

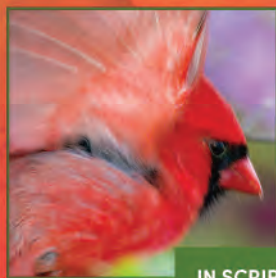
Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR GETAWAY ...



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

SUMMER 2021 VOL 28 NO 2 US \$4.99





*“Praise the Lord
from the earth,
You great sea creatures
and all the depths;”*

— Psalm 148:7



Our Why



Prior to launching *Creation Illustrated* in 1993, we researched the pros and cons of producing a magazine. One startling statistic caused us to pause . . . somewhat. The publishing industry research showed an 80 percent failure rate for new magazines in their first year! This demise proved worse than opening a new restaurant, which generally has a 50 percent failure rate.

In our prayerful quandary, we sought God's guidance as we pondered—should we move forward? God inspired our hearts to step out in faith. With a small loan from an encouraging businessman, *Creation Illustrated* became a reality while claiming promises found in 1 Corinthians 1:27–30. "But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (ESV). If this faith venture worked, all glory and honor would go to God.

We knew He could see us through the highs and lows of publishing, but because marketing the publication was so costly, we were not able to launch it with a big promotional budget that most new magazines have available. With humble beginnings and much prayer, *Creation Illustrated* gradually grew by some direct mail efforts but mostly by word of mouth. Today we still seek to grow to a more sustainable level so many more souls can be blessed by the spiritually uplifting articles, captivating photos, and character-building lessons that bring conviction.

In the last decade with the rise of digital media and a smart phone or tablet in almost every hand, the availability of nearly infinite information 24/7 placed us in a tumultuous rising tide of messages vying for attention. As a result, the publishing industry has taken a big hit. The estimated revenue of periodicals in the U.S. fell sharply from 46 billion in 2007 to just over 26 billion in 2019. Even the giants in publishing like Meredith Corp. have seen great decreases in subscriptions and ad revenues that we also experienced.

Where does that leave our modest nonprofit publishing ministry? We continue to press forward amid the onslaught of competing forces. But since we do not espouse survival of the fittest, we trust that our surrender to God's will is sufficient. The good news is that U.S. consumers still prefer reading print magazines over digital. In fact, the total number of magazine readers in the U.S. has actually seen a slight increase in the last decade.

We wear a lot of different hats here at Creation Illustrated Ministries; our staff remains small in order to stay lean and afloat in stormy waters. Our two main prayers when we started were (1) to provide a top-quality publication that is easy to share, and (2) that it would attract faithful readers from a variety of different backgrounds. We welcome your prayers, your willingness to spread the word about *Creation Illustrated*, and your very generous donations that encourage us beyond measure! By God's sustaining grace we will continue to reveal His glory to a hurting world that needs this transformational Creation message so that all can become a *new* Creation in Christ Jesus. That's why.

The Publishers

Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 28, No. 2

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 citrus fruit slices was taken by Lukas Gajda.

This cover is dedicated to the editor's late brother-in-law, Navy Capt. (Ret.) Ron Belanger, 69, who recently passed away unexpectedly and was passionate about the color orange for several decades.

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Refresh

With summertime activities and gatherings starting again after a long year of isolation, life almost feels as if we're hitting the *refresh* icon on our computer's browser and reloading a newly revised version of our daily agendas. Going places, especially on outdoor adventures in pleasant weather, and reconnecting with cherished relationships reminds us that this is how the Creator designed us to optimally function.

One author tells of exploring her area in the mountains of Georgia where she discovered refreshing waterfalls and the positive effects of negative ions in the air generated by rushing water. Feel the cool breeze amid lush, wooded verdure with the sound of cascading water. What could be more refreshing?

Even summer camps are reopening to allow youth to gather, grow, and learn firsthand from the handiwork of the Creator. In this issue's children's story, discover new outdoor experiences gained at camp like picking blueberries that *refresh* even the most social-media-saturated minds and can only be surpassed by the delight of sharing a freshly baked blueberry pie.

Or better yet, travel to the other side of the globe in this edition's "Re-creation Outdoors" feature to dip into a refreshing diver's paradise along the outer island shores of Papua Indonesia. The undersea spectacles hide just beneath the water's surface and provide an other-worldly glimpse at the vast imagination of the Creator.

Such a dazzling array of life can only be matched by the winged creatures created on day five of the Creation week as covered in the article on birds. Observing divinely-designed avian abilities combined with a myriad of feather adornments provides a refreshing perspective for our blue-screen-fatigued eyeballs—eyes that need to be alert and agile to follow the darting aerobatics of one summertime gem that is the focus of the creature story on dragonflies.

Of course picnics and barbecues provide an ideal excuse to connect and get away from one's usual dining room fare. So, why not try some of this issue's refreshing Genesis Cuisine recipes like rhubarb slaw, vegetable kabobs with rhubarb barbecue sauce, or some rhubarb-cherry ice cream?

But even as we bask in the warmth of summer and devour freshly picked taste treats and gaze at the saturating colors of blossoms and greenery, an occasional thundershower can suddenly refresh and cleanse our surroundings in a way that brings everything to life again. That is unless you are surrounded by the parched, red-rock walls of the Grand Canyon where such downpours can cause dangerous flash flooding. Walk with the author of "Caught in a Flood" where one must rely on others and faith to safely escape the unexpected challenge.

Regardless of where or how you find your refreshment this summer, create a new memory with others that can be cherished and repeatedly recalled to refresh your soul over and over again, just as Paul sought to share precious moments with fellow believers as told in Romans 15:32, 33, "that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. Now the God of peace be with you all."



Tom Ish

Tom Ish, editor/publisher

Sharing Our Mail

PayPal . . .

I would like to purchase two one-year subscriptions for two families. I did not see an option online. Payment would be PayPal.

S. Carr

Oalm Coast, Florida

Editor's Note: We have a number of subscriptions options available through our online store—one- and two-year, digital, print, international—with our secure subscription ordering system which also handles PayPal.

Just cried . . .

I am thankful I discovered some back issues of your magazine

the other day and called you to see if you are still printing! I enjoyed talking with you so very much.

I am so very impressed with your *Creation Illustrated* magazine; it truly inspired my heart to share some notable facts about God's wonderful creative power in His beautiful world! I just cried as I read the Fall 2001 edition; it was wonderful.

I am a missionary among the Native Americans here in Cherokee, North Carolina. Thank you for considering the ministry here and for the good input your magazine would bring to these people. I really appreciate your honest concern about their spiritual welfare and sending some back issues of your magazine.

J. Buttermore

Bryson City, Nebraska

Creator worship . . .

I have enjoyed recently reading a digital copy of *Creation Illustrated*, particularly an article on orchids. It resonated with me as admiring flowers and gardening are ways that God often meets me and

causes me to marvel and worship Him as Creator. I love that this magazine exists, allowing readers to worship God more as we marvel together over the work of His hands.

I am also thankful for the opportunity to be considered to share a piece of writing in this important magazine. Grace and peace,

A. Holsteen

Guardbridge, Scotland

Incarcerated . . .

I am currently incarcerated at the Morgan County Jail in Martinsville, Indiana. I am writing to request a subscription to your magazine.

I learned about it because I received one in a Christmas care package from the Christmas Behind Bars Ministry, and I really enjoyed the photography and messages. The magazine really lifted my spirits. God bless.

T. Kern

Martinsville, Indiana

2005 Edition . . .

I am not a subscriber, but I was drawn one day to this magazine that 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 shared and how understanding that science gives us a deeper appreciation of God's world. It reminds me of the psalmist's words, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4, KJV).

What is your view on the King James Version of the Bible? Why do you use the new versions?

R. Moore

San Antonio, Texas

Editor's Note: Thank you for asking about the versions of the Bible we use. We mainly use the New King James Version for ease of reading especially for the youth, but we allow our writers to use the versions that best fit the vital lessons that their articles share, which often includes the King James Version. We encourage our readers to look up the quoted verses in their preferred version to bring about deeper understanding and Bible study—especially if they read the Bible in a foreign language.

Dear Friends:

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

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RECREATION OUTDOORS

Papua Indone

BY MICHAEL LOMBART



sia By Sea

An aerial photograph of a tropical archipelago. The water is a vibrant turquoise, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. Several islands of various sizes are scattered across the scene, all covered in dense green vegetation. The islands have jagged, rocky edges. In the background, more distant islands and a hazy horizon are visible under a light blue sky with wispy white clouds.

After several hours of flying over the virtually untracked jungle interior of Papua, Indonesia, our single-engine mission plane approached the last leg of our flight en route to the far tip of West Papua to spend a couple of days providing transportation for a conservation project. Up ahead stretched the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean, sprinkled with turquoise-ringed islands of various sizes.



Photos by Michael Lombart

Leaving Sorong and heading out to sea eventually ends in a boat ride to Kri Island.

FELT SO PEACEFUL

Below we could see boats and ferries near the port of Sorong that carried fishermen seeking their catch while others hauled tourist passengers to the various resorts in the area—fantastic diving destinations that attract people from around the world. I’d heard about this place and embraced the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience it firsthand.

As we left the mainland behind us, our pilot picked up a heading that would take the plane over the area where we would be staying. A few minutes later, Kri Island came into view. We flew alongside the shoreline of the small island giving us a good view of Papua Diving Resorts before continuing onto the airport at the larger island of Waigeo. After landing, a group from Papua Diving picked us up, and soon we found ourselves skimming across the water in an outboard-powered boat on our way to Kri Island.

The sun hovered low on the horizon as we disembarked at the Sorido Bay Resort of Papua Diving. Walking down the pier we soon stepped into a little piece of paradise. Lush rainforests covered the hilly island and spilled down to the shoreline. Small cabins lay nestled in the trees just above the thin strip of sandy white beach.

The calm and tranquil water had no crashing waves. Everything felt so peaceful—a welcomed break from the constant traffic noise that saturated the atmosphere near the mission plane’s home base. Even Jesus instructed His disciples to take a reprieve from the demands of ministry. “And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’ For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31). Although I had forgotten my sweater at the plane, the perfect evening temperature had no hint of chill in the air, and that’s the way it stayed all night—a soothing balm.



They're small, but they're real live sharks.

“Come aside . . . and rest a while.”

Since the conservation project wouldn't start right away, we used the next day to relax and enjoy the surroundings. The resort primarily caters to guests who come to explore the undersea world through scuba diving, but there were still plenty of interesting things to experience without having to breathe from a tank of air.

The first sight to catch my attention the following morning was a large number of fish out in front of the resort nimbly leaping into the air and traveling along the shoreline with great speed. I watched them rapidly hopscotch their way out of view, and then I went out to the pier to see another curious spectacle taking place. A staff member was tossing scraps of meat into the water where they vanished in a flurry of splashes. Our missionary pilot, Gary Roberts, had previously witnessed this morning routine.

“What are they feeding?” I queried.

“Reef sharks,” he explained.

Sure enough, I could look down into the shallow water and see a couple dozen or so small sharks, perhaps three feet long, darting around in a feeding frenzy. Though they were small and mostly harmless, it felt odd to realize I was looking at real sharks a few feet below me.

The nearby forest habitat contained a variety of unique creatures, as well. As we walked along a path toward a shop where our host was rebuilding helicopters for conservation use, we spotted some odd mounds several feet high between the trees.

“Can you guess where those mounds came from?” our host asked. I shook my head.

“They're actually made by something quite small,” he explained. “These are bush turkey nests” . . . yet another amazing creature I had only heard about until now. Though I couldn't



Michael Lombart

Hiking past a bush turkey's mound nest



Overlooking Papua Diving Resorts

SEPARATE, PARALLEL WORLD

spot the birds at the moment, I was fascinated to see the evidence of their industriousness. Bush turkeys build large mounds using dirt, dead leaves, and sticks resulting in tall compost heaps. The heat from the decaying plant material provides the warmth necessary to incubate the bush turkey's eggs. What ingenious abilities our Creator gave His creatures!

The stories surrounding this place frequently included the Lord's role in the work and experiences through the years. One of the distinctive features that sets Papua Diving apart from other similar businesses is that they don't run dive tours on Saturdays, reserving it as a day of rest to honor the biblical Sabbath.

