

# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR GETAWAY . . .



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

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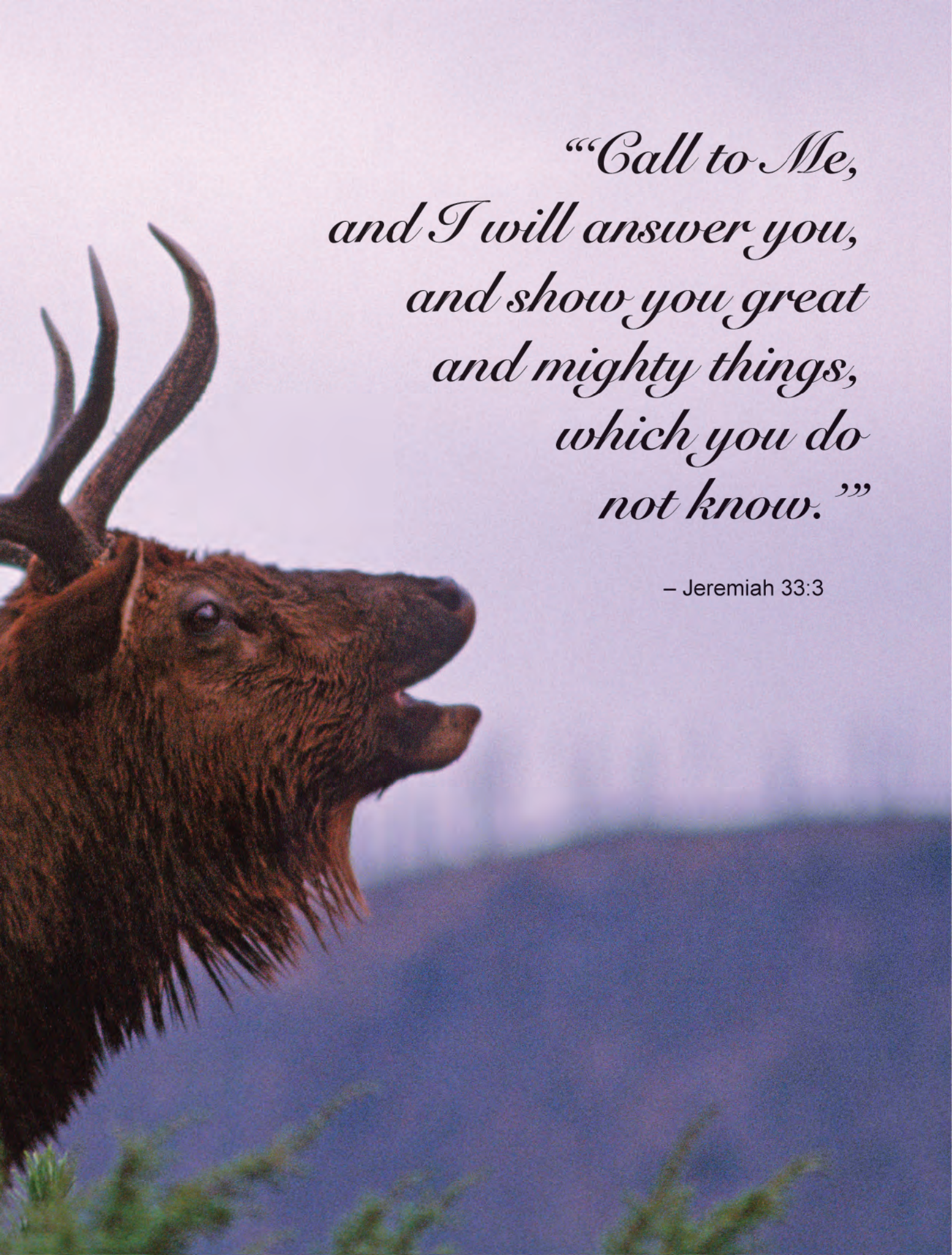
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*“Call to Me,  
and I will answer you,  
and show you great  
and mighty things,  
which you do  
not know.”*

— Jeremiah 33:3



# Our Why



One of the prayers we had for *Creation Illustrated* twenty-nine years ago was to design an uplifting publication that would be easy to share in this hurting world. Our prayers have been answered beyond what we could ask or think! What a joy to know our readers want to spread the blessings found in *Creation Illustrated* with those in their families, churches, businesses, and communities!

Last holiday season readers gave nearly a thousand gift subscriptions! For a few years early in our ministry, a Christian business gave 1,000 gift subscriptions to all their employees! So, why do our subscribers enjoy sharing *Creation Illustrated*?

