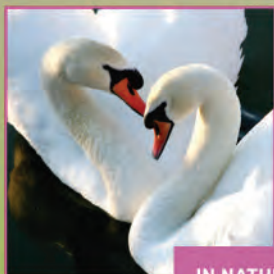


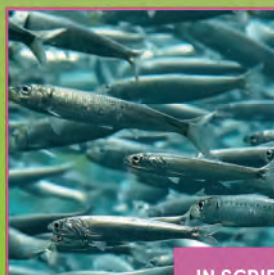
# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR GETAWAY ...



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

SPRING 2021 VOL 28 NO 1 US \$4.99





*"I will follow You"*





*wherever You go.”*

– Luke 9:57





# Our Why



Dear Readers:

When putting together each of the 109 editions of *Creation Illustrated* over 28 years, a key decision involves choosing a stunning photograph to place on the front cover that says, “pick me up.” After all, we get only one chance to make a first impression amid the onslaught of other messages in the world.

A few years ago when we were redesigning and updating the layout of the publication, we decided to go back to our original approach with no outside advertisements in the print edition. Most magazines use the inside front and back cover pages to generate a lot of advertising revenue. But we decided there should be no distraction from the peace and solace that we are trying to share through the uplifting and inspiring stories and photographs that are carefully chosen and edited.

So, in addition to a stunning front cover, we decided to open and close each edition with powerful two-page spreads containing stunning images and poignant yet simple words of Scripture and poetry. We wanted readers to pick up *Creation Illustrated* and literally take a deep breath (or even a gasp) that expresses the *awe* they are experiencing. By definition *awe* is “an emotion, veneration, and wonder that is inspired by authority or by the sacred or sublime.”

Yes, *awe*-inspiring is the appropriate term we strive to invoke with the contents of *Creation Illustrated*! We prayerfully seek to encourage emotion aimed at worshipful adoration of the Creator and the wonders of Creation from His benevolent hand. To surrender to the supreme authority of Him who is sacred, sublime, and sits upon the lofty, grand, and exalted heavenly throne of the universe is the invitation!

With regular exposure to the majesty and splendor of the Creator, the soul will be nurtured to grow and develop into the fullness of God’s character of love—to “‘love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself’” (Luke 10:27).

We pray that each reader of *Creation Illustrated* is nurtured and restored to a better mental, physical, and spiritual condition and ultimately will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to become a *new* creation in Christ Jesus. That’s why!

The Publishers

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*‘Tis The Season!* Many of us seize the opportunity to send year-end donations during the benevolent-rich holiday season as well as for year-end tax purposes. However, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit ministry like *Creation Illustrated* must function and generate revenue throughout the year. As mentioned above, our goal is to inspire worship and transformation for our readers without the distractions of outside advertising. So, every season *‘Tis the Season* for supporting this work with tax-deductible donations. There are ongoing projects to get the Creation message to schools, prisons, and hospitals to provide character-building transformational material that can have an eternal impact on many souls. **Anytime is the right time to assist this ministry through our secure Web site [CreationIllustrated.com](http://CreationIllustrated.com), the response envelope in the center of each edition, or by contacting us for planned giving arrangements.** Thank you for your support and encouragement for us to continue! We pray the impact is eternal . . .



# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 28, No. 1

## Our Purpose . . .

*is to share the wonders of God's creation. By revealing fresh insights of His infinite wisdom, gentle touch, undeniable justice, redeeming love, and flawless design, pure truth shall bring renewed peace. Each part of this publication is offered as a reprieve from the daily rigors of life so that all can look to the future with unbridled gratitude and hope.*

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## ... IN SCRIPTURE



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The cover photo of dew bespeckled fern fronds was taken by Vera Kuttelvaserova Stuchelova.

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## Limitations

After a year of limitations in socializing, working, and even playing, experts say that pent-up demand will result in a boost to the economy once restrictions ease. But actually limits are part of the Creator's design.

The limitations He places at the edge of the sea prove a benefit to the underwater creatures that rely on the boundaries that establish their safe and stable habitat as told in this edition's Creation week story. On day five of the Creation week, God placed a myriad of species in the waters that are restrained by the limitations set by landforms.

Such land mass parameters can also place limitations on the inhabitants of jungle-covered terrain like those who live in Papua, Indonesia. Get airborne in a missionary plane with the author of the outdoor adventure story as he assists in bringing supplies to villagers who live under constant travel limitations in the dense and mountainous tropical environment.

Even creatures have limitations by design like moles that burrow through the soil in search of sustenance. Their virtual blindness would impose a major limitation to most animals, but not for moles that find their way and dig deeper whenever necessary to find food as told in the "Mole Prayers" story that uses this object lesson for digging deeper into God's Word to find the gems He has for us.

With frozen ponds and mud thawing in spring temperatures, what would seem to be a debilitating limitation of solid ice reveals that hibernating frogs come to life thanks to the *antifreeze* qualities of their blood. This edition's children's story inspires youth to leap and praise God for His amazingly benevolent provisions that sustain these humble creatures through the harshness of winter.

Even limitations in relationships are part of the Creator's ordained intensions as exemplified by elegant swans that mate for life. Their commitment and dedication to one another does not present a burden but rather a blessing and an example on the benefits of limited relationships and monogamy as told in this issue's creature article.

One couple who displayed their love and commitment to each other blossoms in their lifelong endeavor to design, build, and grow a garden that has since become a state historic landmark in Alabama. The Bellingraths not only exemplified an Eden-like life together, the limited confines of their sixty-five acre botanical artistry demonstrates that hedge-lined pathways, meticulous trimming, and strategically-placed water features create orderly limitations that provide a sense of purpose and order that bring peace and solace to visitors.

The only element in God's bountiful Creation that exhibits limitless bounds is His love and watch care for the eternal well-being of all He created. He beckons us to shed any worldly fetters and limitations that may keep us from sharing with others His eternal plan for us in the earth made new where our praise and adoration for His grace and mercy will be limitless.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ish".

Tom Ish, editor/publisher



## Moldova . . .

I live in the Republic of Moldova, and I cannot receive your magazine through post as it will cost too much. Can I pay you the one-year subscription and receive the electronic version through email? Thanks for your kindness and support.

C. Nour

Republic of Moldova  
*Editor's Note: We are pleased to announce that we have international and US digital subscriptions for \$12.95 per year! Please visit our Web site at [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com), and click on Subscriptions and International. Then*

*choose Digital, which can also be given as a gift subscription.*

## Spanish . . .

Thanks but my English is not good. Did you have this material in Spanish?

Thanks again.

D. Cirilo

Via Email

*Editor's Note: Producing a Spanish digital edition is one of the goals as donated funds allow. Please stay tuned!*

## Assisted living . . .

**E n c l o s e d**  
is a check for a gift subscription for my nature-loving friend who is in an assisted-living facility in the city where all she sees out her windows are sidewalks, buildings, one tree behind the building across the street, and an occasional crow. She will love your magazine, and I know it will not only bring her joy but also will help her draw closer to her Savior.

Thank you for doing this ministry. It is a true blessing. Please pray for seniors in assisted-living and long-term-care facilities. Since Covid came the residents there have

been prisoners, and they have to quarantine for two weeks after going to the doctor. Thank you and may God continue to bless you and your ministry. He's coming soon!

C. Waver

Clinton, Massachusetts

## Phone call . . .

Quoted with permission from a phone call we received:

Your magazine is such a treasure! I take older copies to doctors' and dentists' offices to share them, and I get good feedback. It is such a wonderful way to minister to other folks. Sometimes I have a hard time letting the magazines go as I love them so much. Praise God for the beautiful production that God allows you to provide for others to be blessed.

B. Blythe

Perry, Georgia

## Drawn to this . . .

I am not a regular subscriber, but I was drawn one day to this magazine which my mother had picked up for free at a library somewhere. It was an older issue, Fall of 2005! I was stirred by the beautiful photography

and the intelligence of the articles. I love the science of what you have created and how understanding that science gives us a deeper appreciation of God's world. It reminds me of the psalmist, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4, KJV).

R. Moore

San Antonio, Texas

## County jail . . .

I am currently incarcerated at a county jail in Indiana. I am writing to request a subscription to your magazine. I learned about the magazine because I received one in a Christmas care package from Christmas Behind Bars Ministry, and I really enjoyed the photography and messages. The magazine really lifted my spirits. God bless.

T. Kern

Martinsville, Indiana

*Editor's Note: We send complimentary subscriptions and pallets of back issues to prisoners as donated funds allow. Anyone interested in assisting with a tax deductible contribution can do so via mail or on our secure Web site at [creationillustrated.com](http://creationillustrated.com).*

## Dear Friends:

*We appreciate hearing from our readers. Please let us know how you are using Creation Illustrated.*

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# Fragr

C R E A T I O N   U P   C L O S E,



When God began the work of creating this earth, He had a definite plan and goal in mind with nothing vague or haphazard about His actions. He was creating a home for Adam and his family, and even though certain aspects may have existed only in His mind, the Father knew exactly what would be best for His children. Thus, each step in the Creation process brought the earth nearer to being a perfect environment for humankind.

God is a lover of beauty, both physical and spiritual, and since the beings for whom He was creating the world were to be made in His image, the concept naturally follows that He would create in humans a desire for beauty and provide a home that would satisfy that desire. God also provided humankind with senses that would respond to beauty in different ways—senses of sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing. As we follow His work through the six days of Creation, we can see how on each successive day He provided something more that would be



# ance

B Y E V E L Y N S A Y L E R



gratifying to each of these senses. The psalmist characterized God's purpose very succinctly, "You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16).

The theory of evolution is concerned primarily with the survival of the fittest, but God's creative work goes far beyond such basic existence. Not intending to create beings who could simply survive, He made provision for them to experience joy and fulfillment every day of their lives! He took into account their physical requirements, their emotional needs, their

intellectual development, and their spiritual growth.

I am sure that the world was stunningly majestic from the moment God spoke it into existence, but on the first two days of Creation, its appeal may have been mostly related to the sense of sight. On Creation day three God took beauty to new heights with multiple dimensions. God exposed the bare ground because He intended to clothe it with lush vegetation that was not only lovely to look at but could be touched, tasted, and smelled. (Hearing would mostly have to wait until the birds began to



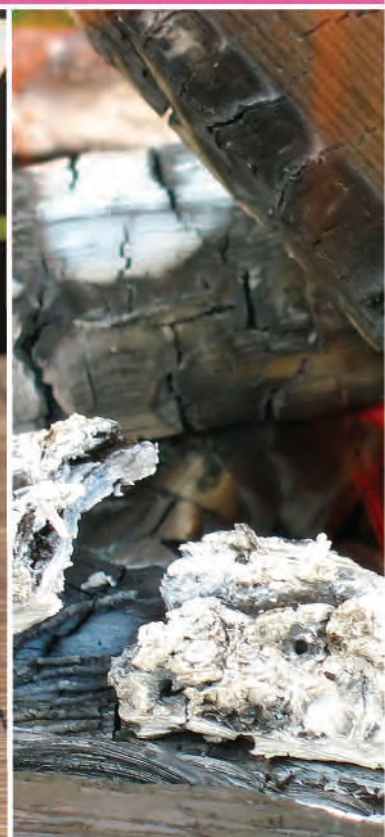
sing on day five.) Plants provide an almost endless variety of textures to gratify the sense of touch—from the incredible softness of lamb’s ears to the prickliness of the spruce boughs to the silky smoothness of rose petals. The newly exposed rocks and minerals also provided a wide variety of textural experiences in addition to their myriad of hues.

Of course, God knew that people would need to eat, and He provided a veritable cornucopia of gastronomic delights. He could have created us with the ability to absorb all the nutrients we need from the soil, as earth worms do, but I am immensely thankful that He did not. The incredible variety of plant food that God provided was designed not merely to satisfy man’s hunger but to delight his senses of taste, touch, and smell. The fruits He created range from soft golden pears and crisp red apples to sour lemons and super sweet oranges. They include textures from the prickly roughness of pineapples to the glossy smoothness of cherries to the tickly fuzziness of peaches.

Each food item that God has provided also

has its own distinctive aroma, which greatly enhances its appeal. Many people lose their sense of smell as they get older, and though this does not seem to make any significant difference to their survival rate, it does affect their quality of life. Fragrance has a great deal to do with flavor, or at least with our perception of it. This fact was strongly impressed on my mind many years ago when our family lived in Australia. There we were introduced to passion fruit for the first time. Friends assured us that they were delicious, but even though we all loved fruit and were usually eager to try any new variety, passion fruit made us hesitate. They did not look very appetizing, and even worse, they did not smell appetizing. But the children and I were finally persuaded to give them a try, and to our delight found that they really did taste good. My husband, however, could not get past his dislike of their odor, and he never did learn to enjoy passion fruit.

We are often inclined to overlook the importance of aroma when we consider the beauties of Creation, but we are all affected by it in many ways even though we are almost unaware of its impact.