"When we were starting up the resort, people told me, 'You can't be successful if you don't run the tours on Saturdays,'" founder Max Ammer recounted. He was committed to following the Lord, though, and that's exactly what he did. "Then we ended up discovering we were on top of one of the richest diving sites in the world," he laughed with a big grin. Inspired to see how God has blessed Max and the resort really illustrated in my mind the verse that says, "'those who honor Me I will honor'" (1 Samuel 2:30).

As we made our way back to the waterfront, Max offered to let us borrow some equipment and go snorkeling—an opportunity I wouldn't miss for anything. After changing into our swimwear, we collected masks, snorkels, and fins; then launched some paddleboards to go exploring. Having visited here before, Gary knew of a place where we could catch a gentle current and use it to drift alongside a stretch of a shallow coral reef.

Reaching the spot, we put on our masks, lay down on the boards, and dipped our heads into the water. The completely separate, parallel world beneath the water's surface was



Michael Lombart



The undersea parallel world dazzles anyone willing to explore it.

“Let the waters teem with swarms . . .”

stunning. In the clear water I could see scores of brightly colored fish of various shapes and sizes. Some lazily swam in schools while others peeked out from solitary nooks in the coral. Everywhere I looked abounded with life! God wasn't exaggerating when He said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures” (Genesis 1:20, NASB).

Scattered among the coral lay neon-colored starfish, as well as prickly, dark-purple sea urchins with their black barbs keeping curious onlookers at bay. Out of the corner of my eye some movement caught my attention. I turned my head and saw a small sea turtle gracefully swimming away. I wished I had some kind of a camera to capture this underwater spectacle, but I just had to do my best to sear the images into my memory.

The current slowly pulled us along the coral corridor as the scenes of underwater life drifted beneath us with each creature playing its part in the Creator's remarkable marine ecosystem. Getting to just relax and observe it all seemed like riding one of those tram tours at the zoo, except it was so much more fascinating! Plus, on this floating journey we beheld everything in its natural habitat.

Although the water was generally warm, occasional patches of cool water drifted up from the lower depths making the late afternoon a bit chilly. I bade farewell to the aquatic wonderland and followed Gary back to shore. We would be back to work soon, as the conservation project was scheduled to start the following morning.

Our short but unforgettable stay at Kri Island with the undersea excursion had definitely been my cherished highlight of the trip. It's amazing how something as simple as a plastic mask can open a view to a completely new, otherwise-hidden world. As I mused at that concept, a



Raja Ampat with its dense jungle islands surrounded by pristine coral-spangled waters offer a rare taste of paradise.

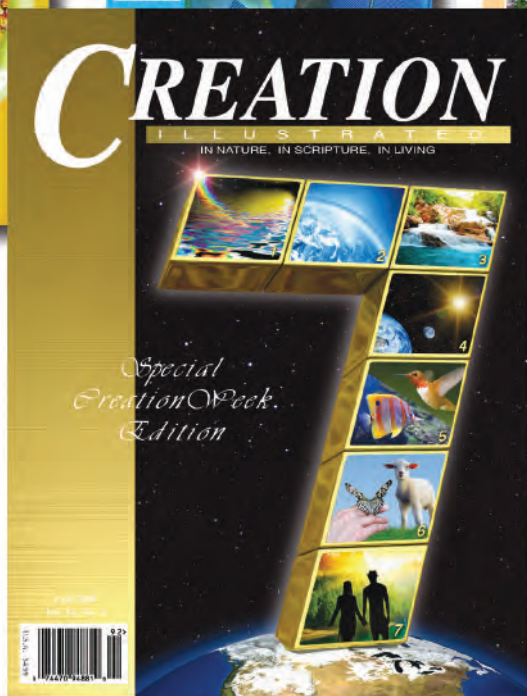
Michael Lombart

T H E R E Y O U M A Y B E A L S O

passage from Scripture suddenly hit me in a way I had never considered it before. “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Just as there is a vast, dazzling world beneath the waves that humans have only recently begun discovering, there also exists a very real heavenly realm that has remained mostly hidden from view. But it won’t remain that way for long! As Jesus promised, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2, 3). I can’t wait to see the things God has prepared for His children far beyond anyone’s imagination—an eternal excursion offered to those who freely choose to embrace it. **C**

Michael Lombart writes from Weimar, California, where he works as a flight instructor after spending two years in Papua, Indonesia, with a mission aviation service. This concludes part two of his three-part series on his experiences in the tropics—by air, by sea, and by land. Watch for the next edition of Creation Illustrated where he will share a week-long adventure at a jungle village in the heart of the region’s mountainous interior.

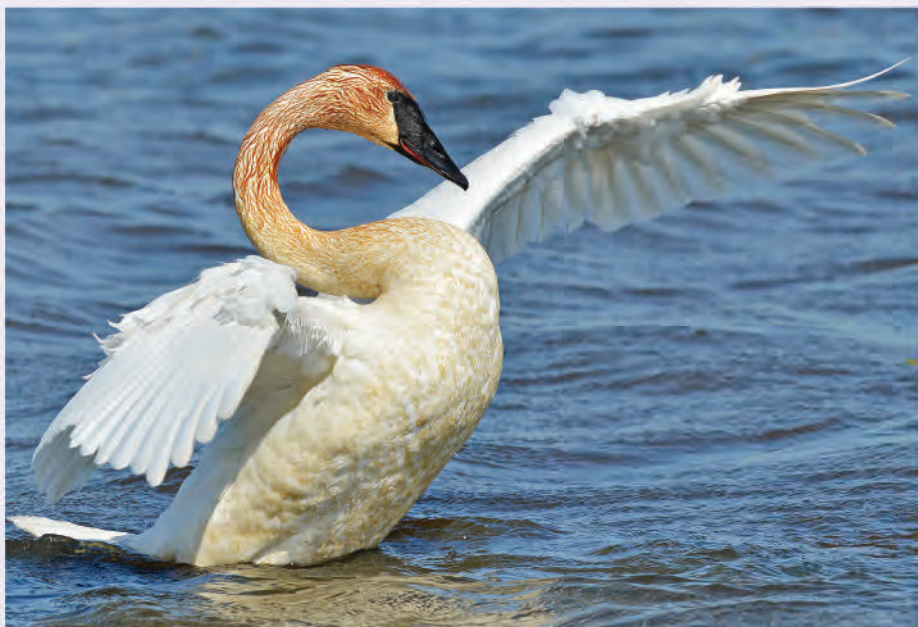


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The Great

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



Trumpeter swan

Black Swamp had been drained and converted to farmland. The loss of habitat and wildlife was devastating. Many species that occupied the swamp became locally extinct.

Yet, all was not lost. Parts of the great swamp closest to Lake Erie were spared. Not out of the goodness of the human heart but because the annual flooding of Lake Erie was unpredictable and simply too expensive to control for the purpose of farming. By the end of the nineteenth century, much of the swamp that could not be converted to farmland was purchased by hunting clubs for the purpose of waterfowl hunting.

These hunting clubs took the first steps necessary for conservation. They maintained a habitat for waterfowl, but this presented an expensive project for private clubs. By the mid-twentieth century, much of the hunting-club holdings had been purchased by state and federal agencies to preserve what little bit of the Great Black Swamp that remained. One of those agencies was the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services that in 1961 purchased 7,000 acres to create the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Over the decades since Ottawa was established into two other refuges, Cedar Point and West Sister Island were created, adding another 3,000 acres of rescued wetlands.. In addition to the federal holdings,



Baltimore oriole

The Great Black Swamp once stretched southwest out of Lake Erie for one hundred miles into what is now northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana. The alluvial swamp averaged some twenty-five miles in width as it tracked to the southwest covering an area of fifteen hundred square miles. The ancient swamp habitat was composed of emergent marshes, wet prairies, forested wetlands, and forested beach ridges. Its habitat zones provided homes for a myriad of birds and animals.

As America grew and expanded westward, the Great Black Swamp became a bonanza for fur traders, lumbermen, and waterfowl market hunters. By the 1850s much of the Great

Black Swamp

BY BOBBY HARRISON

Magee Marsh, a state-owned wildlife area, holds more than twelve hundred acres of the ancient swamp. All totaled, a remnant of more than twelve thousand acres of what was once the Great Black Swamp have been saved.

Today less than three percent of the ancient swamp remains. Yet, that three percent is vital to the preservation of so many avian species. The trumpeter swan that was hunted to extinction in the area has returned with help of federal agencies reintroducing the species. Sandhill cranes now live in the swamp year round, and the majestic bald eagle is common. The swamp again provides a nesting and feeding stopover for more than thirty species of waterfowl throughout the seasons.

But for me, it is the abundance of neotropical migrants passing through each spring and fall that generates so much excitement. Tennessee, Cape May, blackpoll, and Wilson's warblers highlight just a few of the species that stop in the wetlands and forest to refuel on their northern and southern sojourns. Birds like the rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, and Baltimore oriole remain throughout the summer to build nests and rear young.

When I visit this remnant of the great swamp, I am constantly reminded of how much was lost to man's greed and inability to



Cape May warbler

cherish and enjoy the riches of God's creation. Yet, my heart rejoices because I am also reminded that the selfishness that destroyed the Great Black Swamp will not endure. In the book of Isaiah, God tells us that all of His creation will be restored in a new earth. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create" (Isaiah 65:17, 18, KJV). **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



Rose-breasted grosbeak

Healing

C R E A T I O N U P C L O S E , B Y



Victoria Falls, Zambia



Havasupai Falls, Arizona

After weeks of chaotic daily routines during the pandemic, my mom, grandma, and I decided we must do something to escape life's upheaval. We live in the mountains of Georgia surrounded by bountiful hiking trails, and since most other activities had virtually vanished, we decided to start hiking on a regular basis. While enjoying these treks, I gained much more than just relief from the stresses of a restricted life; I cherished a fresh appreciation for one element of God's glorious creation that I had long overlooked—waterfalls.

These cascading spectacles provide a glimpse into a wonderful feature of God's masterful world that reflects His character in multiple ways. Water's symbolic use in scripture and its effect on the human mind and emotions through the ages remains profound, and waterfalls appear in a vast variety of sizes, volume, and strengths.

