m.
- 18—Transfiguration Sunday
- 19—Presidents' Day
- 21—Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent)
- 22—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 25—Pot Luck @ 11:30 a.m.

the wilderness to confront his temptations so that he could be stronger for the ordeal that lay ahead of him (his crucifixion). In the same way, we spend the season of Lent fasting from something that we find to be a temptation in our lives, so that we have constant reminders to become stronger as Christians.

Happy fasting!





- 1—Sign Choir Rehearsal @ 9:30 a.m.
- 2—World Day of Prayer
- 3—UMW @ 6:30 p.m.
- 6—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 7—Sign Dinner @ 5 p.m.
- 11—Daylight Savings Time begins
- 11—Girl Scout Sunday
- 13—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 14—UMM @ 6 p.m.
- 15—Sign Choir Rehearsal @ 9:30 a.m.
- 17—St. Patrick's Day (wear green!)
- 20—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 20—First day of Spring!!!
- 27—Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- 30—Pot Luck @ 11:30 a.m.

Finance Committee

The duties of the finance committee are to:

1. Annually prepare a budget.
2. Engage in stewardship education so that the budget may be met.
3. Make sure the money is counted by at least 2 people each week and is deposited timely in the church's account.
4. Make sure there is an annual audit of the treasurer's books.

Currently serving on this committee:

- Cindy Blair (chairperson)
- Dolores Robinson (treasurer)
- Darlene Koontz (lay leader)
- Joan Tucker (trustee)
- Alma Andrews
- Sarah Yates

United Methodist Conference of the Deaf

The next United Methodist Conference of the Deaf will be held in Orlando, Florida in July of 2007. For more information, visit the web site <http://www.umcd.org> or see Dan Kenyon. Our administrative council will meet to decide whom our church will send as a representative in addition to our pastor and our lay leader.

Worry (by Barb Zufall)

The Touch Point Bible, New Living Translation reads: "Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up."

How many of us do not have worries? We worry about our children. We worry about our spouses. We worry about money. We worry about our homes. We worry about our families. Do we worry about our friends and neighbors? Yes. We worry about bills coming in and not having enough money to save for future emergencies. No wonder we get sick to our stomachs! No wonder we find we can't eat! We get down in the dumps and depressed. Some of us become so sick that we are hospitalized. I once read that worrying can cause disease. If you look at the word "disease", you will see that it really is a two-word

combination - "DIS" meaning NOT and "EASE" meaning COMFORTABLE. When we worry, we are NOT COMFORTABLE. And yet, it is human nature to worry! But why should we worry about these things when we have Jesus to help us? The Bible tells us that Jesus did not worry about where He was going to eat or sleep because He knew that God, like the loving Father He is, would take care of Him.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructed us: "So I tell you, don't worry about every day life - whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing? Look at the birds." Read Matthew 6:25-34 for the best advice about worrying.

Now the other part of the verse

from Proverbs reads: "an encouraging word cheers a person up." We all need a little cheering up, but how do we get the cheering? Yes, it would help if we tell someone that we need a hug. But many times, we cheer ourselves up when we make someone else happy. It helps to send a card that reads "Thinking of you."

Many of us become too busy to see the unhappiness of a friend. All that friend may need is "Hello! I've been thinking about you." Why not give that person a call today? If possible, visit with that person. When we become discouraged, we need someone to talk to, to give us encouragement, to cheer us up, to give us strength to go on. So why not be an encourager? Give your discouraged friend a hug, a call, or even



From the Pastor's pen...



Love the Word of God

We are in the NFL playoff season. On February 4, the Superbowl game will decide which team will be the champion. I have been impressed with the American fever for the professional football games. In Korea, the football games are not popular. Instead, soccer is one of the most popular sport games there. When I came to the USA for the first time to study at Gallaudet College in 1977, I watched the NFL games on TV. I found them so boring that I wanted to turn the channel to one of the live Major League Baseball games. But I was surprised as Gallaudet students got angry and yelled to me to turn the channel back to the NFL game. I could not understand why they loved watching the NFL games which seemed to me most boring.

However, I was eventually able to enjoy watching the football games as I learned about the game rules. I found myself to be an ardent fan of the NFL games. I repeated to bend over my upper body forward as the running backs went through the defense line of the opponent team. I sighed when the receiver failed to catch the ball that the quarterback threw. I threw up my fist and jumped up and down when a touchdown was made. I became immersed into the game.

The same thing can be applied to the Bible. Many complain that the Bible is one of the most boring books. Some of them jokingly

spoke of the Bible as effective to induce sleep because it was considered so boring. When I read the Bible for the first time in my middle school days, I found it hard to comprehend. I lost enthusiasm to read further. But my pastor kept emphasizing that the Bible is the living word of God worthy to read. So, I forced myself to keep reading. In one-and-a-half years, I could manage to read the Old and New Testaments thoroughly. I knew I had to read the Bible repeatedly even though I just finished reading the whole Bible. So, I kept reading it over and over again. Then I began appreciating wonderful spiritual flavors of the word of God. I realized how truthful the word of God might be. I became a fervent lover of the Bible.

Christians should be lovers of the Bible because it is the living word of God. The word of God is our spiritual food to feed our souls. The word of God gives us wisdom and strength and courage. The word of God shows us the way of salvation and prosperity. The most important thing about the word of God is that it offers us invaluable knowledge of God, our Creator and Lord, and Jesus Christ.

We should read the Bible every day. We should take the Bible study on a regular basis. We should listen to sermons carefully and enjoy them because they are based on the Bible texts. Pray to the Holy Spirit to help us understand the word of God better. Then, I am sure it will be a matter of time before you become an ardent lover of the word of God.

"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:97, 103)



Don't Let THIS Happen to YOU!

This is an alert! People who are deaf or hearing and use the TTY (teletype) should be aware of this scam. I found out about it on the DeafTimes on the internet. There are con men who are using the relay services or TTY to get deaf and hearing people to send money. Be careful! It is hard to trace the con men this way. Do not give your hard-earned money to

these bad people. The story is that the con people will ask for money as they are Deaf, and in reality they are not. They will also ask for help "because I have a sick child" and they do not. The same is true with receiving e-mail from people from other countries who are asking for a check or cash. Never send money and never send checks to foreign countries. If you want to donate money, give it through your church or through a trusted charity like

the Red Cross.

If I am not sure about the e-mail asking for money, or if a company is trying to get my business or telling me that I can work from home or get a loan cheaper, I immediately delete the e-mail. Hopefully everyone will listen to this warning. Then I will feel I have done my Christian duty to my friends.

—by Barb Zufall



Postmaster, please deliver to:

Send e-mail with your name and address
to webmaster@magothydeafchurch.org
to be added to our newsletter list!

We're on the Web!
www.magothydeafchurch.org

Worry (cont'd from p. 2)

a card. You would be surprised at the goodness you will feel. You and I should show God's love for others through our actions.

Job was a man who faced a lot of tragedies but he still gave hope that there is a loving God. Job 29:34 reads: "When they were discouraged, I smiled at them. My look of approval was precious to them." A smile says more than words. God will speak to the despondent through your actions and through the Bible.



Hands

- A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19. But a basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6. A baseball in Roger Clemens' hands is worth \$4.75 million. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- A tennis racket is useless in my hands. A tennis racket in Andre Agassi's hands is worth millions. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- A rod in my hands will keep away an angry dog. A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- A slingshot in my hands is a toy. A slingshot in David's hands is a mighty weapon. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands. It all depends on whose hands it's in.
- Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse. Nails in Jesus' hands produced salvation for the entire world. It all depends on whose hands they're in.