Have you ever noticed that when people are given a rose, the first thing they do is lift it to their nose and inhale? The fragrance of flowers is often appreciated as much as their visual appeal. Who can resist the spicy aroma of carnations or the exquisite fragrance of the lily of the valley or the invigorating smell of the pine and cedar forests? When Adam drew in his first deep breath of air, it was likely scented with the delicately blended fragrances of flowers and fruit trees. Pleasant fragrances can do a great deal to promote a comfortable sense of well-being and are sometimes used in aroma therapy and sold in the form of essential oils.

Smells also seem to have a way of stimulating olfactory memories of past events, which go beyond what our other senses can do. Many of us can easily recall the warm and inviting aroma and sense of togetherness of a family Thanksgiving dinner or the soothing savor of freshly baked bread. Researchers today continue to pursue a greater understanding of the importance of the different fragrances that God has wafted over our world.

Many years after Creation had been marred by sin; God had His people set up the sanctuary in the desert to be an ongoing demonstration of the plan of salvation. Because it was meant to deal with the problem of sin, there were, of necessity, some unpleasant sights, sounds, and odors associated with the death and burning of the many sacrifices. These took place in the outer court and were meant to impress the sinner with the ugliness of sin. They contrasted sharply with the majesty within the sanctuary, representing the “beauties of holiness” (Psalm 110:3). The sanctuary service, like God’s original Creation, spoke to humanity through more than one of the senses. Visual beauty was provided by the glorious reflections of the lighted candles on the golden walls and the gorgeous “curtains woven of fine linen thread, and blue and purple and scarlet yarn; with artistic designs of cherubim” (Exodus 36:8). And the sounds of uplifting singing accompanied the sanctuary service—at least during the reigns of David and Solomon.

But fragrance provided a vital element to make







the service attractive, and several verses in Scripture offer detailed instructions as to its preparation and use. "And the Lord said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy"" (Exodus 30:34, 35). This incense burned day and night on the altar of incense, and its fragrance wafted over the camp of Israel, reminding them of the pure fragrance of Christ's righteousness, which He continually mingled with their prayers as they ascended to heaven.

At the time of the morning and evening sacrifices, the people generally could not see what took place, but when they caught the fragrance of fresh incense offered every morning and evening, they were reminded of the sacrifice God had promised to make in order to provide atonement for their sins. "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God

for a sweet-smelling aroma" (Ephesians 5:2).

The Bible also gave strict instructions that this perfume was not to be made or used for any other purpose. This holy fragrance had deep spiritual significance and was to be used only in association with the sanctuary service. "But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the Lord. Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people"" (Exodus 30:37, 38). If God had allowed this perfume to be used for common purposes, its power to evoke memories, convictions, and reverent emotions would have brought other things to the minds of the worshipers besides what God had intended.

To God, the worship of His people is as a sweet fragrance. After the Flood Noah offered many sacrifices to express his gratitude to God. "And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma" (Genesis 8:21). Sin, on the other hand, is represented as a foul odor to God: "His stench will come up, and his foul odor will





rise, because he has done monstrous things'" (Joel 2:20).

Just as God's creation was planned to make manifest His love to us through all our senses, so His teachings in the sanctuary services were designed to reach the hearts of His people through as many of their senses as possible in order to draw them to Himself. Both show the wisdom, design, and goodness of God in ways that will take an eternity of study to fully understand, but even though we cannot hope to grasp the full depths of His love now, we can understand it enough to embrace it with every inhalation of reverent gratitude. We can respond by surrendering all our faculties to Him and asking Him to make our lives fragrant with the character of His Son and sweet aroma of His Holy Spirit to waft around us wherever we go and whatever we do. **C**

*Evelyn Saylor writes from Oliver, British Columbia, where she and her husband study the wonders of Creation and God's design for His children.*

Vol. 28, No. 1



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# Swooning Swans

**D**o you know what bird has often inspired people to create legends, poetry, music, and dances? It's the elegant swan. Floating gracefully on the water surface, they seem to represent tranquility, purity, and harmony. Although the Bible mentions swans only twice as prohibited for food, this unique creature remains a treasured part of God's creation.

Scientists distinguish seven species of swans: mute swans, trumpeter swans, tundra swans (including the whistling swan and Bewick's swan), whooper swans, black-necked swans, coscoroba swans, and black swans. The bird's name appears derived from the Indo-European root *swen* (to sing) or Latin *sonus* (to sound).

In Indiana, where I live with my family, my favorite place for watching swans is Pokagon State Park. During the summer months when I see these large snow-white fowl gliding on the glassy lake, my heart fills with gratitude to the Lord for creating these

**By Tatiana Claudy**











Jenny Miner



Tatiana Claudy

Swans typically mate for life and jointly care for their young (top). And while the birds can weigh around thirty pounds, they flap and scamper to get airborne with their powerful wings (left). Mute swans (above) can be recognized by their black faces, legs, and feet. As they glide across the surface of the water, swans provide a serene scene that has inspired many artists.



*“How great are your works, Lord, . . .  
how profound your thoughts!”*

*—Psalm 92:5, NIV*

majestic birds! “For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands” (Psalm 92:4).

These mute swans, native to Europe and Asia, can be easily recognized by their orange bills in stark contrast to their black faces, legs, and feet. Their length from head to tail can be up to sixty inches and their weight up to thirty-two pounds making them the heaviest of all swan species and among the heaviest of all flying birds. The snowy white creature swims with its neck curved in the S-shape and can sleep while either floating on water or standing on one leg on land. In the wild these imposing birds can live twenty to thirty years. Contrary to its name, the mute swan can make eight different sounds.

Typically these waterfowls tolerate people being around, and when my children and I had a boat ride on the lake, we followed a swan as it swam ahead of us propelled by paddling both its feet. Then it stopped, twisted its long neck, and cleaned the pristine, lacy feathers on its back.

A swan may have about twenty-five thousand feathers (most of them tiny feathers on the head and neck). No wonder it spends about two hours daily preening them! An oil gland near the bird’s tail produces a special fluid that helps keep the feathers waterproof as the creature spreads this fluid over its feathers with its bill. “How great are your works, Lord, . . . how profound your thoughts!” (Psalm 92:5, NIV).

Another amazing feature is the swan’s long neck (with up to twenty-four vertebrae) that enables them to reach more than three feet into the water for aquatic vegetation. Therefore, they do not compete for

food with ducks and geese who often share the same habitat. Being mostly herbivorous, swans (especially young ones) can also consume insects, worms, frogs, and small fish. They also graze on land to eat grass, grains, and vegetables. “All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things” (Psalm 104: 27, 28, NIV).

While admiring the spectacular scene of floating swans, I saw several suddenly taking off and flying across the lake. Those were cygnets (young birds) whereas mature swans (the largest and heaviest of waterfowls weighing up to thirty pounds) need some time and space in order to take off from the water. Before getting airborne, these imposing avians gain the momentum by flapping their wings and running on the water surface; to take off and land, they need a minimum of thirty yards. Regardless of their weight and size, swans can fly fifty to sixty miles per hour.

Mute swans are the only species breeding in Indiana in locations where they carefully choose a flood-proof nest location with easy access to the water. The male (cob) hunts for building material (leaves, twigs, vegetation, and dried grass) while the female (pen) arranges a bowl-like nest by piling the material and forming it with its body. In April and early May, the pen lays up to seven blue-green eggs, and then both parents incubate them for about forty days. Newly hatched cygnets don wet, brownish down, and after drying, they can go in the water.

However, on the lake cygnets may be in danger from predators—water rats and hawks. Thus, the pen often lets babies ride on her back or under



*“Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.”*

—Psalm 36:5, ESV

her wings where they can feel safe. Fortunately we Christians are blessed with even greater protection from our heavenly Father because, “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge” (Psalm 91:4, NIV).

Cygnets remain with their parents four to five months till they learn to fly. Sometimes parents build another nest where the whole family can sleep while the cygnets often huddle together. During the daytime cygnets play by chasing each other. Eventually their down is replaced by feathers in about five or six weeks, and they learn how to preen them to get rid of parasites.

Mute swans ferociously protect their nests from foxes and raccoons who try to steal the eggs. At the sight of intruders, these powerful birds rear up, spread their wings, hiss, and chase intruders away. And we, children of the almighty God, should remember that He not only defends us but also fights our battles: “For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory” (Deuteronomy 20:4, NIV).

Such dedication to protect their family is accentuated by their devotion to typically mate for life, which echoes and illustrates the loyalty that God has for us, His children. “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds” (Psalm 36:5, ESV). Having repented of our sins and accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can be sure that He will always help us in time of need: “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5).

The Creator, knowing my love for swans, lets me observe two other swan species native to North

America—trumpeter swans and tundra swans—that migrate through Indiana each fall. Unlike mute swans, these birds swim with their necks only slightly curved or straight. True to their name, trumpeter swans (that breed in Canada) honk the loudest due to the coiled structure of their windpipe. They are also the largest North American waterfowl with a wingspan of up to ten feet. To get airborne they need a *runway* of about a hundred yards to flap and scamper. Tundra swans (that breed in the Arctic regions of Alaska and Canada) spend the winter months along the coastlines of California and North Carolina. During migration they fly about four thousand miles each way and typically enjoy successful journeys and resting places due to protections under the law.

Interestingly enough, for centuries people in the Old World believed that only white swans existed in nature. However, in the second century A.D., a Roman poet named Juvenal wrote in his book about a rare bird (*rara avis* in Latin) that was considered a fantastic creature—a black swan. As the Lord declared in 1 Corinthians 1:19, “‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise.’” This is often demonstrated in nature. In 1697 Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh found in Western Australia some stunning black swans—large birds with red bills, S-curved long necks, gray legs, and black feathers (except for some white feathers on their wings). “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33).

The Dutchman was so taken by this avian anomaly that he commemorated the event by naming the nearby waterway Black Swan River. Now full-size





Feasting herbivores (below) often preen their thousands of feathers (left), which helps them glide on their ten-foot wingspan (above).

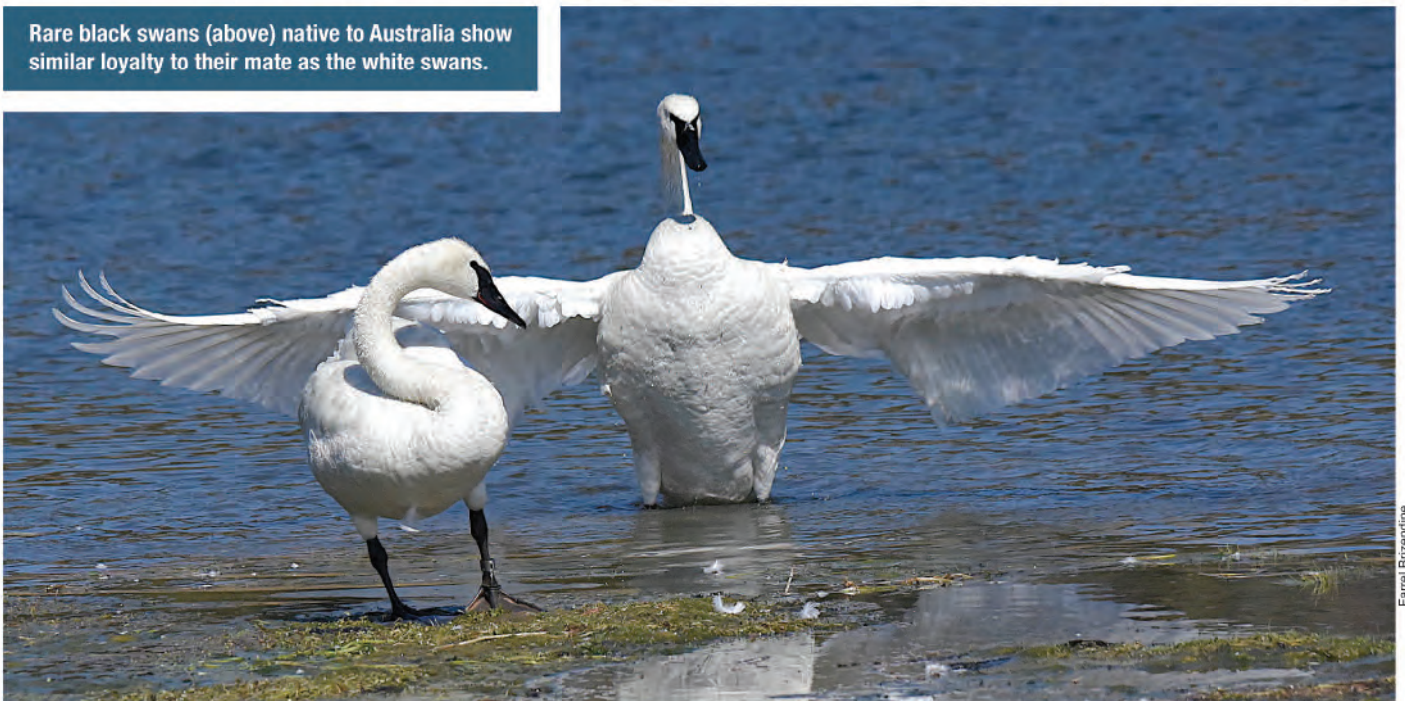






Renee Smith

Rare black swans (above) native to Australia show similar loyalty to their mate as the white swans.