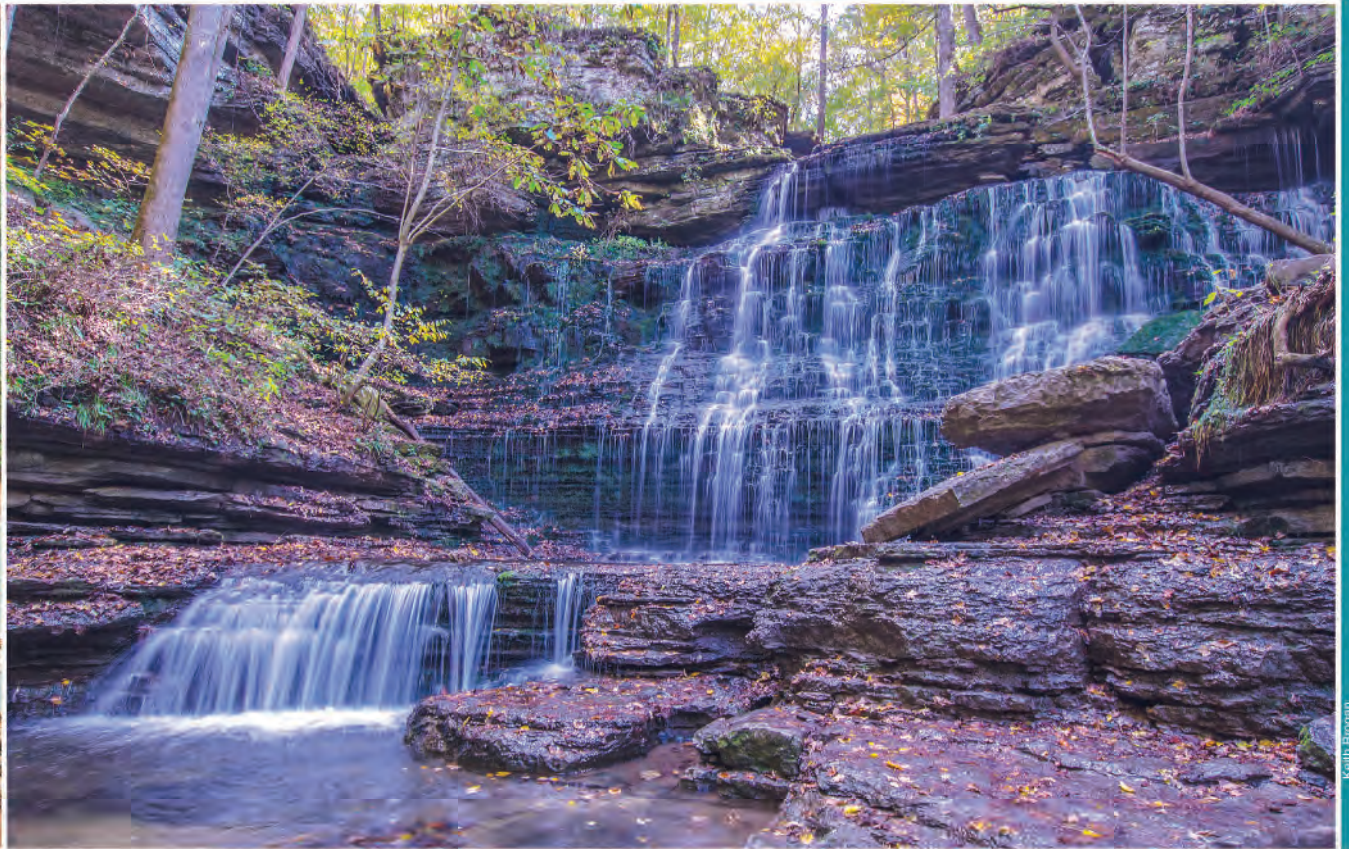
Venezuela's Angel Falls remains the tallest waterfall in the world plunging a massive 3,212 feet. Inga Falls in an area of rapids on Africa's Congo River continually erupts the largest volume of water with more than eleven million gallons flowing each second.

Waterfalls

J O Y M Y E R S W I T H T O M I S H



Jeremy Nicholson



Keith Brogan

Machine Falls, Tennessee

The Denmark Strait cataract is the world's largest *undersea* waterfall between Iceland and Greenland with water falling almost 3,505 meters or 11,500 feet. Countless other waterfalls range from a trickle to a thundering cascade.

Water symbolizes many things in God's Word but mostly spiritual cleansing, salvation, and the relentless promises of the Holy Spirit's comfort and care for God's people. When used as a cleansing force, water typically relates to rebirth and purification. One such instance in John 3:5 says, "Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water

and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" Another example, found in Hebrews 10:22, invites, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." The Bible presents water as a perfect elixir for the spiritual cleansing we must go through to draw close to God.

Water also holds extremely powerful symbolism for salvation in Scripture. "Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3)—a symbol of the flowing love and

salvation God extends to His people. Salvation is often referred to as *living water* such as in John 7:37, 38: “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

Also used in scripture as a symbol of God’s unbreaking promises, Isaiah 44:3 assures, “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring.” God promises comfort to His people, and He uses water to demonstrate this ever-flowing and powerful guarantee.

During the pandemic the waterfalls discovered during our jaunts provided perfect reminders of God’s promises and the healing balm our weary souls craved. Like most people, I felt anxious, abandoned, and in need of assurance that God’s promises of protection would not dry up but instead would keep flowing down on me like rushing water. In addition

to their scriptural significance, waterfalls reveal many unique aspects regarding their formation and a striking similarity to God’s relationship with humans.

When water rushes through an area with significant power, it buffets the rock underneath into a relatively smooth, hard channel that establishes the waterfall’s path. Similarly, God allows certain forces of life to pressure, hew, strengthen, and shape people’s character. James 1:2–4 explains, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

In the same way that waterfalls have to create a path that uncovers the underlying solid rock, God wants the difficulties and problems we go through to help grind us into something strong and difficult to break.

Another fascinating feature of water is the mental clarity and the calming effect it has on our minds. When visiting a restful place like a spa, clients often experience tranquil music and a water feature



Mill Shoals Falls, North Carolina



Ramona Falls, Oregon

in the lobby. Many scientific studies have been done to try to figure out what causes this calming effect, and one important discovery points to the high concentration of negative ions around moving water, especially near oceans or waterfalls. Negative ions increase serotonin levels in the brain, which has many positive effects such as relieving stress and depression, as well as boosting energy. Even without the beneficial effects of negative ions, the sight and sounds of water (including photos and videos) can calm a weary soul.

Waterfalls provide a perfect place to relieve anxiety and help represent the peace God wants to shower upon us. If you go to a waterfall, you will be surrounded by the calming atmosphere of nature; if you go to God, you will be surrounded by His everlasting and all-encompassing peace.

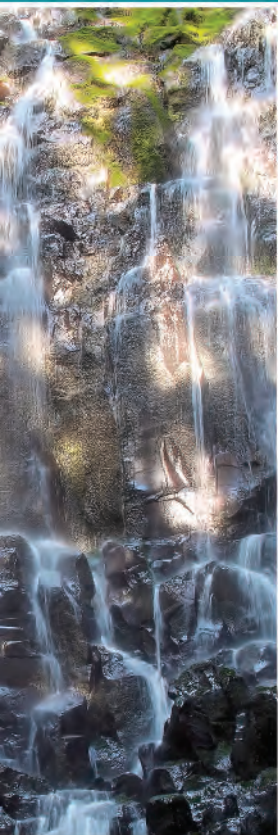
I remember sitting next to one of the waterfalls I reached during one of our hikes, and while purely enjoying the moment, I looked around and discovered about twenty small blue butterflies fluttering around the base of the cascade where I was sitting. They

seemed to be attracted to the tranquility of the waterfall, which triggered a verse in my mind that says, "The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works" (Psalm 145:9).

The peace water provides can be found in multiple passages of scripture. One of the most well-known is Psalm 23:2, "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters." God wants us to have peace that comes from Him, and both still water and waterfalls create a physical manifestation of His creation promoting spiritual peace.

The thrill of finding a waterfall is like discovering a hidden gem—a discovery that will leave you in awe, wonder, and peace. When your world is full of pressures and trials, search for a waterfall and ponder the wonder of it all. **C**

Joy Myers, age 19, writes from Toccoa, Georgia, where she is majoring in English and embraces anything to do with writing and nature. Tom Ish is editor and publisher of Creation Illustrated.



Renee Smith



Renee Smith

Lower Lewis River Falls, Washington





Dazzling Dragonflies

Glorious sunbeams glistened off a remote Adirondack Mountain pool. Mist rose from it like an early morning offering to the Omnipotent, all-loving Being who made this special place possible. I stood in awe of the majesty that surrounded me—from the rugged mountain peaks on all sides to the aromatic fragrance of the balsam fir to the delicate petals of the inconspicuous gold-thread flower. But amid this glory a tiny creature held me spellbound as it landed here, hovered there, and darted everywhere. Have you ever meditated on such an unlikely insect as the dragonfly?

To understand this unique specimen, take a closer look. It hovers and glides gently touching the sparkling water with the tip of its abdomen sending minute ripples everywhere. The pattern of its flight may very well be evidence that this is a female because with each dip of her body it appears that she lays another egg.

In about one to three weeks the thousands of tiny eggs will hatch, and very small, brownish larva

By Tom Hennigan

emerge to live on the bottom of that pond for several months or up to four years. These unassuming grubs will endure eight to fifteen molts before they fully develop. The stage between each molt is called an *instar*, and by the last instar, all of the organs will have formed to sustain their newfound freedom as winged creatures. If you didn't know what to look for, you would never guess that these inconspicuous forms are the infant stage of amazing dragonflies.

The wonderfully designed nymph (baby) remains well camouflaged in browns and greens (often veiled with algae) in its watery abode. Unlike its parents, the nymph has gills located inside the body that extract oxygen from the surrounding water. The water gets drawn into the body through an opening in the back and is circulated over the gills until the oxygen is used. As an added design feature, the youngster can quickly jet propel itself away from danger as the water that it draws into its body for oxygen is forcefully expelled back out, rocketing the morsel of life forward several inches.

The nymph gorges on things like insects, worms, and even small fish. Its mouth is equipped with a unique lower lip hinged in two places and folded under the face; the trap is set. When an insect approaches, that lip turns into a deadly weapon and suddenly extends far past its face in just a few hundredths of a second to snag a victim, which gets stuffed into the nymph's mouth. For their size (one-fourth inch to about three inches) dragonfly nymphs become ferocious underwater predators that are important to humankind. Anglers know them as *bass bugs* that make excellent fishing bait. Actually, their numbers can indicate the health of a water habitat;

so, they are sampled and counted by scientists when water quality is being assessed.

Though a dragonfly nymph is uniquely designed for its murky environment, this obscure life form is like us in strangely wonderful ways. Living in darkness and being born once does not represent its destiny. At God's call, the nymph's former gluttonous way of life must cease. Darkness no longer holds sway, and the new life must take precedence. Amazingly, the animal leaves its former life and swims toward the light of day and the beauty of God's expansive creation. Headed for a life of liberty, the feeble insect locates a plant emerging through the water's surface, crawls up the stem, and simply waits. What happens next is nothing short of a miracle!

A brand new creature breaks forth from the old casing, and slowly the adult insect laboriously emerges. The blood of the creature is pumped through the body that expands along with its wings, transforming them into wondrous lacy appendages. As its strength and vitality manifest, one could say that it has been born again!

The hovering dragonfly contrasts vividly with the former drab creature of darkness; now brilliantly colored in radiant hues, the winged creature dazzles even casual onlookers. Previously, it could only crawl along the bottom of a murky pond and jet forward a few inches if necessary; now the expanse of the sky extends its home. Now free to do what the loving Creator ordained since the beginning, the dragonfly adorns its surroundings like a *blossom* in flight. Although its beauty can be likened to the adornments of the plant world, this dynamic flyer is actually carnivorous and is responsible for keeping small insect

*The dragonfly adorns its surroundings
like a blossom in flight.*



Bryan Reynolds

The dragonfly's compound eye has thirty thousand receptors (above), and its double wings allow for flashy aerobic maneuvers. Pairs mate and lay eggs in a pond (below).



Bryan Reynolds



Bryan Reynolds

“That which has been is what will be . . . and there is nothing new under the sun.”

—Ecclesiastes 1:9



Bryan Reynolds

Damselflies (above and left) are able to fold their wings back along their needle-like, segmented bodies. The dragonfly's vast wing area (below) allows it to dart through the air at thirty to seventy-five miles per hour!



Bryan Reynolds



Bryan Reynolds

pests in check. But as we ponder God's design in allowing creatures to be born again to demonstrate His grace and power as the Creator, we realize that only by beholding such omnipotence can we proclaim, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3).

Gazing in awe at any of the five thousand-plus species of dragonflies (with their ability to cruise, hover, and dart in any direction) reveals the amazing function of their double set of wings. They beat alternately so that while one set is raised, the other is lowered. A rate of one hundred sixty times per minute can thrust the creature forward a hundred times its body lengths in one second, thrust it backwards three body lengths in one second, or allow hovering in place. Additionally, this insect, intricately designed by the hand of God, is also gifted with the ability to drift sideways, fly upward, dive downward, and change direction in an instant. Such precise flight control must be the envy of many aeronautical engineers!

Dragonflies have been clocked flying thirty miles per hour with short bursts of up to seventy-five miles per hour. But with all the wisdom amassed by science, the likelihood of designing a similar man-made flying machine is slim. And even if humans were to accomplish such a feat, all the credit would still need to go to the Creator because, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Within the millions of species in the insect world, dragonflies are actually a suborder of species called *anisoptera*, which is part of the order called *odonata* (hence the study of such creatures is called

odonatology, buttressed by several dragonfly and damselfly societies around the world). Damselflies with their needle-like torso form another suborder called *zygoptera*. Dragonflies and damselflies differ in that damselflies can fold their wings backward over their bodies and dragonflies must hold them straight out to the sides of their thorax. Also, the eyes of the dragonfly appear to almost meet at the top of its head, and its tail end is also slightly enlarged.