One recent story involved a family in New York who thought it would be nice to give *Creation Illustrated* subscriptions as a *thank you* gift to those who helped with their daughter's wedding. This resulted in quite a nice order. Then one of the gift-subscription recipients later reached out to support *Creation Illustrated* with a \$10,000 donation to help get more issues to prison inmates!

When we asked other subscribers why they like to share *Creation Illustrated*, they replied with these insightful remarks. "Creation Illustrated is *refreshing* to read, and we want that experience for our friends and family too. Anything that reminds us of God's mercy and care is a balm to our souls, and we all really need that now!" says J. Browne of The Dalles, Oregon. "I am so thankful you glorify God with all the Bible verses throughout each article! It is a wonderful way to keep our focus on what is most important today," adds A. Mowe, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

"We love to use *Creation Illustrated* as an outreach to those in our town who are shut ins. We make up care packets with a variety of items, and including a copy of *Creation Illustrated* provides a beautiful way to say God loves them!" insists L. Beal, of Cherryfield, Maine. Rebekah Cote, of Gray, Tennessee, explains, "Because *Creation Illustrated* focuses on our Creator God and His creation, I enjoy sharing it with many families who have children to help them with their education."

"We live in one of the most beautiful places on this earth as stewards of seven hundred sixty wilderness acres near Denali National Park. We thank you for such an enormously inspiring magazine, and we love to share it with family and friends. We also like to share your back issues with all the tourists that come through our area. We place the issues in areas where people will see the magazines and pick them up in order to get acquainted, we pray, with the Creator of this beautiful land!" exclaims R. D. Merrill of Talkeetna, Alaska.

L. Ammerlaan of Australia says, "We have received great feedback from our family and friends who receive your magazine as a gift from us for Christmas. So, we thank you and your team for this great publication! We also thank the Lord for leading us to it, and we pray continued blessings over your ministry."

We find such testimonies a direct answer to prayer as subscribers are impressed by the Holy Spirit to spread the message that our Creator is worthy of worship for what He has done and can do in our lives to make each of us a new Creation in Christ Jesus! That's why.

**For more information on how you can share *Creation Illustrated*, look for the special Holiday gift subscription offer in the center of this edition or online at [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com). Thank you for the privilege to work together in reaching souls for eternity!**

The Publishers



# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 28, No. 3

## 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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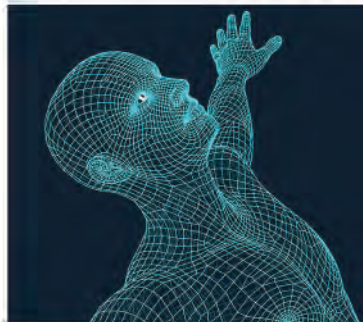


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The cover photo of citrus fall leaves was taken by Rostyslav Shyvrynskyi of Ukraine.

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## Preserve

Fall hearkens us to rejoice in the harvest and to preserve some of the bounty the Creator has bestowed on our gardens. Families often follow rituals of making applesauce, canning tomatoes, or freezing berries for nutritious wintertime meals, gatherings, or to share with those in need.

But some produce lasts longer than other crops as demonstrated by an organic farming operation in northern California. Learn how following God's ways and *Farming by Design* becomes a testimony to the surrounding community of a campus farming operation in this edition's *Gardens From Eden* story.

Harvested grains also get safely stored and preserved for later use. Take an up-close look at the vast variety of kernels and diversity of grist that can be made into breads, cereals, and pastas in this issue's *Our Daily Bread* story that reminds us to also partake of His daily bread from the Word that will help preserve our souls from now through eternity.

But some people don't have a means of preserving their goods as we learn of villagers who subsist on the rapidly growing plants in the jungle of Papua, Indonesia. Touch down in a remote settlement where a missionary plane brings supplies and hope as dedicated teachers start a school for the children who are eager to learn new things while the adults preserve their traditional ways of life.

Even though abundance can be found throughout God's creation, some life forms suffer setbacks in their struggle to exist in this sin-stricken world. For example, all seven species of awkward and vulnerable sea turtles now hold the unenviable position of being on the endangered species list. Our opportunity and obligation to care for and preserve the well-being of His creatures cannot be ignored or delayed without irreversible consequences. Dive into the amazing world of *Surreal Sea Turtles* and get inspired to do your part.

After all, being granted *dominion* over the creatures does not mean *domination* or *supremacy*. Dominion requires responsibility and a sense of stewardship. This edition's Creation week story on day six reveals all that God created on that day and humankind's obligation as caregivers to tend, protect, and preserve the domesticated and wild animals, as well as the creeping things God gifted us with that day.