Farrel Brizendine



*“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

*—John 1:3, NIV*

statues of the explorer and a black swan can be found there.

Black swans, native to Australia and naturalized in New Zealand, live in bevvies (sometimes numbering in the thousands) on lakes, wetlands, and coastal areas. While on water these waterfowl communicate by crooning, by producing high-pitch signals, or by making loud calls that resemble sounds of a bugle. Unlike a white swan, a black swan uses only one leg for swimming while the other leg is tucked above its tail; thus, the bird can quickly change directions to escape from predators. Another interesting fact about black swans: males sit on the nests more than females (who need time away in order to lay several clutches per year). As a native species, black swans are protected by the law in Australia.

During the eighteenth century, black swans were introduced to Europe, but today they can be seen in many parts of the world (except Africa and Antarctica). For instance, one black swan colony made its home in Dawlish (Great Britain) and even became the town's emblem. In the US, these exotic waterfowls can be found in zoos, parks, and aviaries. When birds are not pinioned to limit their flight, they can escape to the wild. In fact, a pair of black swans was introduced to Lake Forest Keys in California, and their offspring now live on several lakes in the Orange County near Los Angeles.

After seeing multiple examples of the Creator's care for these majestic creatures that have been allowed to be fruitful, multiply, and adorn the world with their enchanting elegance, I understand better His great love for me, my family, and all that He created in order to bless others. Now I am inspired

to boldly witness about my Creator's power, majesty, and grace since, “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3, NIV). **C**

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*Tatiana Claudy writes from Indiana and contributes her insights about God's handiwork in Creation Illustrated regularly as she explores and studies His wondrous works and shares the spiritual lessons He bestows for all to enjoy.*



Rena Smith





RECREATION OUTDOORS

# Above Papua Indonesia

BY MICHAEL LOMBART

With not a cloud in sight, the bush plane climbed up into the early morning sky—a perfect day to get my first taste of the life of a missionary pilot. We departed from the town of Doyo Baru, Indonesia, and headed to the highlands with a load of cargo.

Veteran mission pilot Gary Roberts was at the controls of the Pilatus Porter aircraft guiding us to the mountain village. As we left Doyo Baru and the serene Lake Sentani behind, the ground below the plane appeared as an undulating carpet of jungle lowlands. In the far distance, an imposing mountain range reared high above the horizon and spread out like a wall as far as one could see. As we drew closer to the rugged terrain, the expanse became increasingly impressive. Foothills gave way to steeper mountain slopes where dozens of waterfalls could be seen bursting from the emerald cliffs and plummeting to the jungles below. Ahead, bare rocky peaks shot skyward out of the lush, green verdure.









Photos by Michael Lombart

*The narrow, grassy landing strip amid the daunting jungle peaks tests even veteran pilots.*

## IN THE DEPTHS OF THE VALLEY

The plane continued its climb over this majestic landscape and finally topped out over a high plateau that defined the crest of the mountain range. A few moments later, Gary pushed the nose over and began descending toward a deep valley on the southern slope.

"That's Korupun down there," he said, pointing out the window as he tilted the plane into a bank. I peered down and caught sight of a treeless green strip far beneath us with small buildings and huts sprinkled alongside it. The rudimentary runway rested in a bowl-like formation on an uphill slope surrounded by steep mountainsides. Gradually the village grew larger as we descended. I yawned my jaw while feeling the air pressure in my ears increasing as the plane spiraled earthward. Gary made one last circle of the landing area and then began an eye-popping final approach.

We were now in the depths of the valley—a canyon, really—pointing directly at the mountain wall. The trees hugging the steep slope grew larger and closer in the windscreen until the pilot finally banked the plane to fly alongside the jungle wall perhaps a hundred feet away from the branches. A waterfall slipped by on one side as I realized the top of it was higher than we were!

Half a mile ahead was the landing strip angling up a gentler slope. With veteran bush pilot skill, Gary lined up with the strip and then committed to land. The once smooth-appearing airstrip drew closer, and details on the ground became clearer—ruts, small rocks, rough areas, and a few smoother areas. What also became clear was how much of an incline this runway had!

The pilot eased the nose up to match the slope of the landing strip, and the next instant we were down and jolting along the bumpy terrain. He jabbed the rudder pedals back and forth to keep the plane rolling in the center of the slippery runway, and then he added some engine





*Villagers eagerly gather around the missionary plane.*

## *“Be still, and know . . .”*

power to get to the top of the slope with a leveled-out turnaround area. We had arrived!

The village residents quickly crowded around the plane as soon as the engine and propeller spooled to a stop. Aircraft landings are one of the highlights of their remote existence, and the villagers eagerly greeted us and helped unload the much-welcomed goods. While Gary supervised the unloading, I stepped away from the plane to take in the scene. The feeling was surreal.

In just one short hour I had been transported from suburbia to a place you read about or see only in documentary films. Yet, there I stood slowly turning around and gazing up at the incredibly stunning and rugged green mountains that surrounded us on every side. The excitement of the approach and the whine of the turbine engine were replaced by a solemn quietness that whispered, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

I glanced down the runway we had just landed on that could easily have been a beginner ski slope if it had snow. Hardly a level spot of ground could be seen anywhere, and I would come to learn over the ensuing weeks that most of the mountain runways presented equally impressive and demanding landings, if not more so.

Welcome to Papua, Indonesia, a place I had come to spend some time in service with an organization called Adventist Aviation Indonesia. A few years back, I took *Creation Illustrated* readers on a snow camping adventure in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and before that on an ascent up Mt. Whitney at 14,505 feet elevation. Now I found myself on the other side of the world in the steamy tropics of Indonesia experiencing a completely different kind of adventure. In a three-part series of stories, I will share some of my most memorable experiences during a tour by land, sea, and sky of the incredible island that I called home for two years.





Michael Lombart

*The steep, densely-covered terrain makes land travel and remote village settlements a challenge to pursue.*

## DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT

Starting with a little geography lesson, just above Australia you'll find the world's second largest island, New Guinea. The island is shared by two countries with the nation of Papua New Guinea on the eastern half of the island and the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua on the western side. I lived close to the large seaport town of Jayapura on the north end of the Indonesian side.

Because of its incredibly challenging topography, Papua does not yet have a road system connecting the hundreds of villages in its interior with the outside world. Anyone wishing to travel to a larger town has the option of walking or perhaps using a river when journeying through the lowlands. Either mode takes days if not weeks to reach any well-established destination.

Organizations like Adventist Aviation Indonesia turn days of exhausting travel into a matter of hours or minutes through the use of bush planes that can haul in building supplies or take passengers out to the main cities. Medical evacuations, student education, and most importantly, access to the Word of God become possible. The challenging and often dangerous environment presents many challenges, but reaching these souls is essential work that is making a difference. As Romans 10:13–15 so poignantly put it, “‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent?” The arrival of the mission plane visibly illustrates the essence of the last part of the passage: “Just as it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’” (NASB).

While serving God's children in these isolated communities, the pilots operating these





Michael Lombart



*The flightless cassowary*

*“How beautiful are the feet of those . . .”*

planes also have the privilege of flying over some of the Creator’s most majestic handiwork! From the air one of the most obvious characteristics of Papua is how green it appears. The abundant moisture from the warm surrounding ocean, along with the fertile soil and full equatorial sunshine, combine to sustain a flourishing ecosystem. A mind-boggling amount of biomass awards New Guinea the world record as the island with the most plant species. Of its 13,000-plus unique plant species, two-thirds of them are found only here.

Papua’s habitat also hosts more than four thousand six hundred vertebrate species from the tree kangaroo and the cute, fluffy monkey-like cuscus (actually a marsupial) to large fruit bats and flightless cassowaries (a large, clunky bird that looks like a cross between an ostrich and a peacock). Flitting between the trees are birds of all shapes, sizes, and hues, with the most famous species being the rare bird-of-paradise. Interestingly, no large mammal predators inhabit the island, but along the rivers large crocodiles can sometimes be found.

While most of these creatures remain hidden from the view of air travelers, a fortunate few can occasionally gaze down on a pair of hornbills gracefully winging their way across the jungle canopy. Or at times one can look down and spot a tree that seems to be flecked with snow that actually is a large flock of cockatoos perched in the jungle branches.

If you stop and think about the sheer number of animals that live here, it boggles the mind to realize that their Maker watches over every single one of them. I doubt there is a biologist who could name all of the species that inhabit Papua; yet, God tells us, “I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine” (Psalm 50:11).

And He doesn’t just know about them; He’s actually interested in their well-being. In case we would be tempted to think that the God of heaven is removed from all the events that





*The dazzling bird of paradise and the timid cuscus are just some of the myriad of creatures that reside in this tropical habitat.*

Michael Lombart

## THE INFINITE POWER

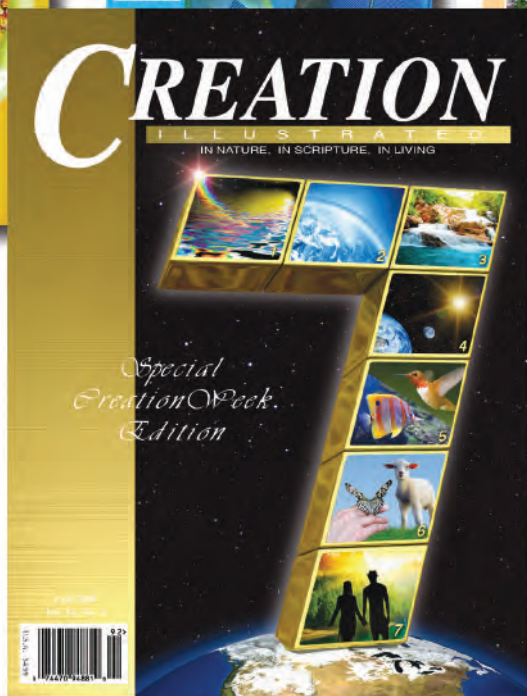
go on in the lives of animals and people, notice what Jesus says, “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father” (Matthew 10:29, NASB). With the countless birds out there, we can be assured that He’s also interested in the details of your life and mine. Not only that, verse 30 continues, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.” I gained a deeper understanding of this reality during my time in Papua, as God demonstrated He was taking care of me and answering my prayers (as well as those of family and friends back home).

Wrapping up the first part of our tour of this emerald island, I pray that you have a fresh appreciation for the infinite power of God and a renewed sense of His love and care for you. In our next installment, I’ll be taking you to a special oceanside paradise and sharing more life lessons from the hand of our Creator and Redeemer. I’m looking forward to having you aboard again! **C**

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*Michael Lombart spent two years in the tropical paradise of Papua, Indonesia. He currently works as a flight instructor in the slightly less humid yet almost as sunny Northern California.*





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William Goodwin

Long-jaw squirrelfish

*“Then God said,  
‘Let the waters  
abound with an  
abundance of living  
creatures. . . .’  
So God created  
great sea creatures  
and every . . .*

# CREATION DAY 5 PART ONE

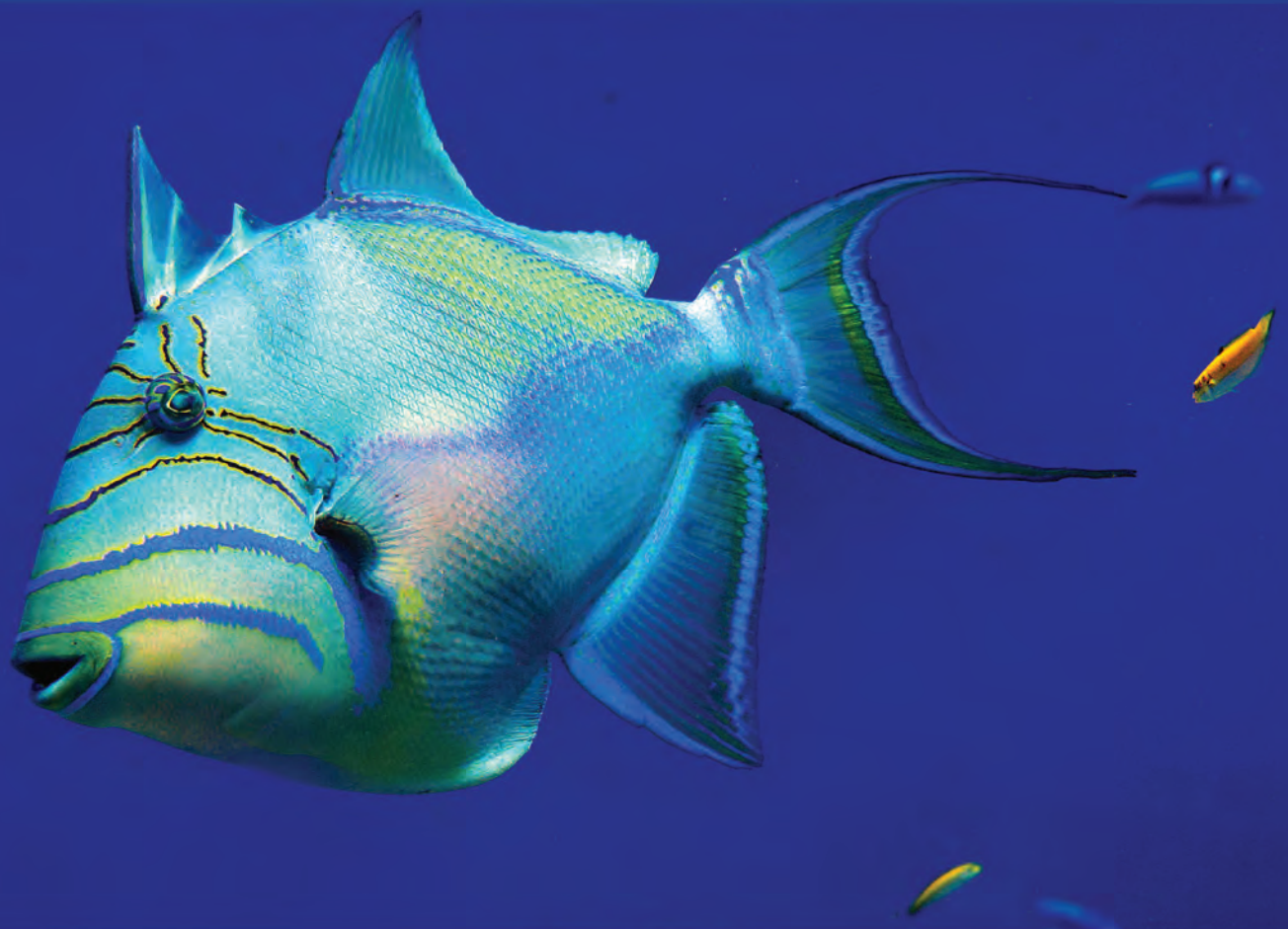
■ BY CHRISTINE GRAEF WITH TOM ISH

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## The Creation of Sea Creatures