The adult dragonfly has been known to migrate 108 miles—a vast expanse compared to its former restricted pond habitat. Although it may live only one to six months (and sometimes a year in the tropics), the mature dragonfly is ready to reproduce. No longer breathing oxygen from the water, the breath of life comes from the air. The dragonfly dare not return to its former way of life, for only death by drowning awaits such an irrational choice. But God's people often slip into their former ways and a mire of doom even though they often know "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Fortunately, God spares many of His creatures from such choices, as well as providing other means of protection. One blessing from the Creator is this creature's oddly shaped body, which is crowned with a disproportionately large head that contains up to thirty thousand individual eyes with each one scanning a narrow field of view. This gift of powerful sight sends data to a tiny brain, which produces a multifaceted image allowing super sensitive motion detection up to forty-four yards away. Coupled with a head that can rotate almost three hundred sixty degrees, the adult dragonfly can remain watchful and

on guard in all directions. We are also called to be especially alert in the final chapters of earth's history because "the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers" (1 Peter 4:7). This link to the all-seeing, all-knowing God will provide insights and a perspective that guides our own journey since "having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).

When observing dragonflies as they walk, one might get the impression that they are not very coordinated with their abnormally long legs not designed to do a lot of walking. However, during flight, those long legs have a valuable function as they hang down to form a basket. When an edible morsel (such as a mosquito) approaches, the dragonfly uses its legs as a net to catch its prey on the fly and devours it as the captor soars.

Though modern helicopter functions are largely based on dragonfly design, scientists remain puzzled because the dragonfly (which many scientists believe is highly evolved) has basically been unchanged through the ages. Fossil evidence reveals that dragonflies of the past were colossal in size with nymphs over a foot long and adults having wingspans of three feet! The oldest fossils show dragonflies as fully formed, highly complex creatures rather than in some intermediate stage of development or evolution.

As followers of Jesus, we know that these specimens of the past were birthed in a paradise. Their finitely complex design began in the mind on an infinitely creative Craftsman in a garden of immeasurable beauty—totally unlike the scenery we find today. The fossil record of dragonflies from this ancient garden exhibit just a morsel of a paradise lost, but they also provide reminders of the paradise yet to come—an earth made new where sin is removed once and for all, death and bloodshed are obliterated, God's original intent is restored in His re-creation, and the people of God are truly set free to soar into the arms of their Savior and Creator! The promise they can claim in Hebrews 6:19 is, "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast"—a hope of things to come that will not flee as long as we meditate on God's handiwork (including the dragonfly) that provides eternal lessons here and now. **C**

Tom Hennigan writes from Georgetown, New York, where he served as a middle school science teacher and draws closer to the Creator through studying the wonder of ecological balances and design. This article was gleaned and updated from the Spring 2000 edition of Creation Illustrated.



Bryan Reynolds



Geography:

Vocabulary & Spelling:

Practice spelling these words, then take a spelling test:

apprehend
microscope
astronomical
innumerable
conscience
perspective
unusually evasive
disproportionately
abhorrent
inconspicuous
causing
laboriously
mould
inter
multicolored
symbol
obscure
prevalence
advancement



Vocabulary Definitions: Show where the correct word fits these definitions:

- _____ something that adds attractiveness or ornamentation
- _____ the science or art of flight
- _____ a thing that is added or attached to something larger or more important
- _____ including or feeling on individual items
- _____ a layer on the inside of something that covers and protects it
- _____ too large or too small in relation to something
- _____ incapable of being measured, limited
- _____ not easily noticed or seen
- _____ a stage in the life of an organism (as an insect) between two successive molts
- _____ having many interrelated parts or facts, entangled or mixed
- _____ making much work, hurried, or peremptory
- _____ to shed an outer covering
- _____ having many aspects, abilities
- _____ the people, people or country
- _____ means that undergo a gradual metamorphosis
- _____ so remote or distant that it is out of the way with
- _____ not clear or definite, ambiguous, vague, or uncertain
- _____ having very great or unlimited authority or power
- _____ a particular way of carrying things that depends on one's experience
- _____ the fact of coming or occurring (as in time)

Dazzling



Dragonflies

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Hummingbirds

“And God said, Let . . . [the] fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created . . .

CREATION DAY 5 PART 2

■ BY ROWENA RICK WITH JENNIFER ISH

The Creation of Birds

Editor's Note: This article is the sixth 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 first part of the sixth day of the Creation week when God created mammals. 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.



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Scarlet macaw

On the fifth day of the Creation week, our benevolent Creator who holds all wisdom of the ages knew that the genetic makeup of His avian creatures would need to perform some amazing feats someday. He knew that the Arctic tern, for example, would need remarkable abilities to migrate a total of 1.5 million miles during its thirty years of life—roughly three trips to the moon and back!

Birds, in fact, became the first air-breathing creatures above the face of the earth. “Then God said, . . . ‘let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens’” (Genesis 1:20). And to this day, they continue to obey their Creator’s commands rooted in the very definition of His character found in 1 John 4:8—“God is love”—that continually

gives gifts to all His creation. But how many of us stop to realize that the birds in our world are one of these blessings that help demonstrate God’s benevolence and love toward us?

God designed the birds to fulfill a definite purpose in our world. In fact, many believe we could not survive on this sin-marred planet without the assistance these feathered friends provide. Yet, we so often take birds for granted and do not consider God’s wisdom when He created so many winged creatures.

The Genesis account continues to chronicle, “And God said, Let . . . [the] fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created . . . every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful,



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Snow geese

and multiply, . . . and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day" (Genesis 1:20–23, KJV). The territorial tendencies of the multiplying birds reveal one of the vital instincts God placed in these unique creatures ensuring that they would spread out and inhabit *all* the earth to partake of the abundance of food so certain regions would not be overrun with insects.

The total number of bird species long believed by the scientific community hovered around nine to ten thousand, but new research has the estimate closer to eighteen thousand species. A decade ago two scientists estimated two hundred to four hundred billion individual birds inhabit the earth, which amounts to about forty to sixty birds per person. And we need every one of those birds

since God created them with a definite purpose in mind. "I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it" (Psalm 50:11, 12, NLT). God gave us the birds, not only to cheer our world and make it more stunning but also to keep in check the rodent and insect populations—especially since insects make up more than ninety percent of creature life forms on earth!

God also planned for many birds to migrate twice a year. Instinctively, migrating birds know where to fly and how to return by navigating with the stars, the sun, and the earth's magnetism, some over vast oceans and higher than the tallest mountains! Hummingbirds weighing as little as an eighth of an

*every winged fowl
after his kind: and
God saw that it was
good. And God
blessed them,
saying, Be fruitful,
and multiply, . . .*



Hannah Jones

Gold finch

ounce travel 600 miles nonstop, and the Ryuppell's griffon vulture has been spotted flying at 37,000 feet—a common cruising altitude of commercial airlines! Bar-headed geese fly over the Himalayan Mountains at heights of 28,000 feet.

Some migratory birds fly at night and navigate through the darkness in the cooler air, which allows them to fly longer. The Creator designed in them physiological adaptations to allow the necessary oxygen and metabolic processes to function during long, non-stop migratory journeys including increased hemoglobin concentrations and gathered energy from water-soluble fatty acids.

Migration routes like the arctic tern's circumpolar travels and the golden plover's flight to the most isolated islands on the earth—Hawaii—astound

researchers. Such long-distance journeys helped give Polynesians clues to discover the islands by following the spring migration of the *kolea* or golden plover from Tahiti to the Hawaiian chain as the birds travel to the North American mainland. The Pacific golden-plover winters across most of the warm Pacific region from Hawaii to New Zealand and Australia; then returns to nest in the arctic and subarctic tundras, thus performing one of the longest annual avian migrations in the world.

In addition to fleeing from snowy winters, migratory birds feed on the abundance of bugs in the tropics. During certain months Singapore hosts thousands of barn swallows from the northern climes. Suddenly they disappear, and a couple months later another swarm



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Northern cardinal

*and let fowl
multiply in the earth.
And the evening
and the morning
were the fifth day”*

—Genesis 1:20–23, KJV

of barn swallows arrive from the south. But these migrating birds do not usually breed in the tropics as there might not be enough food for all the birds and their offspring. According to God’s plan and orchestration, they wait until the winter months have passed in their home breeding grounds where an ample food supply exists, which makes all the extra effort worthwhile. “In all labor there is profit” (Proverbs 14:23). “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty” (Proverbs 21:5).

And baby birds have tremendous appetites. Researchers recently calculated how many insects were consumed in thirty cliff swallows’ nests in twenty days. With seven birds in each nest totaling two hundred swallows eating roughly seven hundred twenty insects per day equals

more than three million bugs total, which impacts an entire ecosystem!

New studies recently found that three billion fewer birds exist in the U.S., with more than one in four birds disappearing in the last fifty years, largely due to a loss of habitat from human encroachment and urban development. In fact, common house cats kill an estimated 2.6 billion birds a year in North America. But some bird species like waterfowl and raptors have experienced an increase.

Some avian species don’t even migrate during the winter months such as the stunning red cardinal. Others include bluebirds, woodpeckers, titmice, juncos, chickadees, and Carolina wrens that can find enough food to survive until spring. A titmouse can grab a sunflower seed or a mouthful of suet and fly off to the woods



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Wild keel-billed toucan

to hide it in the bark of a tree showing that "The wise store up choice food" (Proverbs 21:20, NIV). Unfortunately, other birds can find this storehouse and consume it themselves.

Overall, God in His infinite benevolence designed His avian menagerie to continually help humans. The birds not only consume unwanted insects and rodents, but some are especially made to be garbage collectors that keep the environment clean of dead creatures. Hawks, owls, and vultures do a very good job at this while other species eat weed seeds that helps control rampant spreading of unwanted vegetation.

Perhaps to our greatest benefit, the Creator uses birds to help illustrate His insatiable love for us. One of the most treasured verses is found in Matthew

10:29–31. "'Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.'"

As migratory birds fly thousands of miles fulfilling God's plan for them, many of them fall to the ground unable to complete the journey. They have given their lives in service to humankind, and God sustains them until they have fulfilled their duty. And since sparrows can be found in many countries all over the world, this object lesson can be understood by a multitude of souls as they look to the heavens in gratitude of God's love and plan of salvation. He bids us in the last days to avoid the turmoil of this world in Luke 21:28, "'Now when

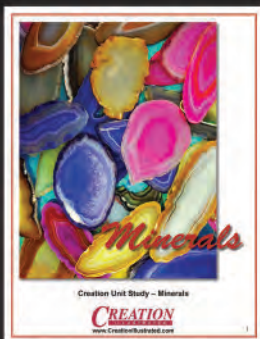


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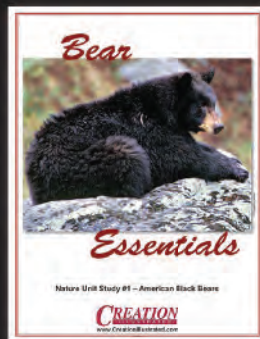
Trumpeter swans

these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.'" The birds created on day five of the Creation week help us do that. **C**

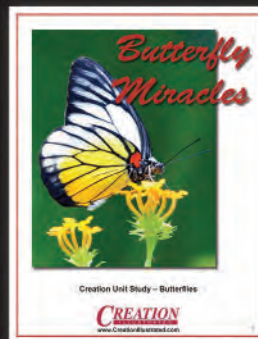
Rowena Rick writes from Breezewood, Pennsylvania, where she finds time in retirement to study and explore the wonders of Creation in order to share the blessings and vital lessons. Jennifer Ish is associate editor of Creation Illustrated.