Doing our part to interact with Creation leads to discoveries of how His creation holds together in a symbiotic design of interconnectedness. Who would have guessed that *bee eater* birds exist in Africa to help control the bee population there? The author of *Wait for Him* experienced God's providence as these birds swooped in to help eradicate a bee infestation and preserve the safety and sanity of a missionary couple to rural Zambia.

Other unusual gems of Creation can be found all over the globe and even in a grade school where a child began to bond with nature through an innocent classroom chameleon. Watching the creature catch bugs on its tongue and change its skin to various colors provided character-building lessons on how our tongues can be used to either tear down or uplift and preserve relationships. This trait has a real effect on showing *Our True Colors*—the title of this edition's children's story.

So, seize this season to cherish what is most precious to you and your family—time together in His creation where new memories get created and preserved.



*Tom Ish*

Tom Ish, editor/publisher



# Sharing Our Mail

## Great hope . . .

There are continued prayers going up for this ministry and all the lives you touch in the prison. In our local jail the recreation yard is a concrete room with a window way at the top. No doubt *Creation Illustrated* brings great hope to the inmates! Thanks for your continued prayers for our family. Please send me a subscription and use the remaining funds as a donation.

J. Plank  
Kingman, Arizona

## Donation . . .

We love your magazine, its purpose,

### Dear Friends:

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

### How to contact us:

#### By Mail:

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Spokane Valley, WA 99214

#### By E-Mail:

ci@creationillustrated.com

#### By the Internet:

www.creationillustrated.com

#### By Phone:

1(800) 360-2732

Like us: 

Follow us: 

the unit studies, and everything! We will be sending a donation later this month because your ministry is such a blessing.

K. Stewart  
Columbia, Maryland

## Lady prisoners . . .

I just wanted to let you know the ladies at these correctional institutions love your magazines! Here are a couple responses I've gotten from them so far.

From Amanda at FCI Aliceville: "I received the magazines yesterday. Wow! I love them so much; thank you! I will pass them around and make sure they end up in religious services. What an amazing way to look at things. After reading the first one, I had to stop and just think about creation and how wonderful the Lord is. I can never tell you enough what a blessing those magazines are. I am passing them around now, and everyone is so amazed. I'm sure that testimonies will be sent. God is faithful."

From Heather at FCI Tallahassee: "I got the magazines, and I just started reading the

one from winter of 2020. I like what I have read so far, and the pictures are great! I will pass them along as I get done with them. How exciting to read about the *Creation* magazine and the publishers. I will definitely put a note inside each of the magazines to send testimonies. I love the pictures and the beauty found in God's creation. I feel like I can live through the magazine since I have never been out of the south to see what God has created."

I had mentioned to the inmates your request that they share a testimony of how they were blessed by the magazines and that we prayed for them before we hung up from our phone conversation. That blessed them as well! Please know that they are indeed being blessed by this beautiful ministry! I would like to order another four back issues.

K. Caldwell  
De Soto, Missouri

## Canada . . .

Thanks so much for the interesting and educational blog article, "Reading from Screen vs. Paper: Why Hard

Copies Still Matter."

I personally enjoy holding a book or magazine, smelling the paper, and seeing the images displayed. My hubby enjoys the screen and has found it very convenient and comforting when recuperating from health issues.

It was at a doctor's office where I first saw *Creation Illustrated* magazine several years ago. I look so forward to each one! Thank you so much for this magazine publication.

S. Rhoden  
Lake City, Florida

## Godly people . . .

What an impressive letter you shared from an inmate. There are godly people even in prison. Thanks for your ministry. Enclosed is a donation to assist in this prison outreach.

E. Quiring  
Caldwell, Idaho

## Grateful . . .

I am more than grateful for your magazine. It is beyond beautiful, and others don't even come close. God bless you all.

N. Wilson  
Camden Point,  
Missouri



# Our Da

C R E A T I O N   U P   C L O S E ,



*A loaf of homemade wheat bread*



*Wheat,*

**D**id you know that bread gets broken daily as the world's most universal food? Its prominence rises throughout Scripture as a vital object lesson where the word *bread* gets mentioned at least four hundred ninety-two times.

The Lord Jesus Christ identified Himself twice as the “bread of life” (John 6:35 and 48, NIV). And while teaching His disciples how to pray perhaps the most well-known prayer of all time, He bid our heavenly Father, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

Lasting through the ages as one of the most ancient foods, bread has not crumbled under the crushing blows of history in this fallen world. To this day no other food has sliced through thick and thin to linguistically prove its role among world cultures. For instance, the Russian word for rye has the same root as the word for “give birth,” and another Serbian word for rye, *zhito*, has the same root as the words *to live*.