Editor's Note: This article is the fifth part in our eleventh series of features that focus on the Creation week. Some days are divided into segments, and in the next issue we will explore the fifth day of the Creation week part two when God created the birds. Each series of stories varies with new writers and fresh images. We hope you enjoy this closer look at God's handiwork aimed at inspiring you to study His Word in depth.





William Goodwin

*Juvenile queen triggerfish*

God first introduced His intensions for the massive seas that cover the earth on Creation day one when “the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). By Creation day three when the land separated, the waters fled into their boundaries at the sound of His voice—flowing over hills, pouring into valleys, and eventually settling in places where He established a boundary they could not cross.

“You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, to the

place which You founded for them. You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth” (Psalm 104:5–9).

God’s Word also marks boundaries when he instructed us to guard our hearts. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). And the borders of our minds are kept safe with the promise, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3).

We should not live beyond the boundary of blessings provided by God’s benevolent guidance. Boundaries define who we are, what we wear, what we eat, and how we worship. There are boundaries for marriage, for friendships, and for enemies. Boundaries secure our





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*Sockeye salmon turn red after leaving the salt water and moving into fresh water to migrate upstream to their spawning grounds.*

homes, guard our hearts, limit our words, and establish our trust. We choose again and again what to keep out and what to keep in, as well as where to go and where not to go as we journey through life. Even fish know their limitations within the boundaries of the waters. Should they remain hidden in the murky depths or venture into the sun-soaked shallows?

The gathering of the waters within their boundaries cover about 71 percent of the earth's surface, and the oceans hold about 96.5 percent of all earth's water. Such a vast liquid habitat provides a home for an estimated 3.5 trillion fish created on day three that illuminate the depths in a kaleidoscope of colors. Graced with unique abilities, some sea creatures from day five can change color, produce light and electricity, and regenerate injured fins.

The waters are home to more than thirty-three thousand known fish species—more than all other species of vertebrate animals combined.

Genesis 1:20–23 chronicles the creation of the myriad of sea creatures. “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures. . . .’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind. . . . And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. . . .’ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

To the fish, who see both left and right at the same time, as well as above and below, this environment allows freedom of movement. God in His



*living thing that  
moves, with  
which the waters  
abounded, according  
to their kind. . . . And  
God saw that it was  
good. And God  
blessed them, . . .*



Renee Smith

*Sardines*

benevolent design saw to it that pleasant places were measured out for them. Dr. Sylvia Earle, then chief scientist of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, once stated, "They're so good-natured, so curious. You know, fish are sensitive, . . . they hurt when they're wounded."

Fish were once thought to possess no feelings and no memory, but studies reveal that fish remember individuals, suffer fear, and experience pain yet seem to have limited concern for their well-being. "Most recent interpretations of the results of many studies lead us to believe that fish have the structures necessary and the capacity to experience fear and pain and can thus suffer," according to the Scientific Panel for Animal Health and Welfare. Being *sentient* beings means fish

feel enjoyment too. And so the fish play beneath the surface, never being thirsty, never having to be outside of God's boundaries. Such revelations prick our conscience to ponder our responsibility in caring for this realm of His creation.

While we cannot delve into the mind of a fish, we can observe interesting characteristics. In their underwater world, fish use tools like rocks to open shells, build homes for rearing young, and even tend gardens. Some communicate in various ways like humming or even by changing color. Groupers can make booming sounds and use body language in working as a team to gesture to eels where prey is hiding. Elephant fish may have the fastest known communication ability by using electrical signals. Stickleback fish choose various species





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## Mother's Day in Prison



**"I was in prison,  
and you  
visited me."**

—Matthew 25:36

I am writing to let you know that I absolutely love your *Creation Illustrated*. I am currently incarcerated at Dayton Correctional Institution and our Chaplain had people called Christmas behind bars come in and minister to us for Mother's Day. They had Amish who sang some wonderful songs to us and then at the end of the program they gave us hygiene items and a bag of snacks along with a long stem rose. Well I must say that in my snack bag was your magazine *Creation Illustrated* and as far as I'm concerned that magazine was the best item in that bag. I read every word in there and the pictures were amazing. I love how it explains nature and the animals and then how it relates to God and all he has created. Being in prison isn't easy and there are days when it's hard to keep going but when I get things like that to read and learn from it gives me so much joy and excitement. I have a hard time comprehending some times but this magazine is easy to read and learn from so I was wondering if inmates can receive your magazine and if it cost money? So can you please write me and let me know because I would be so blessed if I could receive this on a regular basis please let me know

Thank you  
Connie



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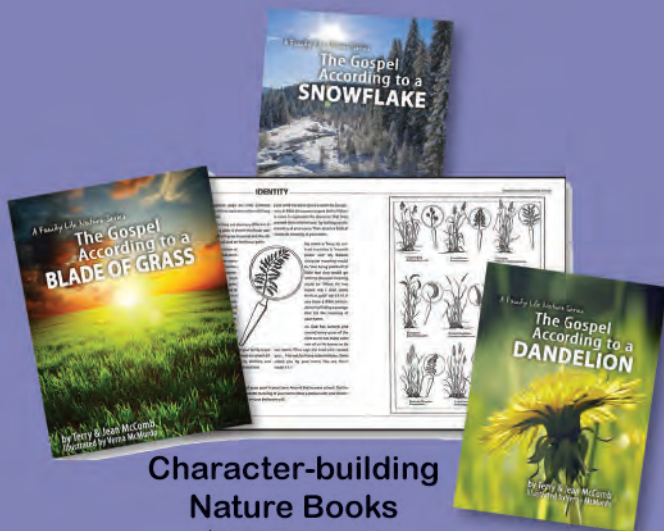
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William Goodwin

*Alpha male scorpionfish*

*saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. . . .' So the evening and the morning were the fifth day."*

*—Genesis 1:9–13*

to imitate in order to make the most of opportunities.

With roughly ten thousand fish species swimming in rivers, lakes, and wetlands (from the one-inch fire gobies to the beluga sturgeon reaching twenty feet in length), each life beneath the surface has a place in its respective body of water. Another 20,000-plus species swim the salty oceans (from the world's tiniest paedocypris fish at less than one-third of an inch long found around the Indonesian islands to the two-hundred ton blue whale gracing many oceans).

Astounding varieties and abilities among the sea creatures inspire awe toward our Creator. A krill spends the day drifting up and down the water column in the Arctic ocean searching for phytoplankton. Diving deep into the cold

depths (sometimes two miles down where they hide during daylight), somehow krill know the time of night it's safe to rise to the surface. Sailfish can move at sixty-eight miles per hour (faster than a cheetah) near the surface of the Atlantic. Flying fish can glide as far as six-hundred and sixty feet and reach heights of nearly twenty feet above the surface of the water. Salmon leave the ocean to come into fresh water rivers and lakes as they remember their way home after venturing into the sea for several years and thousands of miles.

A mere strand of sand testifies to God's goodness in setting boundaries amid His creation. Standing at the edge of a sea, we witness how God continually saves the world from destruction by constraining the water where the fish can





Renee Smith

*The underbelly of a shark*

thrive. While storms may come sending turmoil and churning upon the water's surface, the fish dive deeper into the calm where the storm can go no further. The fish stay where the voice of God guides them and the waters. "The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty" (Psalm 29:3, 4). Wherever the water is directed and supplied with sustenance, the fish go with it in obedience to His providence.

When the seas get rough, we may be tempted to leap the boundaries God has erected for our well-being. Proverbs 8:27–34 illustrates greater wisdom with images of the sea. "When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He

strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, . . . I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, . . . 'Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me.'"

Part of our understanding of boundaries that the Creator establishes includes defining how much of the world around us is our responsibility. Most of us think we need to be doing more in this life. We are not working enough, earning enough, praying enough, or being enough to others. But one of the names





©Tom & Pat Leeson

*Brook trout spawning in small mountain stream*

in Scripture for God is *El Shaddai*—*sha* meaning *who* and *dai* meaning *enough*—which He used to introduce Himself to Abraham saying, “I am El-Shaddai—“God Almighty.” Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life” (Genesis 17:1, NLT). *He is enough*. His ways are sufficient, for us as well as His fixed borders both divine and natural for those who walk by faith.

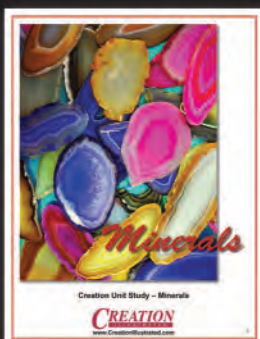
While the adversary continually seeks to move the boundary lines with the idea that the world can exist without knowing God, it is *enough* to know that God’s plan of salvation for His entire creation is in His hands, and it is *enough* that Jesus died to rescue it all. Such assurance inspires us to thrive within the boundaries He establishes for our well-being—living, thriving, serving, and rejoicing right where He puts us—just as

He does for the sea creatures created on day five of the Creation week. **C**

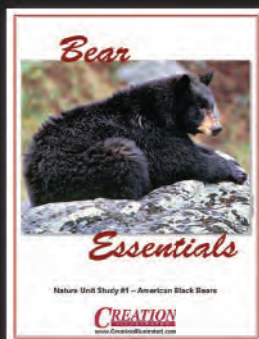
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*Christine Graef writes from Ellsworth, Maine, where she examines the design and intensions of the wonders of Creation. Tom Ish is editor and publisher of Creation Illustrated.*

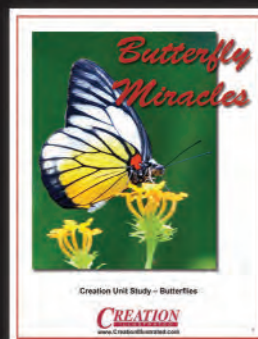




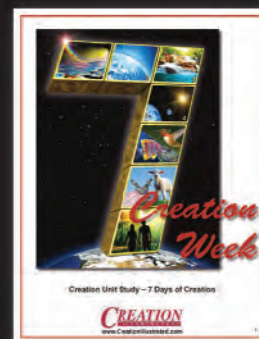
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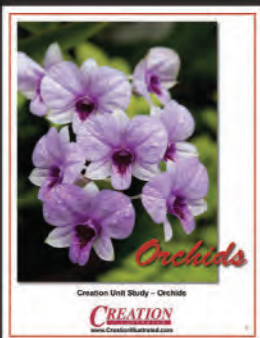
Bears



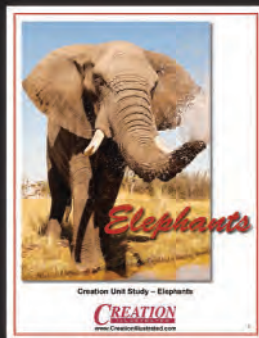
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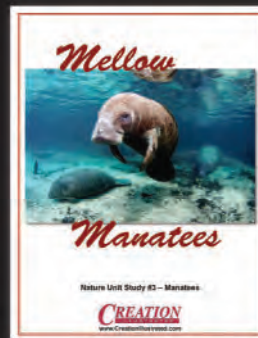
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Orchids