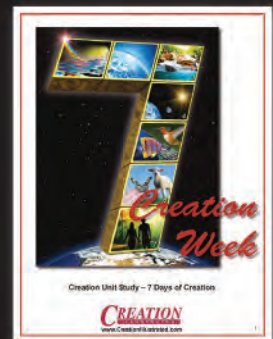
Minerals



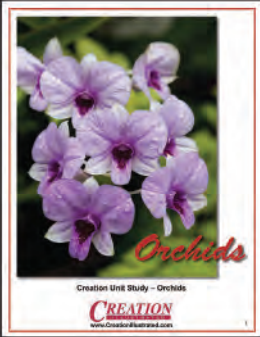
Bears



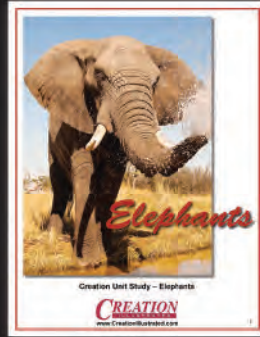
Butterflies



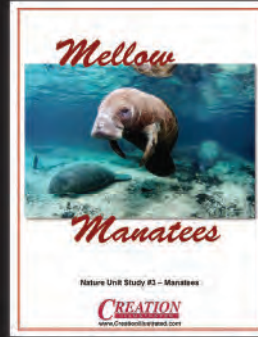
Creation Week



Orchids



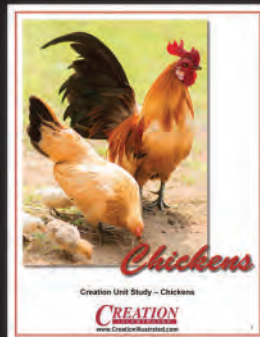
Elephants



Manatees



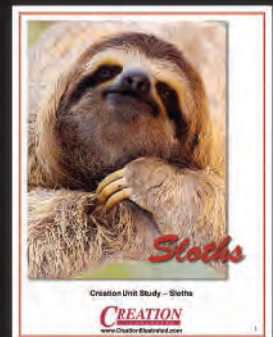
Horses



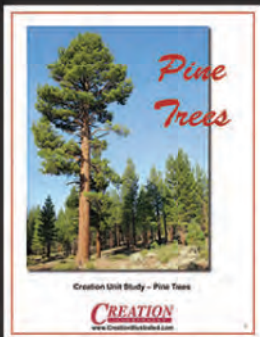
Chickens

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Sloths



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Snow

"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:
Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee . . ." —Job 12:7, 8

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CREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Providing capsules of research on Creation to encourage the pursuit of Bible-based convictions.

Dating of Soft Tissue

In recent years several scientists have reported the occurrence of soft tissue and organic molecules in fossils that in some cases have been assigned ages of tens or hundreds of millions of years based on radiometric dating. Examples of this material include proteins, lipids, DNA, and vascular tissue found in dinosaur bones, shells, teeth, amber, and plants. Even functional bacteria have been found in sediments purportedly millions of years old.

Yet, scientists know that it is impossible for complex organic molecules to be preserved and survive for millions of years. These molecules become unstable and degrade, especially in the presence of water. How are they then preserved in fossils that allegedly are millions of years old? The answer is that there are good reasons to believe that these fossils are only a few thousand years old. The discovery of preserved organic molecules in fossils provides a strong indication that fossils are not as old as radiometric dating and the evolutionary theory suggest, which offers another excellent reason for Christians to study fossils.

Condensed from a Geoscience Research Institute article by Raul Esperante, February 2021, www.grisda.org.

The Genius of Design

Although evolutionary theory says all creatures descended from a common ancestor, when one looks at animals today (or in the fossil record), they appear to be unique creations with the ability to adapt to fit their environments.

What we see is that the human genome works as a four-dimensional *computer*—a three billion letter sequence of DNA that is able to turn sections of itself on and off. It is coiled into 3D fractal spheres where sections folded near each other combine to create new levels of information. It changes shape over time to expose different areas of DNA needed to create tens of thousands of different proteins.

This level of complexity is not limited to the genome but can be seen in the interdependent

relationships between living creatures throughout every ecosystem. Such highly engineered structures and relationships can only exist if they are created simultaneously in a short space of time, which is exactly how the book of Genesis says God created.

Condensed from an article by Thomas Purifory, Jr. of "Is Genesis History?" www.isgenesishistory.com

Fake Fossils

A staggering report in *Science* found that, "One paleontologist estimates that more than eighty percent of marine reptile specimens now on display in Chinese museums have been altered or artificially combined to varying degrees.

An American Museum of Natural History report states, "over the last three decades, a thriving side-industry has grown up around trilobites—one where craftsmen often working in rural outposts in far-away lands, basically manufacture their own *brand* of fossils from glue, plastic, rubber . . . or just about any other reliably pliable compound on which they can lay their artistically-inclined hands.

Such practices have become an accepted part of some trilobite transactions, especially those stemming from the paleontological hotbed of Morocco. . . . Morocco is far from the only place on Planet earth where such paleontological tomfoolery is taking place. Indeed, the history of such deception dates back to the nineteenth century."

Condensed from *Creation Nuggets* by Brian Mariani, March 2021, Alpha Omega Institute, www.DiscoverCreation.org



CREATION STEWARDSHIP

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

Sharing Facts and Figures

The history of green lawns dates back to the European royalty. Lawns were created by nobles and aristocrats in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; then after the American Revolution the trend came to America to be adopted by the new nation's aristocrats such as Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and George Washington at Mount Vernon.

But the general popularity of lawns did not become common until the development of suburbs. Typically, houses were built close to the road without lawns. Then in the 1920s automobile use increased, and after WWII low-cost mortgages helped Americans relocate out of the cities where lawns became an emblem of prosperity and leisure.

Today a well-kept summer lawn appears as a peaceful sense of order to the eyes while providing a refuge and a place to play or relax. A nice lawn can reportedly add around eleven percent to the value of a home, and the smell of freshly mowed lawn releases chemicals in the brain that can increase feelings of happiness that help prevent mental decline.

Statistically, 80 percent of all American homes have lawns; three billion hours a year are spent mowing lawns; one gas-powered mower emits as much pollution as eleven cars, \$40 billion is spent each year to maintain and improve lawns.

The EPA estimate that a third of all water from public sources gets used for landscaping with the majority to water lawns. In the western drought-parched states, 70 percent of public water is used for landscaping. Every year U.S. homeowners apply eighty million tons of synthetic fertilizers to their lawns. Annually, ninety million pounds of fertilizer and seventy-eight million pounds of pesticides keep lawns flourishing.

Tips For Simple Living

Redesigning your yard or creating a new one away from the traditional style can provide many benefits such as low maintenance, limited mowing, reduced water use, no pesticides, as well as saved time, energy, and funds.

This new way of low-maintenance landscaping is called *xeriscape*. Mulch beds, rock gardens, and gravel patches along with sand, black lava rock, and river-rock pathways help create new attractions with a variety of colors and textures. Potted plants, native grasses, succulents, and bushes add definition, color, and contrast to any landscape.

Decreasing the size of a lawn area by designing strips of grass or a cluster or two of grass in and around plant beds offers another option to decrease work and water consumption.

Visit your local

nursery to seek advice from master gardeners to learn what drought-tolerant plants will work best for your region. Be sure to research the different types of grass seeds (both new and native) that need less water, less mowing, and no pesticides.



Biblical Stewardship of Creation

Our Creator knows that the beauty of nature around our homes is important. In fact, He created us to live in gardens! "The Lord God had planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed" (Genesis 2:8). And when the righteous are gathered to live with the Creator in the earth made new, He promised that "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit" (Isaiah 65:21).

"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:11).

An often quoted Psalm 23:1-3 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul" (KJV). Yes, green pastures (lawns) are comforting, and we can all learn to be better stewards for the benefit of all.



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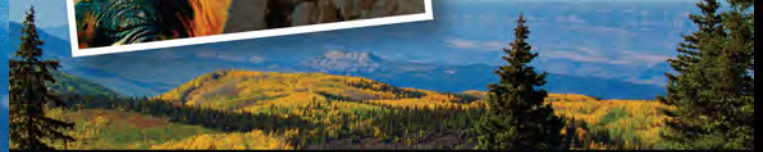


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Caught in a Flood

Did you know that four hundred million gallons of water spill out of the walls of the Grand Canyon every day from springs along many sections of the sculpted red rock? Some barely trickle, but during intense storms the cascading flows greatly increase from rainwater draining off the canyon rims. If you happen to be in the canyon when that happens, as we were, you won't forget the overwhelming experience.

We have been blessed to live near the Grand Canyon—one of the most majestic spectacles on earth revealing the magnificence

of God's creation. Hiking into the depths of the canyon has been a favorite activity of our family, and our most memorable journey in the canyon took place at the end of a particularly active monsoon season that lasts from mid-June to mid-September.

We started this trek on the rough, unmaintained Hermit Trail along the south rim of the canyon on a Friday morning. The three-day, two-night backpacking excursion included six family members. We knew a major storm was predicted with possible flooding starting sometime Friday night and lasting through Saturday night. But our permit (obtained

B Y M A R L A C O L E

five months prior in a lottery system) limited us to this weekend. We all had taken time off work, and a lot of preparation had gone into the trip; so, we didn't want to cancel under the threat of a possible storm.

Since forecasts for these storms are not always accurate, we hoped the precipitation wouldn't be as bad as predicted—maybe not even rain in the canyon at all. We arrived down at the campsite after a hard downhill slog. A lot of lightning flashed in the distance, but only a little rain fell that first night. The plan for Saturday called for a mile and a half jaunt to the Colorado River at Hermit Rapid, then follow the Hermit Creek bed along a beautiful gorge with a gentle perennial creek. Three members of the group had never

done this trip before; so, we didn't want to change our plans even though the clouds gathering on both rims of the canyon looked threatening.

Not long after we reached the river's impressive sight of raging muddy water and a seemingly larger than usual rapids, we were hit by a blast of wind followed by a heavy downpour of rain. We found a little bit of shelter to eat lunch and then headed back up the creek bed. Soon we knew there was more water in the creek than when we walked down it. Soon there was brown water instead of clear. Our pace quickened.

The trail along the creek requires many crossings, which usually can be easily accomplished while keeping your feet dry, but that was soon not the case. Each crossing was getting harder and deeper. It wasn't long before the crossings became dangerous as the muddy creek turned into a raging torrent.

We attempted one more crossing. When it was my turn, with my husband holding onto one side of me and my son-in-law on the other, I was almost across the stream when my feet were swept out from under me. When my backpack hit the water, it caused me to be pulled into the current even more, which made it harder for me to regain my footing. "Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul" (Psalm 69:1, KJV). I became terrified, but with the help of the two men I got back on my feet and made it across.

As we could see the water



Daniel Cole

Taking shelter and a lunch break during the deluge



Daniel Cole

Crossing the storm-swollen stream

continue to rise and hear rocks tumbling in the powerfully surging flow, we knew we could not try to cross the waterway again. We also knew that a trail heading up and out of the creek bed (instead of following the creek all the way up to the campsite) was not too far away, but it was on the other side of the creek. After determining that we didn't have any other options but to wait until the creek level dropped, we saw a small overhanging ledge that offered a little protection from the pounding rain. After a bit of scrambling, we all made it to the shelter. God promises to protect us as "a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, . . . for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall" (Isaiah 25:4).

There we sat, trapped. Some of us shivered from being so wet and cold. The potential for

hypothermia if an overnight stay became necessary presented a real concern as the forecast called for the rain to last into the night. We soon noticed a couple on the other side of the creek taking shelter under another overhang. They had headed up the creek bed ahead of us and were able to make the final crossing to the trail that climbed up to the camp. The difference in our ability to cross was the time it took us to eat our lunch.

I sat there thinking, praying, and fighting my anxiety while reciting to myself Philippians 4:6, 7, about being anxious for nothing. I realized that just as in some storms of life we could do nothing but wait patiently on God and trust Him as David says this in several psalms. Psalm 62 especially addresses this as verse one surrenders, "Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation," and verse five repeats,



Daniel Cole

The rugged and unforgiving Hermit Trail

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him." Verse eight admonishes, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."