According to the first book of the Bible written by Moses around 1450 BC, God said to Adam, “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread” (Genesis 3:19, KJV). While we don’t know exactly what kind of



# ily Bread

B Y T A T I A N A C L A U D Y



*barley, oats, rice, and spelt*



*Heavy heads of grain*

bread or if this may have referred to food in general, we do find references to three main grains cultivated in Palestine and Egypt—wheat, barley, and spelt. Although the word *corn* does appear in the Bible (Matthew 12:1, KJV), it may be referring to wheat because historical accounts claim that corn wasn't introduced to Europe or Middle-eastern countries until after Columbus' expedition to the New World in 1492.

Wheat, mentioned in the Bible fifty-two times, reigns as the most valued grain in Egypt and Palestine. (See Genesis 30:14.) People grew several types of this

cereal, such as ordinary wheat that could produce up to 100 kernels on a single head and the bearded wheat with several ears on one stalk. (See Genesis 41:5, KJV.)

Another essential grain, barley, grew in Egypt as revealed in the story of the seventh plague when hail storms ravaged the land. "But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the Lord God. And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled. But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up" (Exodus 9:30–32, KJV). Scripture provides thirty-six references to both the plant and bread made



from barley seeds. Being cheaper than wheat, barley was mostly eaten by poor people or used to feed cattle, horses, donkeys, and camels, yet indicated a sign of prosperity during King Solomon's reign. "Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where the officers were, every man according to his charge" (1 Kings 4:28, KJV).

In Palestine people planted several types of barley. Interestingly, God called Canaan, the Promised Land, "a land of wheat, and barley" (Deuteronomy 8:8, KJV) to emphasize its richness. And the third common cereal, spelt, was grown as a kind of wild wheat that has been cultivated for about five thousand years to make bread. In fact the previous story about the hail destroying the grain in Egypt calls it spelt in the Modern English Version of the Bible.

In His wisdom and providence, our heavenly Father created various grains that can grow in various regions of the earth (except on the icy deserts of Antarctica), which inspire praises from many populations to herald, "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!" (Psalm 36:7). Rice, the

world's most popular cereal, grows in paddies or flooded fields in hot and humid areas of Asia. Corn or maize has its roots in Mexico but now gets cultivated worldwide as the third most popular grain after rice and wheat. Millet grows in semiarid areas of Africa and Asia such as Nigeria and India, whereas sorghum flourishes in the arid areas of West Africa like Senegal. Buckwheat thrives in low-fertility soils especially in Russia, and oats are grown in temperate areas of Canada. Rye, a frost-resistant grain, yields good harvests on low-fertility soils in Northern Europe and North America. Even in the Arctic, where summers are short and mild, lyme grasses produce grains that the Inuit people grind into flour.

So, why did God create such a vast variety of grains? The climate and soil play a major part in what can be cultivated, but perhaps He provided the broad diversity of food to help avoid crippling crop failures or even frustrating food sensitivities among the people.

All grains are annual; so, farmers have to plant them every year. At the end of October, ancient



*Grain for the animals*



*A bountiful rice paddy*



cultures waited for rains to water dry soil and “soften it with showers” (Psalm 65:10, NIV), then they plowed fields with wooden plows pulled by oxen. Farmers, unsure about future crops, went out “weeping, carrying seed to sow” (Psalm 126:6, NIV) and to plant “wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field” (Isaiah 28:25, NIV). After scattering seeds, they plowed fields again to cover seeds with soil.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus explained that only the seeds that fell “on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold” (Luke 8:8). Those that landed on the wayside or among rocks and thorns had been lost. As Jesus explained to His disciples, the seeds of the Word of God can multiply when believers “having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15). Conversely, these divine seeds are fruitless when people are preoccupied with “cares, riches, and pleasures of life,” have little faith, or fall away “in time of temptation” (Luke 8:13, 14).

Yet, our merciful, heavenly Father wants every heart to be broken into good soil where His Word will

bring forth a plentiful harvest. After we repent of our sins and proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord, we become “God’s field” (1 Corinthians 3:9) where a kernel of His truth produces many seeds only when it “falls to the ground and dies” (John 12:24, NIV). We must die to our old unrighteous ways and obey God’s Word and “walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him” (Colossians 1:10).

We also need to keep in mind that “a man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7, NIV). People investing their time, talents, and resources in material things “will reap destruction,” but those serving God and seeking to please Him “from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:8, NIV), which only happens when the love of God abides in our heart and God gives us the power and desires to surrender like a seed does.