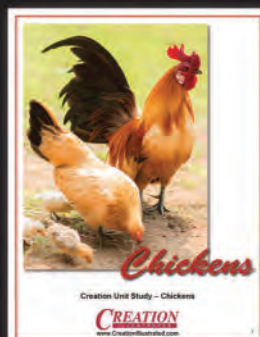
Elephants



Manatees



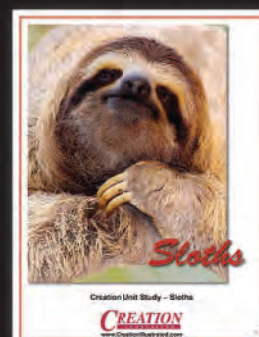
Horses



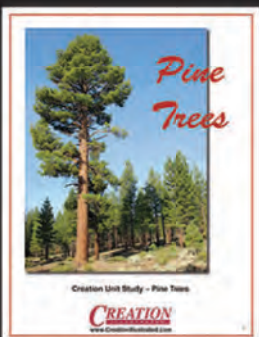
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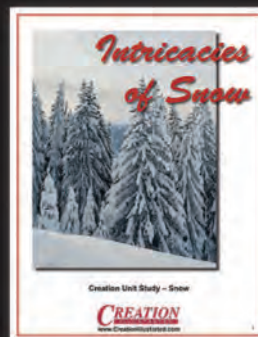
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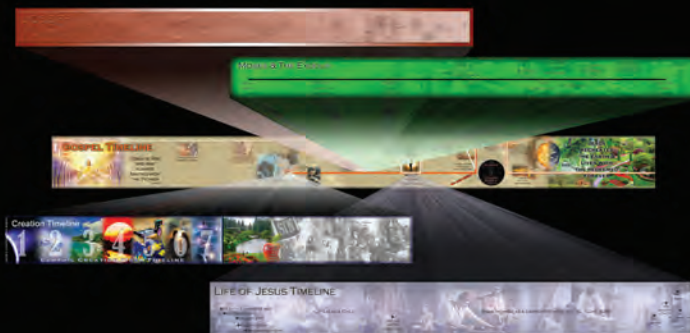
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# The Inter

A L E N S O N C R E A T I O N



American oystercatcher

by tidal cycles prompted by the gravitational pull on the oceans by the sun and moon. As these celestial bodies move around the earth, they cause the oceans to rise and fall, creating high and low tides that in turn create a habitat of incomparable diversity.

One of my favorite intertidal zones is around Mullett Key, a barrier island off of the coast of Saint Petersburg, Florida, and home of Fort Desoto Park. Mullett Key hosts a wide variety of foreshore ecosystems that include white sandy beaches, saltwater lagoons, and mudflats.

The intertidal zone is actually made of four different habitats that include the *spray zone* where the salt-water spray from waves falls along the shoreline, the *high intertidal zone* where the shoreline is totally immersed by the sea, the *middle intertidal zone* that is usually submerged but exposed during low tide, and finally the *low intertidal zone* that experiences exposure to air only during the absolute lowest tides. Each of these zones displays abundant life, and on Mullett Key they are all within a few hundred feet of each other.

Many birds rely on the beaches, mudflats, and shallow waters of Mullett Key for sustenance. Among these foreshore environs a menagerie of birdlife congregates to forage



Little blue heron

“**F**ear ye not me? saith the Lord: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?” (Jeremiah 5:22, KJV).

What a wondrous passage to describe a boundary that lies between the ocean and terra firma! Stretches of sand, pebbles, and mudflats spend part of the day exposed and part of the day covered by the fluctuating sea. A swath of perpetual ambiguity—not land and not sea—create the *intertidal zone*.

Intertidal zones, also known as *foreshores*, exist where a dance with the sea is governed

Bobby Harrison

Bobby Harrison



# tidal Zone

BY BOBBY HARRISON

on the bounty that the intertidal zone provides. I am always eager to be there to see, to marvel, and to photograph these winged beauties.

Great blue, little blue, and yellow-crowned night herons, along with American, reddish, and snowy egrets, stalk tide pools and shallow bays formed by the receding tide.

Marbled godwits, oystercatchers, sanderlings, ruddy turnstones, dunlins, as well as piping and snowy plovers rush along the ebbing tideline for morsels revealed by the receding waves. In the air above, osprey along with forester's and royal and sandwich terns glide over the subsiding waters to snatch fish rising to the surface of azure waves. And perhaps the most interesting of all is the black skimmer—an elegant streamlined bird that uses its elongated lower bill to plow the mirrored surface of lagoons to snag tidbits just below the water's expanse.

As you can imagine, the foreshore is one of my favorite places to photograph the fascinating avian variety found in God's creation. This birder's paradise provides an incredible place to be when the tide is receding and the sun is rising. At that time of the day, all the dazzling display of light, water, and living creatures comes together and presents an unparalleled wonder—



*Black skimmer*

the intricacies of the natural world revealed for His children to behold.

I sometimes gasp in disbelief at the spectacles that I am so often privileged to behold. Yet, the Scriptures tell us, “Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You” (Jeremiah 32:17, NASB). As spring arrives I am again eager to explore, to marvel, and to photograph the great things that the Lord has made in this unique environment. **C**

*Bobby Harrison writes from Oakwood University where he is an associate professor of photography. He also serves as CEO of The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Foundation. Enjoy more of his work at:*

*[www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com](http://www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com)*



*Marbled godwit*



# Mole Prayers

I often pray as I walk the winding trail behind our home. God seems to draw especially near among the quaking aspens, poplars, and maple trees that provide a natural setting in which to intercede for my adult sons and their families. Spring is such a beautiful time to enjoy all the vibrant green leaves and buds emerging from a long winter's absence.

Recently, as I walked and prayed, a peculiar thought crossed my mind (and not for the first time): I was actually praying *mole* prayers. I prayed blind (unable to see into the heads and hearts of loved ones and helpless to

discern their actual situations) a lot like those nearly sightless little creatures that tunnel away underground.

Moles are small mammals and not rodents as commonly thought. As *insectivores* these furry little creatures consume seventy-five to one hundred percent of their weight (up to 7.5 ounces) in worms, grubs, slugs, and insects each day. They do not eat roots or seeds and almost never eat above-ground plants. Prolific and adaptable, moles can be found on every continent except Antarctica and South America. Typically four to six inches in length, these *fossorial* (burrowing) creatures live





in underground tunnels. Their strong, paddle-like front feet are perfect for efficient digging.

The tunneling is not just to have a place to live like other burrowing creatures; moles aggressively tunnel to satisfy their voracious appetite for earthworms. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife notes that “moles are fast diggers and can tunnel at a rate of fifteen feet per hour. In favorable soil conditions, shallow tunnels can be dug at a rate of twelve inches per minute. Signs of their presence include *molehills* or mounds near tunnel entrances and *mole runs* or trails of soil raised by tunneling just below ground level. Actually, moles dig their runs on two levels:

surface tunnels during fair-weather foraging and lower tunnels constructed during cold or dry weather when worms go deeper into the soil.

In drawing the parallel, both moles and prayers are nearly blind. They pursue their goal without seeing exactly what’s going on, and, especially with prayer, what is needed, what is the immediate effect, and what is the ultimate outcome cannot be adequately discerned.

When I’m praying for my grandchildren who are home alone on summer weekdays, I surely can’t *see* their situation or exploits. Nor can I be with my son while he is hiking the seventy-mile Laurel Highlands Trail in





*Many mole hills can seem like a mountain.*

southern Pennsylvania; yet, my prayers plead that he'll be kept safe, drink enough fluids, and eat properly. Nor can I foretell if my husband and I will stay healthy as retirement looms; yet, I pray so. Those are my surface prayers. Or in mole terms, my upper tunnels are located just below the surface where the path and results are more quickly and easily seen.

But I've also dug deeper tunnels of prayer—years and years of sight-impaired praying for prodigals to discover Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives. Or deep-seated prayers burrowing in the heart for healing between

family members, for long withheld forgiveness, for the effects of divorce to be mitigated in our grandchildren.

Thankfully, at every level God has my blindness in full view of His will. "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight" (Hebrews 4:13, NIV). And His Spirit joins me in assuring that I stay on course with my God-aligned intercession. "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27, NIV).

Beyond blindness, moles and prayers are alike in many other ways. Both moles and prayer are created by God and have a purpose according to His divine intention. "For in [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, . . . all things have been created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16, NIV). Both moles and prayers are unseen and share the same subterranean or hidden working conditions. "When you pray, go







*Capable claws can burrow deep into the rich loam where a wealth of nourishment lies.*

into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:6, NIV).

Both are intentional. Moles are *fusiform* (torpedo-shaped) and well equipped to overtake those earthworms. Faith-filled prayers are similarly streamlined and deliberate. “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16, NIV).

Both are persistent. Moles are active day and night, and they don’t hibernate. When temperatures plummet, these determined creatures just dig deeper following their food source into warmer soil just as necessity impels my dogged prayers to dig deeper into my Source. “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1, NIV).

Both have enemies.

The mole’s enemies bring out pitchforks, explosives, poison, flooding, and even pickle juice, juicy fruit gum, and attack ferrets! And Satan, the enemy of prayer, likewise schemes to exterminate or at least curtail prayer. Plus, the world distracts, and the flesh protests. Jesus urged His disciples, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation” (Luke 22:40, NIV).

Both moles and prayers are vilified and misrepresented. Mention moles and get the “ugh” response from a lot of homeowners. Mention prayer and get a similar response from some Christians. But in reality there can be many benefits from moles including improved drainage for plants and getting air into the soil. And the priceless power and potential of prayer is so much greater—redirected lives, healed families, redeemed failures that





*A view of much subterranean activity*

many of us have witnessed. For “this is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him” (1 John 5:14, 15, NIV).

I’m convinced that *mole prayers*—sight-impaired but Spirit-aided, assaulted but undaunted—have an eternal impact. So, I pray my blind and oblivious prayers today with confidence that the Holy Spirit is helping me while trusting with renewed fervor that my prayers are not aimlessly wandering, bumping into dead-ends, or tunneling to nowhere. They’re received by my Father who welcomes and responds to each one according to His will.

So, I will continue sending them off and watch my determined underground torpedoes speeding unseen to the Father. **C**

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*Sandy Mayle writes from Erie, Pennsylvania, where she discovers unique perspectives on Creation as they apply to daily living.*





# CREATION STEWARDSHIP

*Providing helpful suggestions on how to better care for God's Creation.*

## Sharing Facts and Figures

In 2020 there was a huge gardening surge according to *Garden Trends Report*. The fear of dwindling inventory on grocery shelves during the pandemic inspired a lot of motivation to start a garden—even with the threat of moles and other pests.

The gardening industry picked up 18 to 24 million new gardeners in 2020, and many of them were under age 35. Studies are showing that the simple and rewarding tasks of home gardening help build more resilient and connected communities. Additional research shows that two-thirds of adults are growing at least some food, and many are planning to continue to do so in 2021.

More than eighteen thousand people watched Penn State Extension's ten-part webinar called "Victory Garden Reinvented." Many others sought helpful tips from the local libraries, bookstores, and Master Gardeners in their communities.

Unfortunately, not everyone has an equal amount of space to grow a garden. In fact, the average size of a median-sized lot dropped 18.3 percent from 2009 to 2018. Furthermore, 35 percent of Americans do not own a home where they are free to develop their own garden plots. This leaves many wondering if they can grow a garden.

## Tips For Simple Living

Surprisingly, not a lot of space is needed to grow fresh food. All you need is soil, seeds, water, and sunlight. So, if you have a small sunny spot in your yard or even on your patio or balcony, you can grow food. Here are a few helpful aids that might help you garden in a small space, which can also prevent moles and various creatures from invading your garden area.

- Using cinder blocks for a raised bed garden or to stack for planting inside the block holes provides a quick, low-cost way to get a nice garden started in a small area.
- Making your own trellis to help your garden grow up instead of out will increase your garden yield while using a small footprint. Different materials can be used to build a trellis including nylon trellis netting,

which can last many years in the sun and still maintain its strength holding up to sixty pounds of crops.

- Self-watering containers can help take a lot of work out of gardening. They are very practical for balconies, decks, and other small places. Some gardeners prefer them over traditional gardening. You can even make your own.

- You can easily create a hanging garden with some simple containers like plastic bottles. There are many good DIY videos on the Internet to help get you started.



## Biblical Stewardship of Creation

In Mark 4:26–29, Jesus teaches us the parable of the seed. "And He said, 'The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'"

The amazing power that God has placed inside each seed reveals how He works through nature to feed the world. Jesus used the common practice of sowing seeds and explaining how they germinate to teach us how we as Christians grow in our spiritual life. The mystery of how each seed holds the replication of itself has been in existence since the third day of the Creation week. "'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'" (Genesis 1:11).

As the seed sends its roots down into the soil, it drinks in the nutrients and moisture while sunshine and the miracle of photosynthesis gives back to others oxygen along with the fruit that the plant produces. As Christians, we, too, must put our roots deep into the soil of good nutrients and moisture of God's Word and share the fruit that comes forth through His spirit.





Lori Williams

*Well designed borders line the garden pathways.*

# the building of

**J**ust over a hundred years ago, an Alabama businessman asked his doctor a timely question: "What should I do about this epidemic?" And although social distancing as we know it during the Covid era was not broadly observed during the 1917 Spanish flu outbreak, the doctor did recommend seclusion.