I also thought about my last creek crossing where I needed others in my family to get me through it. In the trials of life, we need each other in the family of God. In 1 John we are told over and over to love each other. Helping others in trials is one way to show this. But we have to accept help when we need it. My challenge in the stream might not have resulted in a positive outcome if I had exercised my pride and not accepted help. Ecclesiastes 4:10 underscores, "For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

Eventually we determined that the water level was dropping even though the rain continued. The intensity of the storm upstream must have decreased. Our son explored upstream as he bushwhacked through an area that would not have been safe just a short time earlier. To our extreme relief he found a spot to cross the water, which we all safely managed. Even with the storm subsiding, we could not have continued along the creek bed; so, we were grateful for the trail that climbed out of it.

On the rest of the hike back to the campground we felt overwhelmed with relief and gratitude. Just before sunset the rain stopped, the sky began to clear, the sun illuminated the tops

of some formations in the canyon, and we all enjoyed a spectacular sunset. By the time we got into our tents for the night, the clouds had vanished revealing a famously clear northern Arizona sky with a multitude of brilliant stars.

We all agreed that we were glad for the opportunity to witness the effects of this powerful storm in the canyon—to see the creek at flood stage and to see all the waterfalls cascading into the canyon from various cliffs. The stunning spectacle could not have been experienced without going through the storm.

Enduring a storm like that in the Grand Canyon was humbling. We are so small and weak compared to the power seen in Creation. Our short-lived glimpse of the torrent of water made us ponder the cataclysmic

global flood resulting in an altered earth. (See Genesis 6–8 and 2 Peter 3:3–6.)

But after the flood God left us with incredibly majestic land features, like the Grand Canyon, for all to explore and enjoy. During and after the storms in our lives, God can bring transformation in the form of spiritual growth to restore joy and hope. As Psalm 30:5 says, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” Our adventure ended with a grueling six-hour hike out of the canyon the next day, but we marched upward with joy in our hearts. **C**

Marla Cole writes from Flagstaff, Arizona, where she explores the stunning outdoor adventures found in the southwestern U.S. in order to share the wonders of being in God’s creation.





Planting seed potatoes

the mystery of

For the first time last year, I purposely grew potatoes. They have previously emerged as unexpected *volunteer* products of composting. This past spring, however, I purchased a red variety of seed potatoes and planted them in deep and well-mixed soil where they would get just enough sunlight but not too much. By early May green shoots emerged.

"Wow, those look like they're growing nicely already; did I plant an early variety?" I pondered out loud. "Am I supposed to harvest in the summer?" My husband didn't think so.

So, we read a few articles about potatoes that said the plants would flower and appear to die back but to be patient; the fruit could stay underground into late autumn unharmed by early frost. We paid close attention to each phase of the crop's development. The plants flowered in June, four months before I would dig up even a single starchy orb.

g a r d e n s f r o m e d e n



Sprouting potato plants with blossoms

potatoes

"Surely the potatoes will go to seed," I mused, thinking of kale and lettuce where once the flowers blossom the plants become bitter.

"No, they're not like lettuce," a gardening friend reassured me. "They look lush in the spring, then appear to die, but just wait. They aren't really dead."

We ate fresh lettuce, harvested sweet, juicy raspberries after an early hot spell, and plucked new peas to munch raw on Mother's Day, but the potatoes still weren't ready. Our sunflowers towered over delicate nasturtiums; strawberries thrived with plump and rich hues; beans stretched out in abundance; and a few long, juicy carrots pierced the ground. But those young spuds remained small and hard, which called for the patience found in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (ESV).

While digging a wide, shallow circle around wilting stalks, a few little red spheres could

b y c a n d i c e l u c e y



Cultivating the potato patch

be found detached from their roots. By early September the buried bounty had to wait a few more weeks to fully mature. October was wet; so, the stalks were not only brown as harvest-time approached, they were rotten, mushy, and decomposing like the leaves and dead flowers in my compost bin. Were the potatoes spoiled? Had the rain killed my plants? Still the promise that “joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5, KJV) had to endure.

Eventually, beneath cold soil coated in colored leaves, the fruit beneath the furrows was finally ready, and some of the potatoes were the size of small squash. I cooked them during the next several weeks, adding a few late carrots and parsnips from beds that had mostly been harvested before the leaves turned.

During this months-long potato vigil, I pondered the growth of my relationships with nonbelievers, including some enduring friendships. The gospel *seed* had been planted long ago and, while a certain few were still asking questions, others were now avoiding the topic entirely. The greenery of early evangelical shoots slumped over time; leaves of rich conversation wilted and drooped with despair. Sadness crept over me like moss, and I wondered why God would allow such relationships to begin if He was not going to be glorified or if my friends weren’t going to accept Christ as their Savior after so much waiting and hoping.

Of course, God’s work takes place in His own time according to His will and not as a result of my preconceived schedule. He will bring fruit from cold ground or dry bones. (See Ezekiel 37.) He is a resurrecting God. On the surface we sometimes see brown, rotting, slimy hopelessness because a friend has rejected Christ. Our plans appear to have gone to seed. But this is *His* gospel, *His* plan that works beneath the surface, invisibly and mysteriously nurturing His own crop of souls that will be ready to harvest even as the soil above slickens with frost.



Potato plants appear dead before the harvest.

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness” (1 Corinthians 4:5, KJV).

Not all visible fruit is healthy either. Sometimes I imagine myself as a tomato plant boasting tiny green pebbles that suck energy from the soil but give no reward. They should be plucked so the larger tomatoes get all the nutrients. When all I see is the quantity, I’m thinking ahead to the potential outcome and giving too little care to the parts of the plant that need attention. I’m taking nourishment from the harvest by seeking my own success apart from Him, and my fruit is predictably undersized.

However, not all hidden fruit is underground. Beans are camouflaged by foliage, cherries hide in shadows, and squash shelter under huge leaves. Some fruit will swell and burst, succumb to insects, or toughen into seed if it is overlooked. Animals will feast; wasps and worms will attack.


Likewise, new and vulnerable believers struggling with shame and unbelief will try to disappear, and if more mature Christians don’t tend to their needs and nurture their growth, they risk drying out or rotting where they remain.

But God and the Holy Spirit work one-on-one with individuals, and we can’t control the outcome. Regardless of His timing, Jesus calls upon each of us to remain committed to be a field worker for the head Gardener. “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). It is my job to learn from His example of never giving up on seeking a soul for the kingdom. Sometimes I need to get on my hands and knees and search more thoroughly between the vines, climb a ladder and part branches, patiently enjoy each phase of growth, and then celebrate even when the harvest is small but healthy.



Family harvesting potatoes

At other times I need to abide in Christ and trust that He is working on the hearts of the lost and broken; they are being cultivated by His compassionate and patient hands. As I watch the visible phases of their faith develop then appear to wilt or even rot, mysterious fruit could be maturing underground—slowly ripening in the dark loam and good soil of the heart. ““But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred”” (Mark 4:8).

This gives me hope. “He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him” (Daniel 2:22, KJV). Even while the evidence before my eyes tells me to give up and compost those mushy brown stems and forget about planting potatoes entirely, God prepares the harvest. “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” (Job 11:7, KJV). My job is to listen for His command to know when and where to dig. 

Candice Lucey writes from Salmon Arm, British Columbia, where the stunning mountain scenery inspires her to explore and share God's object lessons found in His creation.



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Genesis Cuisine

Rhubarb Treats

*"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

Recipes by Jennifer and Tom Ish, Photos by Melissa Ish



Rhubarb-Napa Slaw

- 3 C. Napa cabbage, shredded
- 1/2 C. rhubarb, fine julienned
- 1/2 C. carrots, fine julienned
- 1/4 C. scallions, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. poppy seeds

Lime Dressing:

- 1 lime, zested and juiced
- 1 Tb. sesame oil
- 1 Tb. miso paste
- 1 Tb. liquid aminos/soy sauce
- 1 Tb. fresh ginger, finely grated
- 1 tsp. honey or maple syrup

Mix the dressing ingredients together and place in a bowl. Add the julienned rhubarb and carrots to marinate in the refrigerator for a few hours or overnight. Add finely shredded Napa cabbage and scallions in a bowl. Toss and massage mixture well with your hands until the greens are well coated and tenderized. Top with a sprinkle of poppy seeds or other favorite seeds.



Rhubarb-Pineapple BBQ Sauce

- 3 C. rhubarb, chopped
- 1/2 C. crushed pineapple
- 2/3 C. drained pineapple juice
- 1 med. onion, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove, diced
- 4 Tb. tomato paste
- 1/3 C. coconut or brown sugar

- 2 Tb. molasses
- 1 Tb. liquid aminos
- 1 Tb. mustard
- 2 tsp. liquid smoke
- 1 tsp. Sriracha or hot sauce
- 1/4 tsp. salt or to taste

In a saucepan, bring chopped rhubarb and pineapple juice to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered until tender, approx. 5 minutes. Let cool; then blend until smooth. In the same sauce pan saute onions and garlic until tender in small amount of water or oil. Whisk in the pureed rhubarb and remaining ingredients. Simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Baste on grilled vegetable and Jackfruit kebobs or your favorite barbecued items!



Rhubarb-Cherry Ice Cream

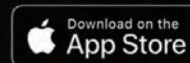
- 2 cans coconut milk (regular fat)
- 2/3 C. sugar, divided
- 2 Tb. cornstarch
- 1/4 tsp. salt

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 C. rhubarb, chopped
- 1 C. sweet red cherries, pitted

Pour coconut milk into a sauce pan reserving 1/2 C. Add half the sugar and bring to a simmer. Whisk cornstarch into 1/2 C. coconut milk; then stir into warm coconut milk and cook over medium heat until thickened enough to coat the spoon (about 10 minutes). Transfer to a bowl, cover, and refrigerate. Place rhubarb, sweet cherries, remaining sugar, and salt in a blender and coarsely blend; then refrigerate. After coconut cream is well cooled, place in an ice cream maker and process according to the directions. When mixture has firmly thickened, add rhubarb-cherry puree a little at a time. Transfer to a bread pan and freeze to desired firmness. Enjoy with your favorite topping or on an ice-cream cone.

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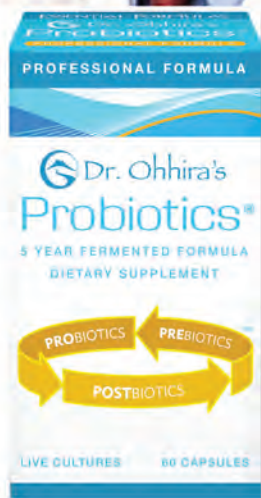
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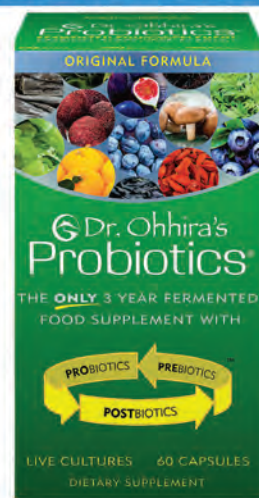
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Summer Camp Pie



Wilderness camp was always one of my favorite weeks of the summer. I loved meeting new friends, singing songs to God by the campfire, and hiking up the mountain.

One summer, my friend Anna and I arrived just in time for one of nature's sweetest surprises—wild blueberry season, which lasted only a few weeks each year at camp. We walked the trail from the pavilion to the field, admiring the bright berries hiding low in the bushes at our knees. I popped them into

my mouth one at a time as we walked and shared my joy. "These are so much better than blueberries from the store!"

Our camp counselor, Lexi, grinned. "That's because you're eating them right from God's creation. Isn't it great?" And the first book of the Bible tells of this gift. "And God said, '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'" (Genesis 1:29).

Anna ate another mouthful. "I love berries."

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



Our other tent mates enjoyed the berries, too; so, Lexi let us hike back into the woods to look for more before camp-wide games started on the field.

"Hey, I have a challenge for you girls," Lexi offered. "Did you know that if we pick enough blueberries, the kitchen staff will make us a pie for dessert?"

Hope sprang in my heart at her words, and all eight of us erupted with excitement exclaiming, "I love pie!"

"A pie just for those in our tent?" Anna added.

"How many do we have to get?" another girl asked. "And when will we be able to eat it?"

"Whoa, slow down!" Lexi laughed, waving her hands. "I can get a container from the kitchen, and if we fill that, it'll be enough just for a pie. We'll be able to eat it after our dinner as soon as the kitchen staff has time to make it. So, what do you say?"