In the book of Genesis, Our Creator solemnly declared, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest . . . will never cease” (8:22, NIV). In Palestine each harvest period lasted seven weeks as told in Deuteronomy 16:9. “Seven weeks shalt thou number



Tatiana Claudy



Hannah Jones

*Sowing on good soil*





*Harvesting by sickle*



*A millstone grinds the grains.*

unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn" (KJV). From April to May farmers and members of their families were reaping barley, and from May to June gathered the wheat. Joel 3:13 admonishes, "'Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.'" The Law required farmers to "'bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain'" that they harvested as an offering for God (Leviticus 23:10, NIV). And a part of the crop was left in the field for the poor (Ruth 2:3, NIV).

"Those who sow with tears . . . will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them" (Psalm 126:5, 6, NIV). From fields, sheaves of wheat and barley were transported to threshing floors. After the grain was separated from chaff and straw, it was sifted. Finally the grain (or flour) got stored in barns in clay jars. To underscore the importance of hard work during the harvest times, the Bible calls "prudent" a person gathering crops in summer and "disgraceful" a person neglecting the opportunity to stock food (Proverbs 10:5, NIV).

Just as it is necessary to collect crops in the fields, it is paramount to harvest souls for the kingdom of God. Jesus stated, "'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:37, 38). Although not everybody is called to be a missionary, each of us can contribute to the spreading the seeds of Good News found in His Word. Twenty-five years ago, in Russia, I asked the Lord to make me useful in His kingdom. Soon I realized that He called me to serve as a Christian interpreter for foreign missionaries. After overcoming many difficulties, I could "reap in joy" (Psalm 126:5) by interpreting broadcasts at the first Christian radio station in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Truly, "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 103:17, KJV)!

Our Lord not only created numerous grains but also provided people with knowledge about making good, nutritious bread. The Bible contains verses about bread made from wheat (Exodus 29:2,





*Partaking of His daily bread*

KJV), barley (John 6:9, NIV), and a mixture of wheat, barley, millet, and spelt (Ezekiel 4:9, NIV). Women prepared bread by combining flour with milk or water, kneading the dough (Jeremiah 7:18, NIV), and then adding yeast (except the bread made for the Passover). They baked bread in ovens (Leviticus 2:4, NIV) or “over hot coals” (1 Kings 19:6, NIV).

In biblical times bread and grain also had many symbolic meanings. For example, grain became a crucial catalyst in the story of Joseph reconciling with his brothers who had sold him into slavery (Genesis 37–41). Unleavened bread reminded Jews how the Lord had delivered them from Egypt (Deuteronomy 16:3, NIV). Loaves of bread were offered to God to thank Him for His unfailing love and care (Leviticus 7:12, NIV). Early Christians “broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts” (Acts 2:46, NIV) to show the unity of the church.

However, during the Last Supper, Lord Jesus revealed to His disciples the most remarkable meaning

of bread. “He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me’” (Luke 22:19). By partaking of bread during communion services in our churches, we remember His death on the cross in our place so that “whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Moreover, only Jesus satisfies the hunger of our souls because “‘the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world’” (John 6:33). This essential part of His creation—grains, flour, and bread—should never be consumed without first giving thanks to its Provider. “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits” (Psalm 103:2, NASB) as we prayerfully request “give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). **C**

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*Tatiana Claudy writes from Indiana and continues to explore the wonders of God’s handiwork in order to share inspiring insights as a regular contributor to Creation Illustrated.*