"If you still want to buy that old fishing camp," the doctor said, "do it."

So, Walter Bellingrath and his wife Bessie traded the comfort of their Ann Street home in Mobile, Alabama, for two rustic cabins situated on the Fowl River. From this simple beginning Bellingrath Gardens and later a larger home emerged, both of which now hold recognition on the United States' National Register of Historic Places.

When I visited in June, I saw hints of what I later learned to be true about the Bellingraths. In the Live Oak Plaza portion of the garden I admired the bronze relief of Rebecca at the well filling her pitcher as told in Genesis 24. I wondered, did the Bellingraths know Jesus,

*g a r d e n s   f r o m   e d e n*





Bellingrath Gardens

*Cascading mums reflect in the pond.*

# bellingrath

the Wellspring of life? After seeing everything from allamenda to zinnias and noticing the seamless presentation of the home and gardens, I wondered if the couple studied the handiwork of the Master Gardener.

According to the director of the Bellingrath Museum Home, the unique setting and garden arrangement revealed that the affluent Walter Bellingrath utilized salvaged cast-iron pieces from buildings about to be demolished to adorn the estate. The flower planters in the Rose Garden once served as the columns capitals at the Bank of the State of Alabama in Mobile that was built in 1832. Also saved from destruction were cast-iron railings and columns crafted around 1860 from the Southern Hotel in downtown Mobile.

Although recycling materials may not seem out of place in the twenty-first century, the director explained that it was not popular to build with salvaged materials back in the 1930s. It would be another twenty years before that idea took hold. But eager to create a space fitting

*b y l o r i w i l l i a m s*





*The Bellingrath home holds much of the original furniture.*

with the Alabama landscape colored with azaleas, the Bellingraths opted for handmade brick from the soon to be demolished Vanderbilt mansion in Mobile. They also utilized flagstone from England that had served as ballast on pre-Civil War ships and then as pavers for downtown Mobile sidewalks. When visitors come from England, they tell the director where the different colors of flagstone originated.

Walter Bellingrath's riches originated in bottles of Coca-Cola. In 1903 he purchased the rights to sell the beverage in Mobile. He often walked the tracks within the 100-mile radius of his franchise territory because he lacked money for train fare. Upon returning to his bottling plant, Bellingrath and one assistant used a hand-and-foot powered bottling machine to fill orders. Then it was time to load the wagon, harness the mule, make deliveries, and collect empty bottles that were then washed by hand.

Though Bellingrath eventually prospered financially, he also recognized that "the diligent man will get precious wealth" (Proverbs 12:27, ESV). The fishing camp where his doctor advised him to rest was, in Bellingrath's words, little more than a "semitropical jungle." At first he worked with just one helper (his father-in-law) to clear debris and haul water from the river. Today almost a thousand acres of the property are set aside as undeveloped green spaces. There is even a boardwalk that gives visitors a close-up look at the bayou ecosystem.

The Bellingraths clearly knew the meaning of wholesome living in an Eden-like setting. This earth and all it contains are a gift from God. "The heavens are the Lord's heavens," says the psalmist in 115:16 (ESV), "but the earth He has given to the children of man." The Hebrew for "has given" is *nā-tan*, which appears 187 times in the Old Testament, including God's giving of children (Genesis 48:9), manna (Exodus 16:15), the Promised Land (Numbers 32:7), rest and





Lori Williams

*A plaque shows Rebecca at the well and the biblical influence in the gardens.*

deliverance (Joshua 21:44), and wisdom (I Kings 5:12). When we honor the Creator with the stewardship of these gifts, we are blessed in return.

Live Oak Plaza is my favorite section of the garden. As I bend under the Spanish moss cascading from the oaks, I feel as if I'm parting a veil and stepping into a holy place. This is where Bellingrath Gardens holds its annual Easter Sunrise Service. It is hushed and cool here, with water gurgling into fountains and through runnels from a deep artesian well. The bronze relief of Rebecca at the well, flanked by flower planters and framed by live oak branches, anchors the space.

Although the history of the bronze plaque is unknown, this much is certain: Bessie Bellingrath gathered inspiration from the Old Testament woman who graciously drew water for a thirsty traveler and his camels. Bessie, however, drew from her finances. Upon hearing that particular families were struggling during the Great Depression, Bessie showed up at their doorstep and offered to buy whatever was blooming in the family's yard. She paid hundreds of dollars for the plants.

Some of those plants grace the 400-foot-long border of the Great Lawn. You'll want to sink your bare feet into this luscious verdure or at least reach down to make sure the stretch of emerald carpet is real. I believe this is the kind of setting David envisioned when he wrote, "In pastures of tender grass He causeth me to lie down" (Psalm 23:2, YLT).

Today Bellingrath Gardens covers sixty-five acres of the original land purchased by Walter Bellingrath. For every season there is beautiful color, variety, and texture. As promised in Ecclesiastes 3:11, "God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work





*Water features add a splash of refreshment throughout the estate.*

from beginning to end” (NLT). Poinsettias, ornamental kale, and camellias bloom in the colder months. Spring ushers in azaleas, lilies, tulips, and hydrangeas, followed by roses and magnolias. During Alabama’s hot, humid summers, expect to see begonias, jasmine, gardenias, and hibiscus. In the fall the gardens showcase the largest display of cascade mums in the United States. Cultivated from unique plants imported from China, the autumn-hued chrysanthemums drape like bunting over fountains, bridges, and balconies.

Some of the plants are a result of various weather events. In 1979 Hurricane Frederic and its accompanying tornadoes uprooted hundreds of trees and camellias, creating sunny stretches where shade-loving plants once thrived. Plantings were adjusted and garden staff designed new spaces while accepting plant donations from local residents, and the new plants settled in beside old plants with deep roots. The roses had to be excavated, pruned, and refrigerated for future replanting after Hurricane Frederic tore through the garden.

The azaleas came from the Bellingrath’s elegant garden in Mobile, and when in abundance many flowers were cut, arranged in vases, and transported to town. At Mrs. Bellingrath’s request, the floral arrangements were taken to the local infirmary and given to patients who had no flowers.

Though the flowers whisper grace in the breeze that lifts their heads, the comments on the Guest Registry at the Bellingrath estate speak volumes. Visitors often compare this spot to a Garden of Eden.

What a fitting tribute to a woman who sowed generously, both in her garden and in her life as offered in 2 Corinthians 9:6. “Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously (NASB).





Bellingrath Gardens

*Azaleas in the sunlight dazzle visitors.*

This tribute written by Walter Bellingrath after his wife's death in 1943 tells of the couple's special relationship:

*I shall always think of you wandering through a lovely garden,  
Like that which you fashioned with your own hands,  
Where flowers never fade and no cold wind of sorrow,  
Blights our hopes and plans — And on your face,  
The peace of one whose whole life through,  
Walked with God. ©*

---

*Lori Williams is a gardener and freelance writer from Bethany, Oklahoma. She and her daughter, Aurelia, love to smell magnolia blossoms and grow dill for caterpillars that change into butterflies.*



# Genesis Cuisine

*“See, I have given you every herb  
that yields seed which is on  
the face of all the earth,  
and every tree whose  
fruit yields seed;  
to you it shall be for food.”  
“And you shall eat the  
herb of the field.”  
—Genesis 1:29, 3:18*

## Wonderful Waffles

Recipes by Jennifer and Tom Ish, Photos by Melissa Ish





## Asian Sweet and Sour Waffles

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 C. unrefined flour                                    | 2 tsp. Chinese Five Spice         |
| 1 C. oat flour (blended quick oats)                     | 1/4 C. roasted black sesame seeds |
| 1/2 C. rice flour                                       | 1 1/2 C. nondairy milk            |
| 1 egg replacer (1 Tb. flax meal mixed with 2 Tb. water) | 1 Tb. sesame oil                  |
| 2 tsp. baking powder                                    | 1/4 C. safflower oil              |
| 1/2 tsp. salt   | 1/4 C. finely diced scallions     |
|   | 2 Tb. grated fresh ginger         |

Mix egg replacer and set aside to thicken. Mix dry ingredients in a mixing bowl. Whisk the egg replacer into the oil and milk; then add to the dry ingredients being careful not to over-mix. Fold the scallions and fresh ginger into the batter. Heat waffle iron to highest setting, and pour enough batter to cover the surface. Cook times vary with each waffle iron, approx. 4 to 6 min. Remove from iron and serve with your favorite sweet and sour tofu vegetable stir fry.



## Falafel Waffles

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 can garbanzo beans, drained (retain liquid for blending) | 1/2 yellow onion  |
| 1/2 C. fresh parsley                                       | 1 tsp. each: coriander, paprika, cumin powder, salt (or to taste) |
| 3 garlic cloves  | 1/4 tsp. cayenne (or to taste)                                    |

Place all the ingredients into a blender and coarsely mix on a low setting so batter still has some texture. If you need to add some liquid to blend, use the retained liquid from the drained garbanzo beans. (Using a packaged falafel mix is also an option. Simply follow the directions on the box.) Place a large scoop of the batter in the middle of a hot waffle iron and cook until golden brown and done in the middle (approx. 7 min. depending on the waffle iron). Serve with half-inch cubed tomato, cucumber, red onion, and Greek olive halves. Drizzle with tangy dairy-free yogurt mixed with tahini sauce, a little lemon juice, and fresh chopped dill weed.



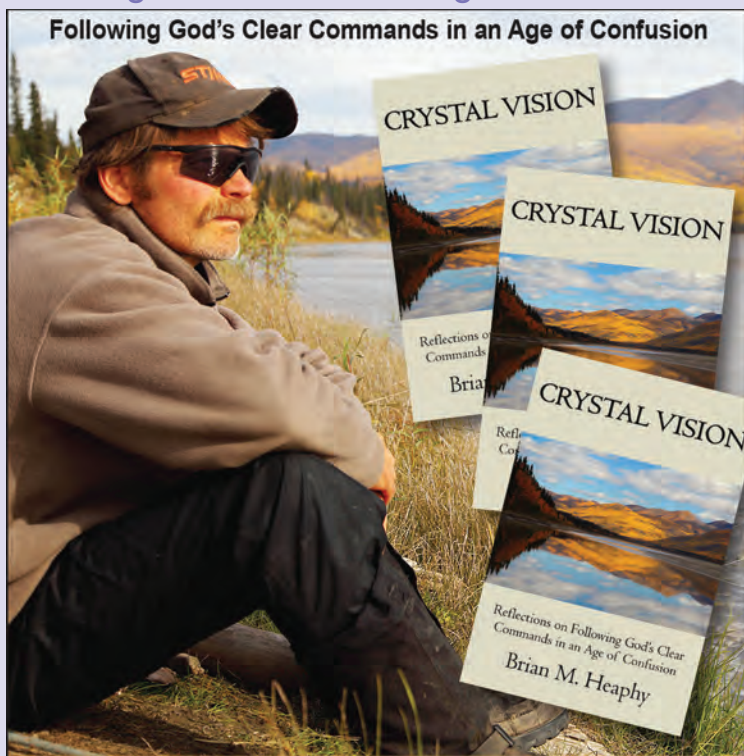
## Lemon Raspberry Heart Waffle Cake

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 C. unrefined flour                                    | 1 1/2 C. nondairy milk                |
| 1 C. oat flour (blended quick oats)                     | 2 to 3 Tb. coconut sugar              |
| 1 egg replacer (1 Tb. flax meal mixed with 2 Tb. water) | 1 tsp. each cinnamon and nutmeg       |
| 2 tsp. baking powder                                    | 1 Tb. coco or carob powder (optional) |
| 1/2 tsp. salt   | Nondairy whipped topping              |
| 1 tsp. vanilla  | Small package lemon pudding mix       |
| 2 Tb. safflower oil                                     | 1 C. fresh raspberries                |

Mix egg replacer and set aside to thicken. Mix dry ingredients (not pudding mix) in a bowl. Whisk egg replacer into the oil, vanilla, and milk; then add to the dry ingredients being careful not to over-mix. Heat waffle iron to highest setting and pour enough batter to cover the surface. Cooking time varies with each waffle iron, approx. 4 to 6 min. Layer four waffles with nondairy whipped topping folded with dry pudding mix and fresh raspberries.