"Yes!" we all said at the same time.

Lexi instructed us, "We have to get up to the field now for games, but we'll try to do some picking tomorrow morning after Bible study."

Y B E C C A W I E R W I L L E



The next day Lexi got a container from the kitchen, and we headed out to the woods. The container from the kitchen was smaller than a gallon of milk, but wild blueberries are very small and filled very little space inside the container.

"This is going to take awhile, isn't it?" I asked. But Romans 8:25 teaches, "If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" (ESV).

"Probably," Lexi agreed as she pulled a handful of blueberries off a branch and added them to the container. "Did you know Pennsylvania has different kinds of wild blueberries? Highbush berries are more common by streams and wet areas, and lowbush berries are often along trails, like these."

"That's cool," I said as I wiped a layer of sweat off my forehead. The already warm sun warned of a hot day to come.

Anna tossed a few more berries into the container asking, "Are we almost done?"

"Yeah, are we?" a few of the other campers echoed.

Lexi held up the container. "We're about halfway done. You know, there's actually a psalm that talks about the joy and gift of working for our food. It says, 'Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your

hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you'" (Psalm 128:1, 2).

"I definitely will be happy when we're eating this pie, I can tell you that!" I said, even though my fingers grew tired of plucking tiny berries. After a little more complaining and a lot of hard work, we had filled our container with blueberries, and Lexi returned it to the kitchen. They told her our pie would be ready for dinner that same night, and we could have it as our own special dessert.

Sure enough, after we finished our meal in the pavilion later that day, one of the kitchen volunteers brought out a beautiful blueberry pie with sugary crumbles on top. She also gave us our own carton of vanilla ice cream to go with it!

I clapped my hands together and exclaimed, "This is the best dessert ever!"

"And you girls did a lot of the hard work," Lexi added. "Doesn't that feel good?"

We nodded and watched with eager grins as Lexi cut a slice for each of us. But there was one problem. The girls at the table beside us also saw the pie, and their mouths watered. Lexi looked at us with her eyebrows raised as if she wanted us to offer to share our pie.





Anna shook her head and refused, “No way. If they want a pie, they can pick their own berries!”

“Yeah!” We agreed in unison.

“That’s true, they can,” Lexi said. “But just keep that in mind if they get a special dessert later this week.”

“What do you mean?” I asked.

“We treat others like we want to be treated, and it’s the same thing with sharing. We share with others like we want them to share with us,” Lexi explained about the *Golden Rule*. “But the truth is, I don’t really want to share the pie either; it’s my favorite too!”

Even though Lexi said she agreed with our desire to eat the whole pie, her words stopped us in our tracks. We looked at the beautiful dessert on our plates and picked at it with our forks. I thought of a verse we talked about in Bible study that morning: “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

“Well, maybe we could share just a little,” I

said softly that only Anna could hear. “It’s a big pie.”

“Yeah,” she whispered back. “It’s probably more than we can eat, don’t you think?”

“Probably,” I agreed.

We glanced around at the other girls in our group. All thinking the same thing, we turned to Lexi, and Anna said, “Maybe instead of having second slices, we could give them the rest of the pie.”

Lexi gave us a proud smile and said, “I bet they’d like that a lot.”

And they sure did! In fact, our blueberry pie was sweeter for two reasons. One, we picked the fruit ourselves. And two, we brightened someone else’s day. We shared the gifts of God’s creation, and joy filled our hearts—and stomachs. **C**

Becca Wierwille writes from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where she teaches kindergarten. Her short stories for children have been published in various magazines, and her nonfiction inspirational writing has been featured in several other publications. Learn more at beccawierwille.com.

CUT GRASS



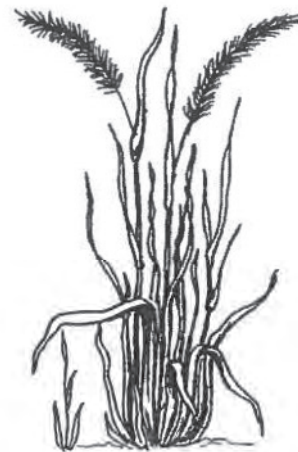
Freshly mown grass gives off a delightful spicy fragrance. A fresh cut field of hay smells of sweet odors. Mowing a lawn can stimulate growth. This is because a blade of grass grows from the bottom not the top. When the top of the spire is cut, it builds a new blade at its base, thus pushing the whole structure upward. By the way, engineers would delight to build a skyscraper with that kind of technology.

Similar to grass, as a Christian we are to grow from the inside out. We are to accept Christ's principles first in our minds, and later, these qualities will show on the outside, by our words and actions. When cut or hurt by unkind words we may emit the fragrance of a soft answer that turns away wrath. When we suffer a sudden loss or tragedy, faith is an aroma that we can manifest.

At times we may feel like a blade of grass that has been cut. Our best friend may move away or may say cutting unkind things to us. This loss can be sweetened by counting it a joy. "My

brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" James 1:2-4.

When grass is cut, nature at once begins to repair the injury. Before this loss, God-given healing agencies were ready. Likewise, before sin came, heaven had a plan of salvation ready. Christ's mission to this world was one of healing. (See Luke 4:18) Someone in our family can be hurt physically, mentally or spiritually. We may become one of Christ's healing agencies. By our kindness and sympathy we can help them bear their pain or loss.



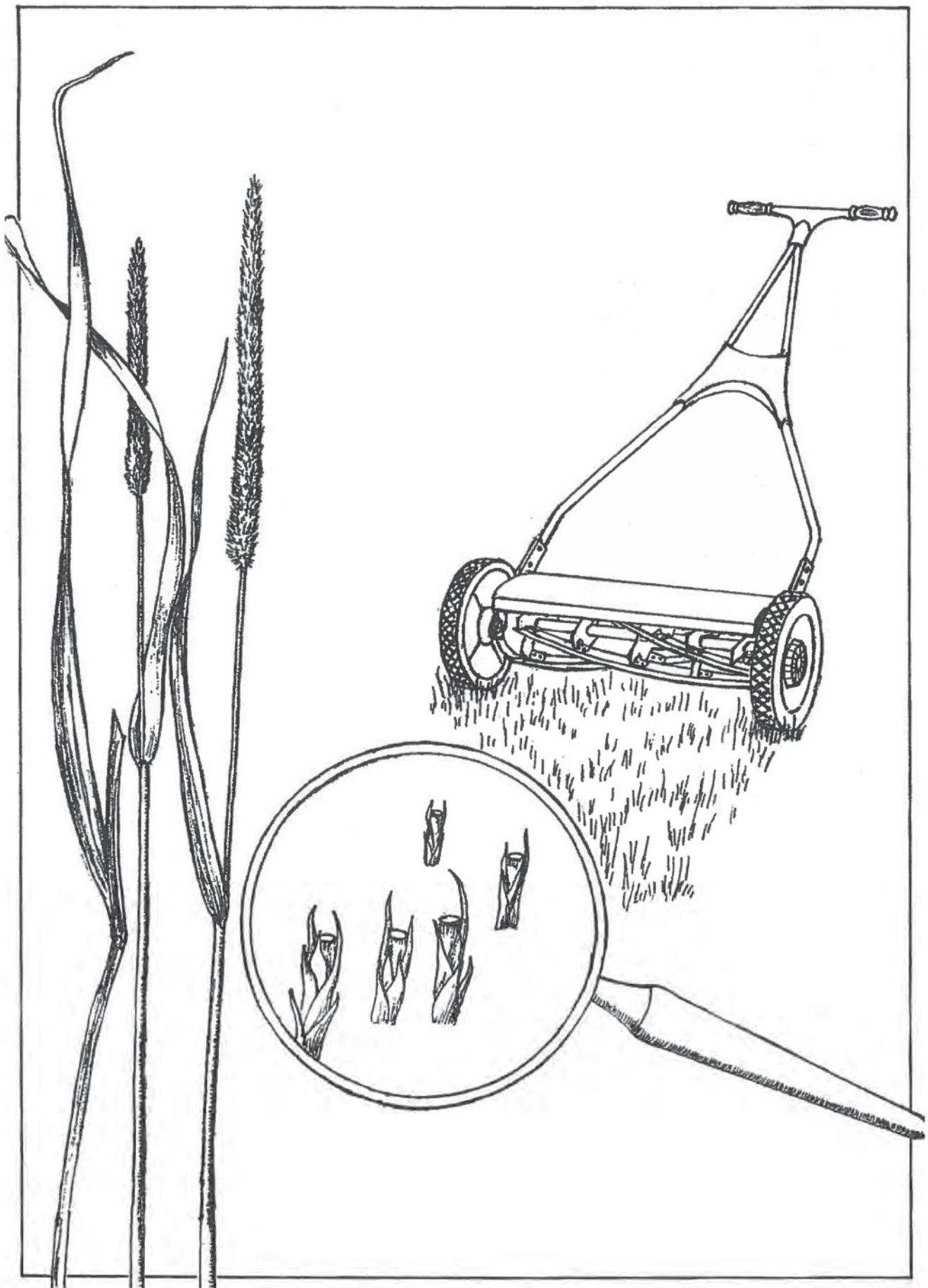
FAMILY PROJECT:

Pick some grass and crush it in your hand, then smell. Try different kinds of grass or leaves. Do they all smell the same? Try a rose flower crushed up; then smell. Jesus when abused revealed His Father's love. As a family let us overcome evil with His goodness.



This character-building lesson was excerpted from *The Gospel According to a Blade of Grass* book by Terry and Jean McComb. To order the complete book and others in their series, go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com.



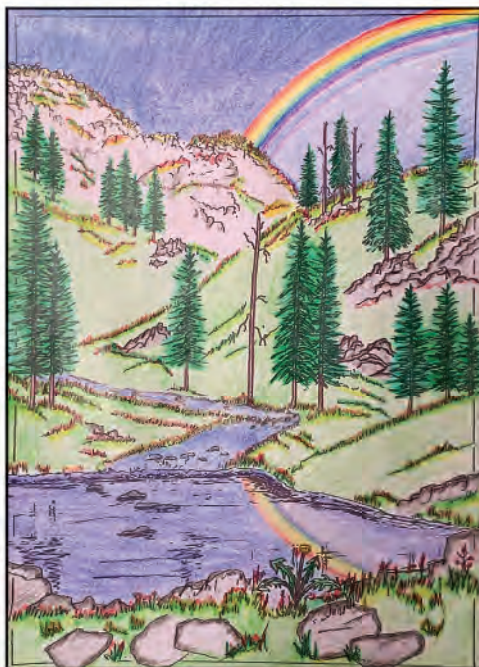


Summer 2021 Coloring Contest First Name: _____ Last Initial: _____ Age: _____
(deadline & details on page 60) City: _____ State/Prov. _____

Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest



First Place, ages 6–11
Ava M., age 7, Troy, Idaho



Winners From the Spring 2021 Edition Character-Building Lesson



First Place, ages 12–18
Hannah R., age 13,
Leominster, Massachusetts

First Place, ages 19+
Ricardo E., age 56, Medford, Oregon

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, Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for summer 2021 entries is August 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 September from summer-edition pictures, the first week of December from fall-edition pictures, the first week of March from winter-edition pictures, and the first week of June from spring-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

Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

Winners From Spring 2021 Submissions



First Place, ages 6–11 (left)

Iain S., age 11, Newnan, Georgia



First Place, ages 12–18 (right)

Michael V., age 13, Blanchard, Idaho



First Place, ages 19+ (left)

Paul M., age 84, Vernon, Vermont

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, 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 August 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 September from summer submissions, the first week of December from fall submissions, and the first week of March from winter submissions, and the first week of June from spring 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



STUDY GUIDE

for *Creation Illustrated*, Summer 2021 Edition, Vol. 28, No. 2

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. Re-Creation and Restoration Outdoors—"Papua Indonesia by Sea" story, pages 6–12

1. What island paradise did the mission plane fly to in order to provide transportation for a conservation project?
Where is this island located? pp. 7, 8
2. What attracts people from all over the world to this island? p. 8
3. What was the prevailing atmosphere of the resort area? What scripture passage did this help bring to mind for the author? p. 8
4. What were some of the underwater sea life and island wildlife that the author was able to observe? pp. 9–11

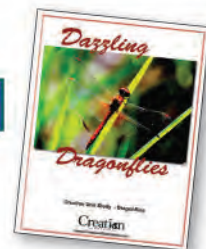
II. Creation Up Close—"Healing Waterfalls" story, pages 16–19

1. Where is the largest waterfall in the world located? p. 16
2. What is the name of the world's tallest waterfall? What waterfall has the largest volume of water? p. 16
3. List some of the symbols that water is used to illustrate in the scripture. pp. 17, 18
4. Explain how waterfalls can enhance a person's mental clarity and mood. p. 18
5. How do negative ions affect a person's health? p. 19

III. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—"Dazzling Dragonflies" story, pages 20–26

1. What is the stage between each molt called? How long can these stages last? p. 22
2. Explain some of the unique designs of the dragonfly nymph. p. 22
3. What wonderful spiritual lesson is illustrated in the metamorphosis of the dragonfly? p. 22
4. How many species of dragonflies are there? p. 25
5. List ten amazing features of the dragonfly and what they teach you about God's design. pp. 25, 26

For a Full Unit Study on Dragonflies, go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com



IV. The Creation Week—"Creation Day 5, Part 2—Birds" story, pages 28–37

1. What is the total estimated number of bird species? p. 30
2. List some of the amazing migration feats of the hummingbird, Ryuppel's griffon vulture, bar-headed geese, and Arctic tern. p. 29–31
3. What migrating bird helped the Polynesians to discover the Hawaiian Islands? p. 31
4. Explain how the migrating swallows help the tropical regions. pp. 31, 34
5. How many insects were eaten by 30 nesting cliff swallows over a 21 day period? p. 34
6. List some ways God designed birds to help humans. p. 35
7. What is your favorite bird scripture, and why?