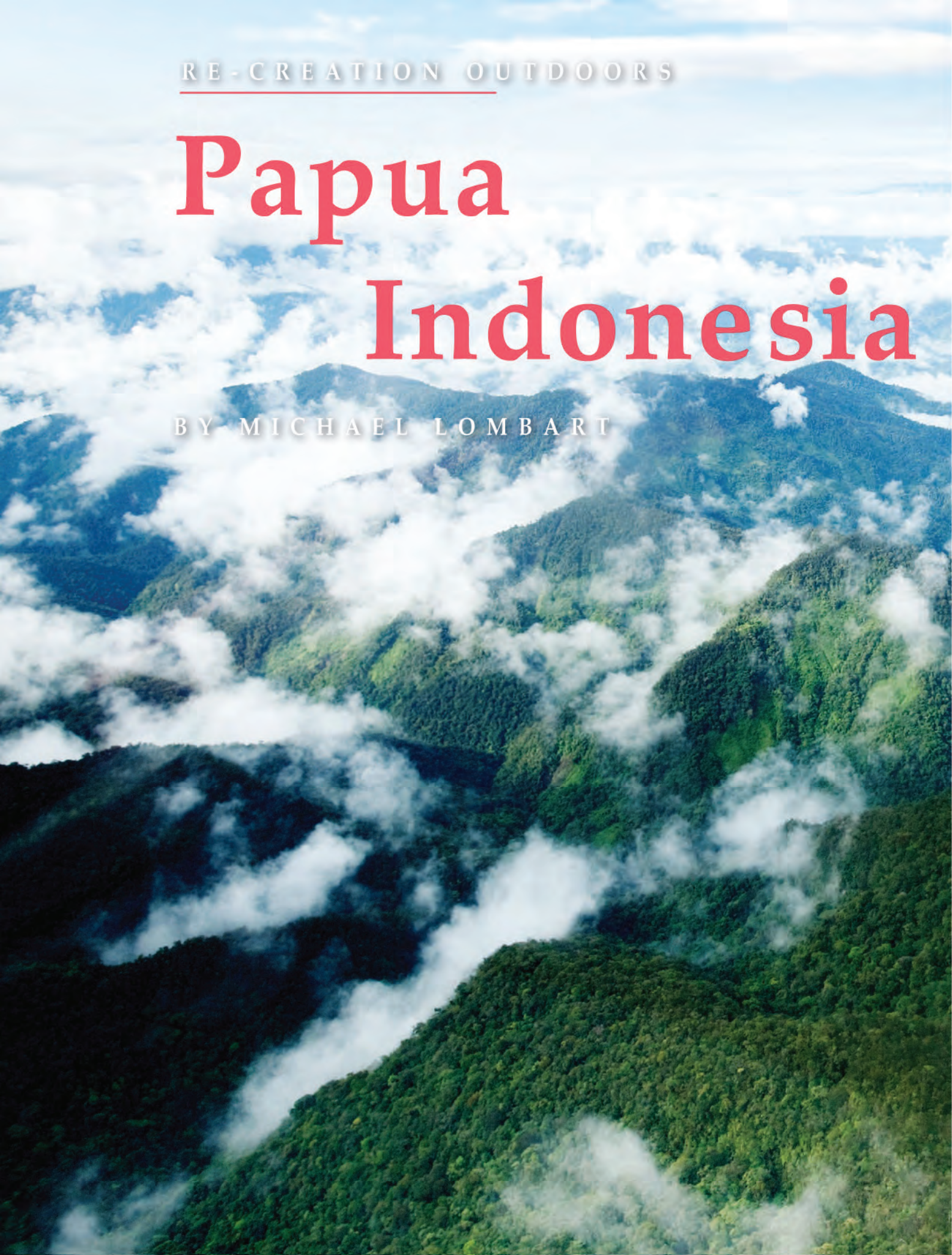


RE-CREATION OUTDOORS

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# Papua Indonesia

BY MICHAEL LOMBART





An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The mountains are covered in dense, vibrant green forest. White clouds and mist are scattered throughout the valleys and around the mountain peaks, creating a dramatic and ethereal atmosphere. The sky at the top is a pale blue with soft, wispy clouds.

# By Land

**A** particularly steep airstrip loomed in the windscreen of the single-engine plane. The mission pilot made the approach and landing look easy as he touched down on the hillside clearing of our remote jungle destination. We rolled to a stop at the top of the hill, shut down the engine, and performed the familiar routine of sliding open the cabin doors to offload the passengers and goods.





Photos by Michael Lombart

*A village celebrates the opening of their new airstrip.*

## EXCITED ABOUT THE REASON

---

A few moments later it was time for me to say goodbye. But this time it wasn't to the people who had just disembarked; it was my farewell to the pilot and plane that brought me here.

"See you in a month," he joked as he shook my hand and climbed back in the plane. Hopefully it wouldn't be that long as there was no other way out of this secluded village in the heart of Papua, Indonesia! The engine quickly spooled up, and before I knew it the mission plane was rolling back down the steep slope and gliding into the air. It was strange to watch my only access to home disappear over the far ridge.

Fortunately I was surrounded by friends for this adventure, and I was excited about the reason we had come to this particular village. My Indonesian colleagues faced the daunting task of starting a brand-new elementary school in this primitive highland community, and I was tagging along for their first week.

The remote village rests in the heart of dense jungle mountains that splits the island into northern and southern halves. The one hour flight (or 130 air miles) south from Sentani (a city near the mission plane's airbase) seems a flash compared to about a week's journey to reach the village by ground. It is possible to hike a few days through the mountains over steep and slippery trails to get to the nearest small town in the region.

Until now the village families had no way for their children to learn to read and write without sending them far away, and ever since the runway had been built, the parents had been asking for teachers. The villagers' appeal reminded me of the urgent call that Paul received in the book of Acts. "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and





*Abundant water flows in the jungle.*



*The author bids farewell to the mission plane.*

*“Come over . . . to help us.”*

pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us’” (Acts 16:9). After patiently waiting for years, the moment the villagers had been dreaming of arrived in the form of some young teachers.