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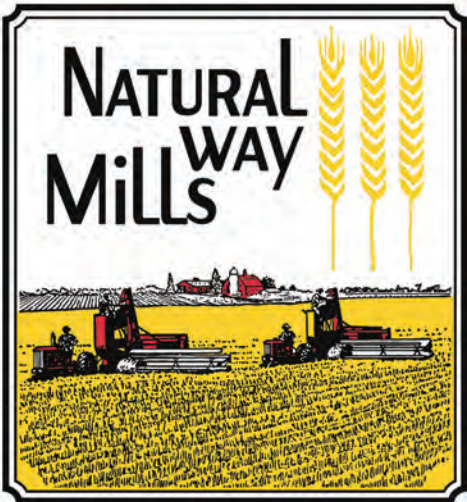


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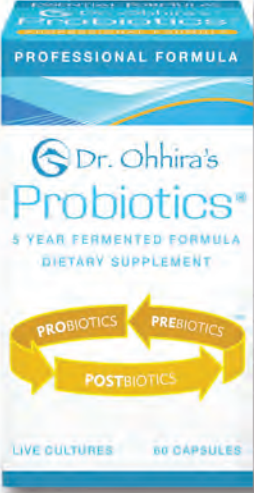
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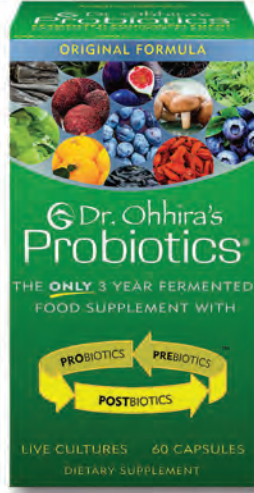
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Christopher was trying to concentrate, but the multiplication tables he was supposed to be memorizing were just not sticking in his memory.

"Dad, I don't know what the pronoun is!" blurted his sister Kaylee. Christopher looked up and across the table at her. Apparently Kaylee's mind couldn't focus on schoolwork either.

Dad sucked in a breath and let it out in a huge sigh as he pushed his hair back with both of his hands.

"I think we all have a touch of spring fever. Who needs a break?" he asked.

All three of them raised their hands and shouted, "Me!"

"Be sure to wear your boots. It's muddy from the snow melting, but I believe the fresh air will do us some good," Dad instructed. Christopher did not need to be told twice. He jumped up to obey as he was definitely ready for time away from schoolwork.

Once everyone was outside, Dad suggested,

A C H I L D R E N ' S S T O R





# Neither Hot Nor Cold

"Let's walk down to the creek and back to get our blood moving." The trio chatted as they walked toward the creek. Kaylee pointed out several of the leaves and birds she recalled from her studies. Christopher ran ahead when he saw a few small piles of snow that needed to be stomped on. He was so intent on his snow pile *smooshing* that he didn't notice Kaylee had come up next to him until she shouted, "Stop!"

Surprised, Christopher stopped immediately

with his foot still in the air. Kaylee bent over to inspect something. "Look, this frog is almost dead," she observed.

Dad stooped down next to her and disagreed, "Nope. This frog is almost alive again." Both of the youth looked to him with confused expressions.

"How can a frog be almost alive?" Christopher asked.

"God gave frogs some pretty unique abilities," Dad explained. "This creature has components in his

Y B Y R U T H O ' N E I L





*A frog under a layer of ice.*

blood that allow his circulation to slow down during the winter months but not let the frog freeze to death.”

“Cool!” Christopher exclaimed as he bent down next to his father.

“You already know a lot of animals hibernate during the winter,” added Dad. “These frogs aren’t exactly the curl-up-in-a-hole cuddly type of animal. Frogs are cold-blooded.”

“That means their bodies are about the same temperature as the air around them,” Christopher interrupted.

Dad smiled. “That’s right. These frogs have an antifreeze of sorts in their system.”

“Like we put in Mom’s car?” Christopher remembered helping his dad with the vehicle’s maintenance a couple months ago.

“Sort of. A frog’s antifreeze is one of the most important fluids in its body,” Dad explained. “During the winter when the temperature drops, the frog’s metabolism drops; its energy level drops; its heart stops beating; and it even quits breathing!”

“How does it keep from dying?” Kaylee wondered.

“It’s called controlled freezing,” Dad added. “As the creature feels the temperature dropping, it begins to store extra urine in the blood instead of releasing it. When the temperature drops to freezing, water is sucked out of the cells so they don’t burst. The liver then begins to produce sugar, which mixes with the urine in the blood to create the antifreeze.”

“Cool!” Christopher remarked.

“Gross!” was Kaylee’s response.

“During this process a frog’s body creates more sugar than it normally would, which helps protect its skin that might be exposed to water during hibernation,” Dad continued. “The antifreeze in frogs keeps bodily fluids from freezing completely but instead turn into a syrupy solution. This *syrup* of sorts keeps the frog’s cells hydrated. It also prevents any water in the frog’s body from forming ice crystals. If you’ve ever left a bottle of water in the freezer for too long, you would see that the ice makes the bottle expand. If the fluids of a frog’s body froze and expanded like that, there is no way it would survive. But frogs can survive freezing cold temperatures if no more than 66 percent of their body fluids freeze.”

“They’re kind of like frog-sickles,” Kaylee cringed.

“As the temperatures begin to warm up in the spring, the frogs thaw out,” Dad concluded.

“It’s like they’re born again,” Christopher noted.

Dad nodded. “Kind of. Let’s leave the little creature alone and walk back to the house.” A moment later he shared an important lesson. “The Bible talks about our temperature as Christians.”



"What?" Neither Christopher nor Kaylee thought they had heard about that.

"It does," Dad continued. "Revelation 3:15 says, 'I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot' (KJV). Do either of you have any idea what that means?"

Neither child spoke for a moment, but then Kaylee voiced her thoughts. "Some Christians are always talking about God, but others don't talk about Him at all."

"Is that what preachers mean when they say people are *on fire* for God?" Christopher asked.

"You're both getting it!" Dad assured the children. "We can't be like that frog that is so cold it's barely alive. And the thawing out stage isn't much better when the creature is lukewarm. That's like knowing the truth of God's Word but not sharing it with anyone. We need to be excited and fully alive like when a frog jumps around full of energy! When we tell others about what God is doing in our lives, we lead them to Christ."

Peter healed the lame beggar near the temple by saying, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. . . . And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6, 8, KJV).

"Well, I definitely don't want to be a cold, stiff, nearly frozen frog," Christopher said.

Cringing again, Kaylee added, "I don't want to be a half-thawed one either."

Dad smiled. "How about we all work together to be excited about God and sharing Him with others?"

Christopher and Kaylee both liked that idea as they continued home walking and leaping and praising God! **C**

---

*Ruth O'Neil writes from Lynchburg, Virginia, where she explores important lessons found in nature that are worth sharing.*





## CREATION CHARACTER-BUILDING LESSON

# ENDURANCE



The dandelion carries its gospel through its seeds to every nation, kindred tongue and people the world over. I found a dandelion plant growing at the 8,000 foot level of Whistler Mt. near Jasper, Alberta. This plant grows here because it lives quietly the qualities of endurance. The ten secrets of endurance found in this book are part of this plant's lifestyle. They are part of its very nature. They all work together enabling this plant to grow where almost nothing else can grow. God's love has in it this quality of endurance. "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you" Jeremiah 31:3.

If we do not resist this enduring love we will be drawn to Him. This divine love was manifested in the humanity of Jesus. He revealed the ten qualities of our dandelion plant by obeying God's ten commandments. "He endured the cross, despising the shame" Hebrews 12:2.

His love implanted in our hearts will make us loving and kind. Those around us may be rude, hateful or selfish. The same hatred that has slain the godly from Abel, the first martyr, to

### PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Find a healthy looking dandelion plant. Carefully mark the spot where it is growing with a stick stuck into the ground as a marker, so you can find it again. With a pair of scissors cut off the leaves and the flower. Note the day on the calendar and check your marked spot every day to see how long it takes to grow new leaves and flower. When the flower has grown back, repeat this experiment. How many times will the plant regrow? How does this endurance compare with 2 Corinthians 4:7-11; James 1:2-4; 12-14.

the cross, will eventually be directed against any who live God's law of love. Jesus encourages us, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" John 16:33.

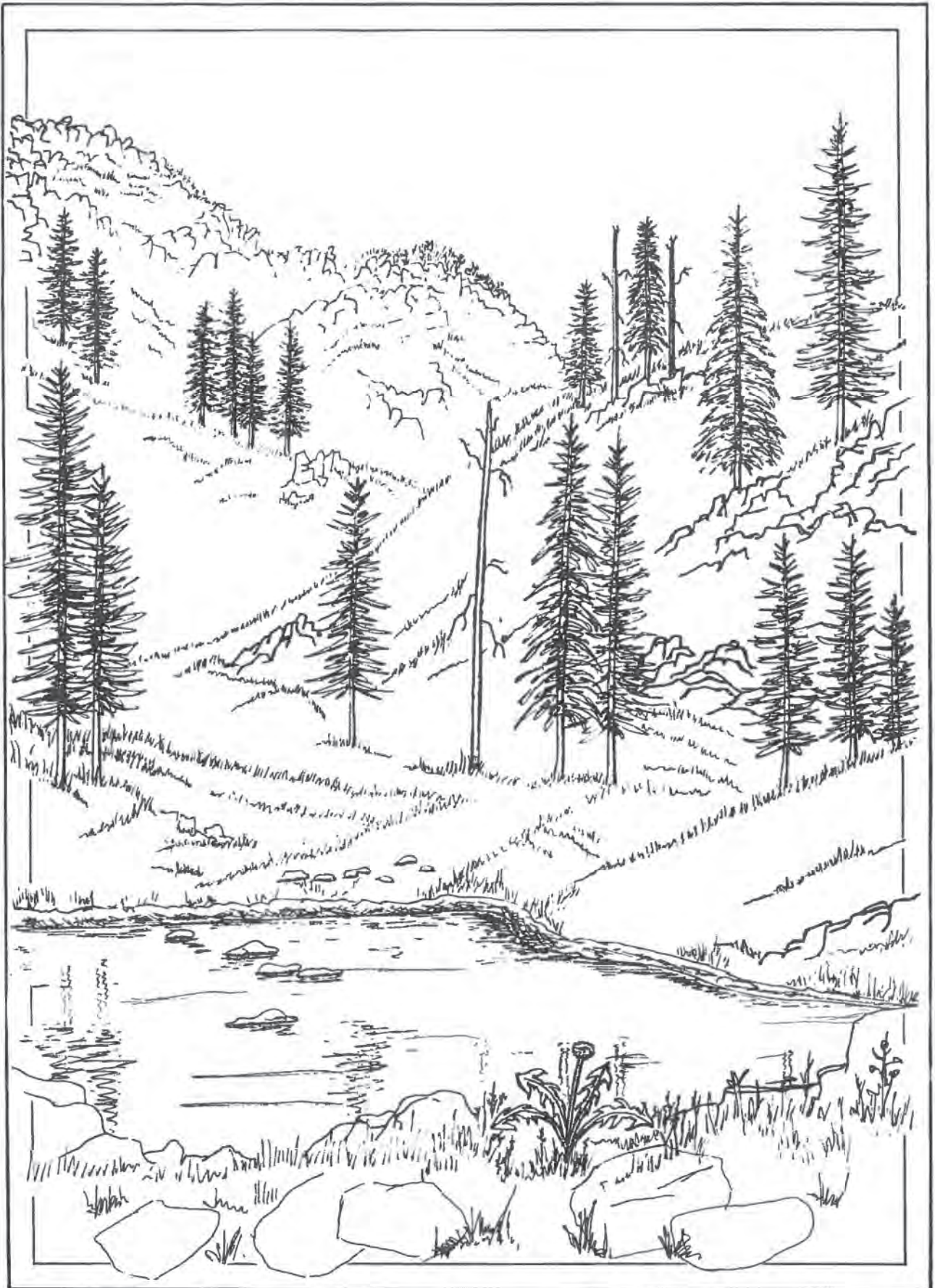
Dandelions are still blooming around the world in very difficult places. They demonstrate the quality of endurance. Every true follower of Jesus will live this quality of endurance anywhere in our dying world.



This character-building lesson was excerpted from *The Gospel According to a Dandelion* book by Terry and Jean McComb. To order the complete book and others in their series, go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com).