Summer Family Fun Activities

Botanical flower pressing is an incredibly fun and beautiful summer hobby. It is a nice combination of outdoor activity, science learning, and artistic expression! Here are a few tips to help get you started.

1. Locate an area where you are allowed to pick flowers. You can make special arrangements with a park or botanical garden in your area, as well as use the flowers in your own yard or your neighbor's yard. Wherever you go, it is important to always have permission and then only take a small number of flowers. Time your flower picking to avoid early mornings, after watering times, and rainy days so the petals are not wet.
2. Gather the type of pressing supplies you decide to use. There are heavy books, flower presses to buy, flower presses you can make, microwave ovens, and an iron. Parchment paper is recommended for all methods. Glue such as Elmer's or other white PVA brands work well. A pair of large tweezers can also be helpful in picking up the pressed flowers.
3. Decide what you want to do with your pressed flowers. Birthday or holiday gifts are great ideas. Visit your local craft store and look for clear glass frames, black felt frames, blank bookmarks, and notebooks.
4. Botanical learning can be included by labeling the different parts of the flowers collected and listing their common and scientific names. This is a great way to start your own flower nature journal. Be sure to record the date and location where you found your flowers too.
5. For extra help and details, visit www.ttd.com/blog/create/how-to-press-flowers which shows each method in a video.



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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.

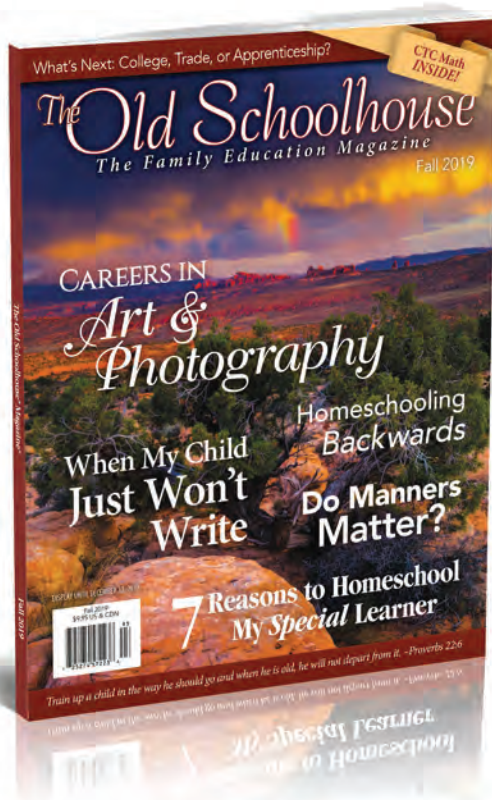
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. AVIAN | 11. ISLAND |
| 2. BIRDS | 12. LARVA |
| 3. DESIGN | 13. MIGRATE |
| 4. DRAGONFLY | 14. RHUBARB |
| 5. EGGS | 15. SEA |
| 6. FLOOD | 16. SHARKS |
| 7. FLY | 17. SWAMP |
| 8. HABITAT | 18. TROPICS |
| 9. HATCH | 19. WATERFALLS |
| 10. IONS | 20. WINGS |

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Luke 6:40

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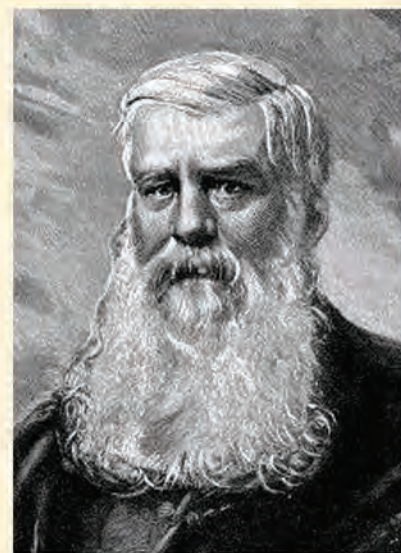
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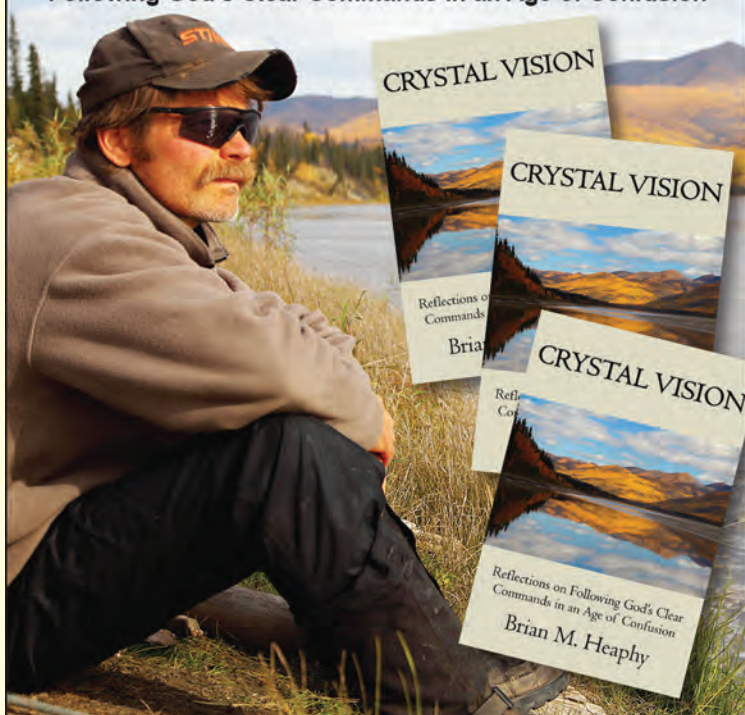
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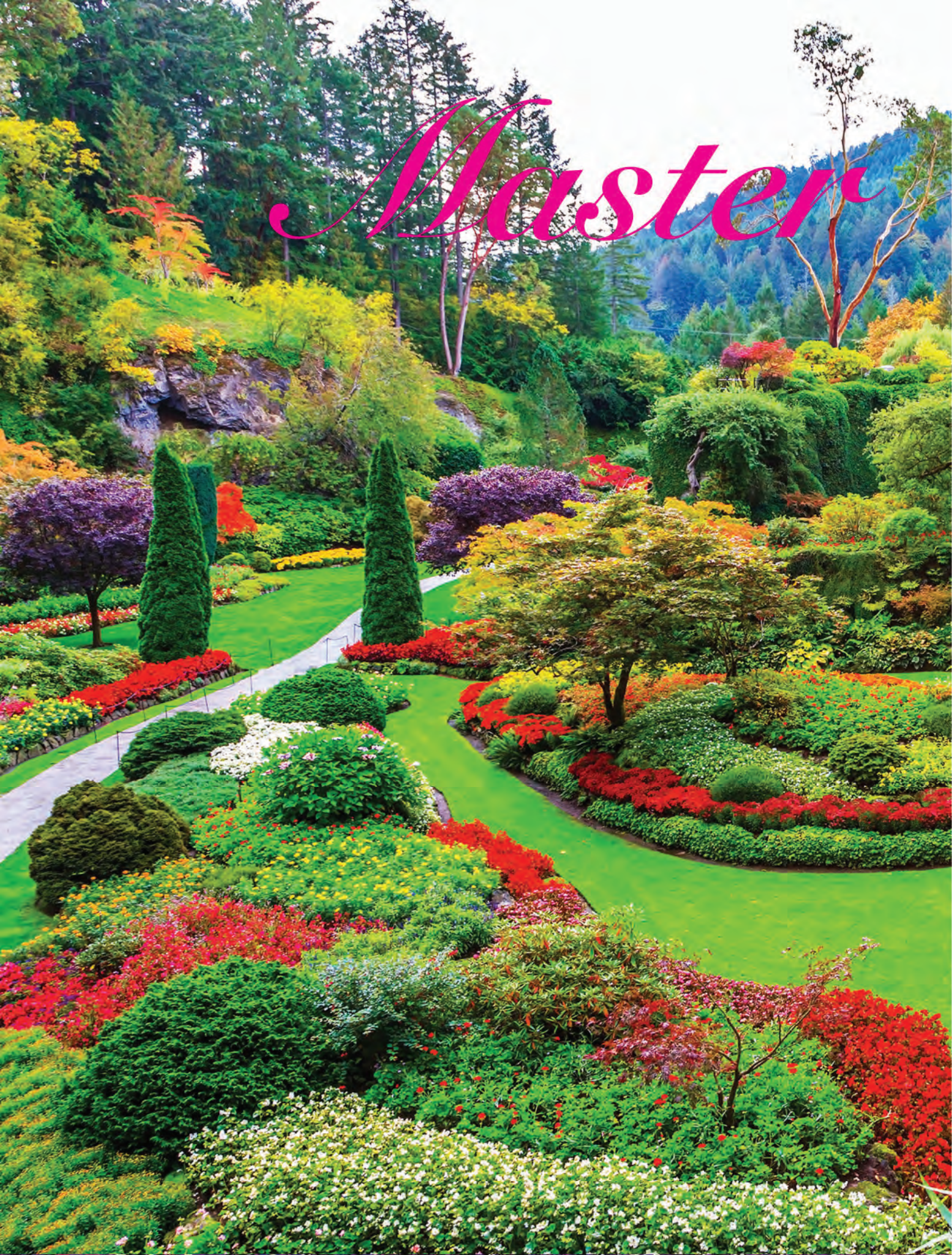


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Could I be a rose for You,
Fashioned in a quiet hue,
Petal-pearled with holy dew . . .
Could I, Lord?

Could I, in my sunlit space,
Mirror beauty of Your face,
Give reflection of Your grace . . .
Could I, Lord?

Could I represent Your love,
That this world's depleted of,
Waft the fragrance up above . . .
Could I, Lord?

Will You soften every thorn,
Heal the hearts that I have torn,
Prune away the sin I mourn . . .
Will You, Lord?

Will You train my stem aright,
Stretch me to a fuller height,
Be my Arbor, hold me tight . . .
Will You, Lord?

Will You send Your Spirit-rain,
Gently cleanse my ev'ry stain,
Grant refreshing once again . . .
Will You, Lord?

If You graft Yourself to me,
Ever-blooming we shall be,
Hybrid through eternity . . .
PRAISE YOU LORD!

— Gloria Wilde

Photo of Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia

*"Enticing her young to fly,
and hovering over them . . ."*

— Deuteronomy 32:11, D-RB



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