Eager hands gathered our supplies, and we followed our new friends up the slippery jungle path. Surrounded by lush verdure from the nearly constant jungle rain meant there was also plenty of mud to trudge through. Thankful for my rubber boots, I really wasn’t eager to go barefoot like most everyone else.

We hiked uphill for a half hour before the jungle parted and the village appeared. Like most places in the mountains, flat real estate was rare, which forced the villagers to arrange their huts in tiers on the hillside with uneven rows of thatched roofs branching over the path every few paces. At the top of the rise stood a larger wooden building called the *balai desa* or village hall that would serve as our temporary home and schoolhouse.

After the teachers met the families of the children who would be enrolling in the school, the village leaders informed us that the community planned for us a traditional celebration—a *bakar batu*. Translated literally, *bakar batu* means *burn stones*—a classic Papuan outdoor cooking event. I had heard of this, and I eagerly awaited my first experience participating in this special kind of village potluck.

The process began with heating rocks over a fire that would be used as heating elements for a big, natural steam oven. While the rocks were getting hot, some men started digging a shallow pit and lining it with banana leaves. The now piping-hot rocks were placed in the bottom and covered with more banana leaves.





Photos by Michael Lombart

*The village women peel taro roots for the feast.*

## RELAXED AND CHATTED

Next came the food items that included lots and lots of freshly harvested garden produce. Some of the women had peeled and cut enormous taro roots while others brought large bundles of greens from their garden plots. These were all placed on the banana leaves, along with sweet potatoes, green soybeans, and a special kind of edible grass with a name that translates to *candle vegetable*. Finally some meat was placed on the top, and then everything was covered thoroughly with more banana leaves and more hot rocks and then left to steam.

A couple hours later, the food was well-cooked and the feasting began! The steaming food was scooped out of the pit and served on a picnic blanket of green banana leaves spread on the ground. Cross-legged diners reached into the pile of food with their hands, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The assortment of vegetables didn't exactly have a gourmet appearance once they came out of the pit, but all of them were quite tasty!

After stuffing ourselves we relaxed and chatted outdoors until the mid-afternoon clouds started descending on the mountainside. As it began to drizzle, people gradually retreated into their huts to stay dry—a predictable daily pattern that punctuates the rhythm of jungle life. The drizzle turns into a steady rain that lasts for much of the night. When dawn arrives everything glistens and drips as the sun usually warms things up until the cycle repeats in the afternoon.

This tropical water cycle provides a very visible and vital part of the local ecosystem by feeding countless streams and rivers. Everywhere the water goes, it supports the tremendous amount of life that inhabits this island and offers a literal illustration of the sustaining power of God's Word as pictured in the Bible. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and





*The meal cooks under banana leaves and hot rocks.*

*A variety of vegetables are arranged on the steaming banana leaves.*

*“It will not return to Me empty . . .”*

furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10, 11, NASB).

Just like the ever-persistent water supply, the life-giving Word of God was about to start finding new ways into the hearts of the village young people as my teacher friends began the important work of helping them learn how to read. Though the villagers were Christian, only a few adults could read the Bible. It was really heartwarming to think how these children would eventually be able to read the Bible for themselves and eventually share eternal truths with other villages.

The following morning several dozen bright-eyed youngsters were ready and eager to start their first day of school. Faced with quite a crowd, the teachers dove right in and got the children organized with singing songs, playing games, and learning the alphabet. Several parents helped to keep order and translated for some of the smaller children who didn’t yet understand the national language of Bahasa Indonesia that the teachers used.

This experience afforded me a meaningful moment to remember and one that made me realize how privileged my own upbringing has been. Scripture reminds us, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

The former village chief who had made repeated requests for teachers underscored the significance of this event as he expressed his thanks to the teachers several evenings later. With obvious emotion he shared some words that have stuck with me. “This is still a place of darkness; our children don’t even know the ABCs yet. But praise God, He has brought you.”





Photos by Michael Lombart

*The teachers create order among the students who line up for classes.*

## EXCITED TO GO TO SCHOOL

Over the next few days, I helped where I could and watched as the village school began to find its routine. It was refreshing to see young people who were thrilled and excited to go to school. I could see how Solomon's words already rang true in their lives. "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her" (Proverbs 3:13-15).

As my week in the village drew to a close, I packed up my gear and prepared to meet the mission plane at the airstrip. I was looking forward to a nice hot shower, sleeping in my own bed, and eating my regular food, but as I said goodbye to my teacher friends and wished them God's blessing, I was humbled by their selfless commitment.