Spring 2021 Coloring Contest

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

(deadline & details on page 60)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_



## Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest



*First Place, ages 6–11*

*Elias S., age 8, Newnan, Georgia*



## Winners From the Winter 2021 Edition Character-Building Lesson



*First Place, ages 12–18*

*Grace I., age 13, Ventura, California*

*First Place, ages 19+*

*Nancy S., age 63, White Salmon, Washington*

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest for ALL Ages!** Color in the picture on the previous page from the Character-Building Lesson. You can even add other creatures, clouds, sky, etc. Then scan or photograph your work (maximum one per quarter) and email an attached jpeg to: [coloring@creationillustrated.com](mailto:coloring@creationillustrated.com), Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for spring 2021 entries is May 15, 2021**. Your work will be uploaded to our Web site and Facebook pages where you and others can vote for (Like) any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12–18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of June from spring-edition pictures, the first week of September from summer-edition pictures, the first week of December from fall-edition pictures, and the first week of March from winter-edition pictures. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)



# Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

## Winners From Winter 2021 Submissions



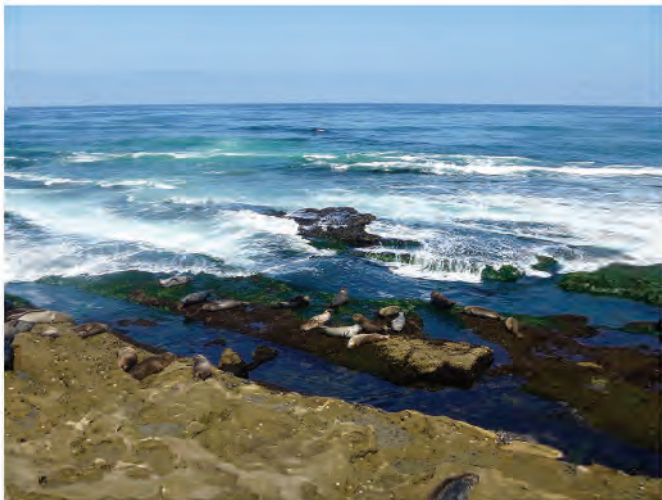
### *First Place, ages 6–11 (left)*

*Eliesah A., age 10, of Rose Valley, Saskatchewan, quoted Psalm 51:7, “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”*



### *First Place, ages 12–18 (right)*

*Rianna K., age 13, of Colfax, California, wrote: “God doesn’t just create flowers in bland colors; He makes them brightly colored just to please us and to make them prettier.”*



### *First Place, ages 19+ (left)*

*Gerald I., age 52, of Ventura, California, wrote: “I took this picture of the seals at La Jolla Cove, California. As I stood looking at this, I was in awe of the beauty of God’s creation.”*

Here’s how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Photo Contest for ALL Ages!** Get creative with your camera in nature and email an attached jpeg (maximum one per quarter) to: [photos@creationillustrated.com](mailto:photos@creationillustrated.com) Subject Line: Photo Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address and one or two sentences on what your photo says about our Creator. The **DEADLINE for spring 2021 entries is May 15, 2021**. Your work will be uploaded to our Web site and Facebook pages where you and others can vote for (Like) any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12 –18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of June from spring submissions, the first week of September from summer submissions, the first week of December from fall submissions, and the first week of March from winter submissions. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)





## STUDY GUIDE

### for *Creation Illustrated*, Spring 2021 Edition, Vol. 28, No. 1

This instructional guide is designed to help readers of all ages integrate practical spiritual lessons available through the study of God's handiwork. Studying nature will help lead individuals to a personal, awe-inspiring relationship with Jesus Christ, the Author of Creation.

#### I. Creation Up Close—"Fragrance" story, pages 6–11

1. The theory of evolution is concerned with survival of the fittest, but God's creative work goes beyond this. List four key aspects God considered when He created man. p. 7
2. List some of the benefits of fragrances and how they are used. pp. 8, 9
3. What special roles did fragrance play in the sanctuary service? (See Exodus 30:34, 35.) p. 10
4. What strict instructions were given regarding the holy fragrance used in worship? What spiritual significance is found in this process? p. 10
5. To God, worship from us is as a sweet fragrance; how can we make our lives fragrant for God? pp. 10, 11

**For a Full Unit Study on Fragrance, go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)**



#### II. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—"Swooning Swans" story, pages 12–19

1. List the different species of swans. p. 12
2. Swans are the heaviest and largest of waterfowls. How many yards do they need in order to take off and fly? How many miles per hour can they fly? p. 15
3. Describe what swans do to protect their nests and young. Explain the spiritual lesson this helps demonstrate. (See Deuteronomy 20:4.) p. 16
4. What traits do swan families have that help show God's love to us? (See Psalm 36:5, Hebrew 13:5.) p. 16
5. List two unique traits of the black swan. p. 19

#### III. Re-Creation and Restoration Outdoors—"Above Papua Indonesia" story, pages 20–27

1. What did the runway look like that the bush plane landed on in the jungle village of Korupun? p. 23
2. List the ways the native people of Papua are helped with the bush planes services. p. 24
3. How many plant species does the world record-holding New Guinea have? How many are found only on this island? How many vertebrate species populate the island? p. 25
4. Does New Guinea have any mammal predators besides humanity in the island?
5. Who knows all the names of the flora and fauna and is interested in them? (See Psalm 50:11.) pp. 25, 26

#### IV. The Creation Week—"Creation Day 5, Part 1—Sea Creatures" story, pages 28–37

1. What role do boundaries play with the creation of fish? What instruction do we receive from God to help guard our boundaries? (See Proverbs 4:23 and Isaiah 26:3.) pp. 29, 30
2. How much of the world's water do the oceans hold, and about how many fish live in them? p. 30
3. Recent studies indicate that fish have the capacity to experience what two traits? p. 31
4. What fish uses electrical signals to communicate? What fish moves faster than a cheetah? pp. 31, 34
5. What can inspire us all to live within the boundaries established for our well-being? p. 36



## Spring Family Fun Activities

Planting a butterfly garden can make a difference in saving some of these stunning creatures from extinction! Today the beautiful and much revered monarch butterfly is on the most endangered species list and needs our help by taking action this spring and planting the food butterflies and especially the monarch butterfly need. Just saving one butterfly can make a difference! Here are some suggestions to help you build a wonderful butterfly garden!

1. Butterflies enjoy sunlight; so, find a sunny location to plant your garden that is sheltered from wind.
2. Visit your local nursery that specializes in native plants to locate milkweed for the monarch caterpillar to eat and other plants that perhaps other butterfly larvae feed on. Butterfly nectar plants such as black-eyed Susans, asters, butterfly bushes, cosmos, sweet peas, marigolds, and zinnias are some good choices. Be sure the plants you buy are free of pesticides. The plants you select will depend on your location and climate. Try to have varying heights as this helps protect the blossoms from the wind.
3. Place some large, flat rocks in the sun where the butterflies can rest and be warm during cool mornings.
4. Providing water is important, but butterflies do not drink from open water like lakes. You can make a *puddle-like* watering area with sand over some gardening plastic or by using a shallow container like an old birdbath where you can put wet sand so they can drink safely.
5. In addition to planting flowers, also plant a few shrubs and trees where butterflies can rest and roost during the night and on hot days.



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T	O	E	N	R	O	B	R	I	A	B	Z

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The puzzle at the left contains words that are associated with this edition of *Creation Illustrated*. Simply find the words listed below and circle them. They can be spelled backward, forward, up, down, or diagonally. When you are finished, try to find the story or other part of the magazine from which each word came.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. AIRBORNE   | 11. NECK    |
| 2. BOUNDARIES | 12. PAPUA   |
| 3. CREATED    | 13. PLANE   |
| 4. CYGNETS    | 14. PLANT   |
| 5. FISH       | 15. SENSE   |
| 6. FOWL       | 16. SPECIES |
| 7. FRAGRANCE  | 17. SWANS   |
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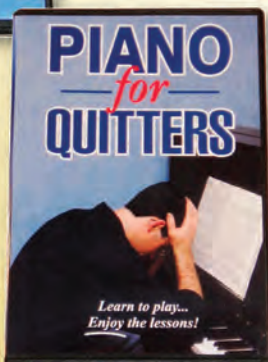
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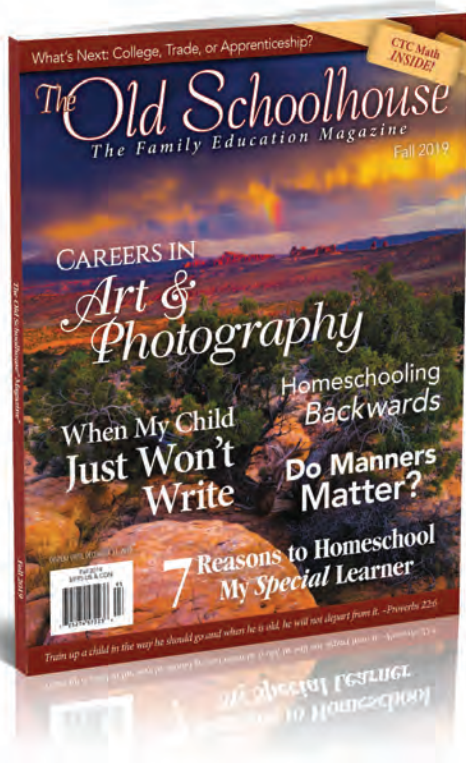


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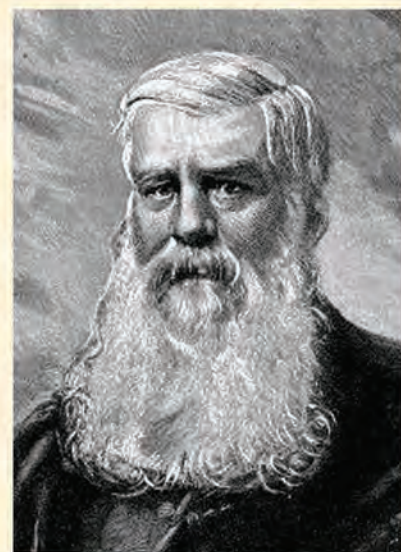
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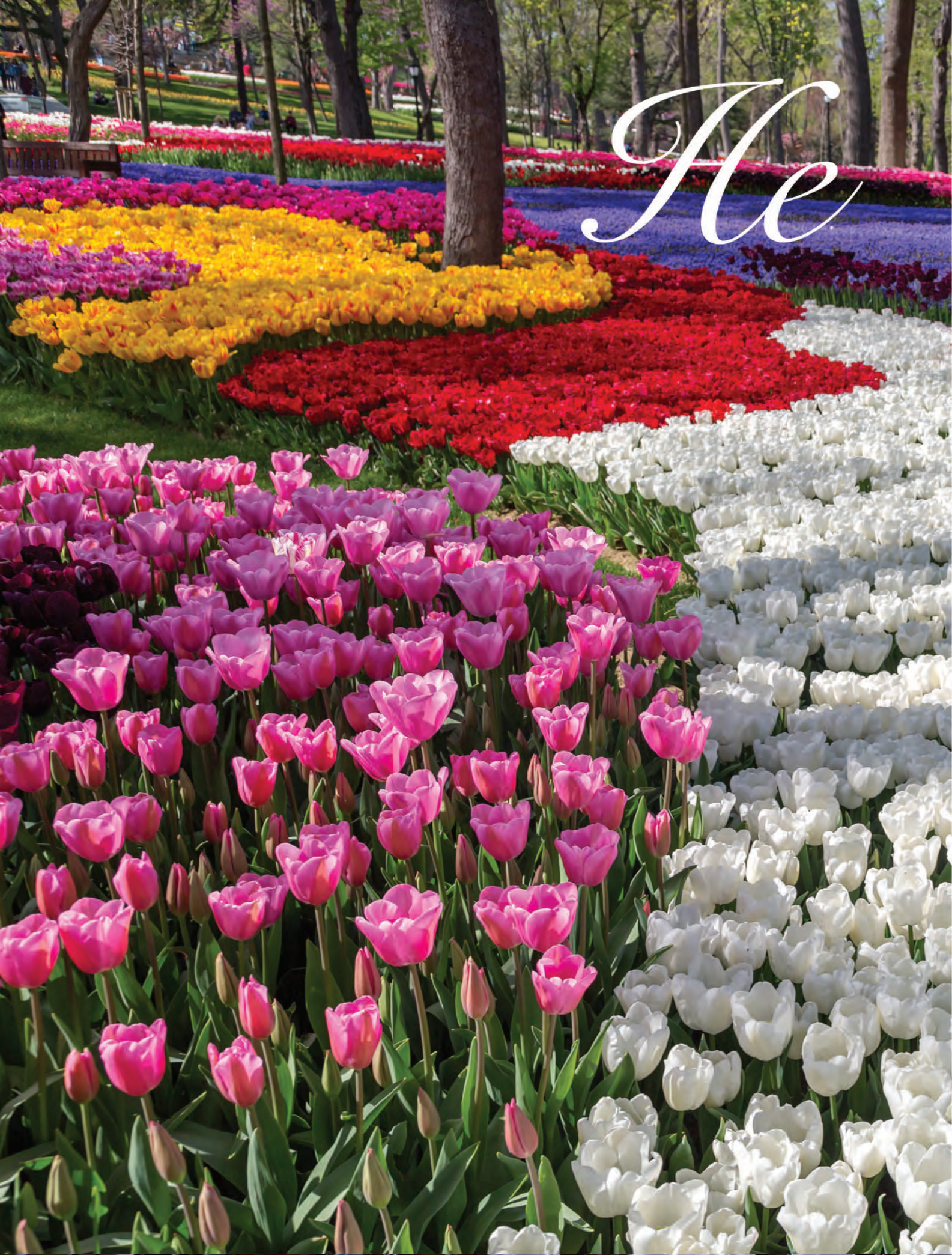
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K



A photograph of a large, colorful tulip garden in a park. The foreground is filled with rows of white tulips, transitioning into red, then yellow, and finally purple tulips in the background. Tall trees line the path, and a black lamppost is visible in the distance.


# *Paints*

*God — the master artist  
Paints the blades of grass with dew.  
Paints the brown upon the sparrow,  
Paints the sun a golden hue.  
Then He with true artistic form,  
Paints joy where sorrows grew.*

*God — the master artist  
Paints the crystal mountain streams.  
Paints the lily of the valley,  
Paints our lonely lives with dreams.  
Then He with mercy, poise, and grace,  
Paints love on you and me.*

— Marcia Leaser





*"He who sows  
bountifully will  
also reap  
bountifully."*

— 2 Corinthians 9:6

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