They would be spending months here isolated from the outside world with no email or phone to help communicate with loved ones. They had none of the conveniences they were used to, and there was no supermarket where they could buy their favorite foods when they finished their small supply. This truly seemed to be the far end of the earth; yet, they volunteered to serve in this remote, primitive situation. Why? So that under-served children in a faraway village could have an education and a better life. The educators daily plant seeds and cultivate them to ultimately bring forth a bountiful harvest.

Their dedication provides a modern-day reflection of the greatest Teacher who left His home to give us the opportunity to learn His ways toward living a better life. "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). His Father let Him go in order to rescue a remote and spiritually primitive people. "For God so loved the





*The mission plane returns to take the author home.*



*Students begin to learn the alphabet.*

*“That they may have it more abundantly.”*

world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

As I conclude this three-part series on Papua, Indonesia—by air, by sea, and by land—I hope the glimpses of a far-away place has helped everyone appreciate a fascinating part of the Creator’s remarkable handiwork, its stunning scenery, its unique culture, and its vast opportunity to reach people for Christ who we can look forward to greeting in the earth made new. **C**

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*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 his three-part series on his experiences in the tropics—by air, by sea, and by land—that reveal the worship-inspiring diversity of the Creator’s handiwork in the environment, in the people, and in the creatures He made for us to study.*



# Surreal Sea Turtles

**I**n the Caribbean islands, spotting leatherback turtles on the shores is no rare event but still seems surreal. The painstakingly slow movements of these large sea creatures maneuvering on land appears arduous as they flap their limbs to inch themselves forward. In contrast, a transition from awkwardness to almost angelic, graceful glides in the sea with each thrust of their flippers proves their adept abilities at flourishing in the water.

So, what motivates these bulky marine creatures to pursue with determination the exposed seashore environment? Close observation reveals that they use their broad, lanky appendages to dig a shallow hole in the sand to lay their eggs as they follow their Creator's admonition to "be fruitful and

**By Dilosi Allgain  
with Jennifer Ish**











A hawksbill turtle (previous pages) glides through a coral sea in contrast to trudging on the sand (right). Hundreds of eggs are laid each year (above) so that a good number of hatchlings have a chance to survive as they venture toward the vast ocean waters (below). Last one in's a rotten egg!





# *“In returning and rest shall ye be saved”*

—Isaiah 35:15, KJV

multiply, and fill the waters in the seas” (Genesis 1:22). Though these marine reptiles spend the majority of their lives beneath the frothing waves of the ocean, at about age twenty they return to their place of hatching almost yearly to deposit a new clutch of eggs. Laying around one hundred fifty eggs becomes necessary to preserve the turtle population as less than a fraction of one percent of the eggs will survive to adulthood because of the many predators (including humans) that take advantage of the animal’s helplessness. Enemies of the turtles consume the eggs before they hatch or as meat afterward.

Once the female leatherback lays her eggs, she slides through the sand back to the sea while acquiescing that only some of her offspring will survive the harsh realities of life in the wild. Only the strongest will ultimately live, but she will return to the same beach about the same time next year to lay several dozen more eggs. She will continue to repeat this arduous annual event until about her eightieth year. No matter how far away she may swim, she will always find her way back at just the right time just as God promised His children in Isaiah 30:15, “In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (KJV).

No one knows exactly how turtles do this navigating; however marine turtles possess ultrafine particles of super-paramagnetic minerals called *magnetite* in their brains that researchers discovered are highly responsive to the earth’s magnetic field that may be a factor in returning to their place of hatching.

Kenneth J. Lohmann, PhD, a marine biologist and leading professor in the department of biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shares, “Previous experiments have shown that hatchling loggerhead turtles can detect magnetic inclination angle and field intensity (two geomagnetic features that vary across Earth’s surface) and could, in

principle, provide positional information to a migrating turtle. . . . Hatchlings inherit a large-scale geographic map that enables them to continuously approximate their position anywhere in the North Atlantic.”

These findings result from experiments Lohmann and his team carried out on young loggerhead turtles that had never swum in the sea before. Setting up his laboratory apparatus to replicate various magnetic fields found in the North Atlantic, he found out that these turtles responded the same way turtles that had grown in the wild would respond. The creatures wouldn’t go beyond field lines that resembled those that bordered the North Atlantic gyre because in the wild, young turtles would not survive the low temperatures of the waters beyond that point.

Even humans have an innate compass called a conscience guided by the Holy Spirit. If we listen to it, we’ll steer clear of danger and not venture beyond biblical boundaries. Isaiah 30:21 clearly warns, “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it” (KJV). Unfortunately, many souls listen to other thoughts and venture beyond God’s guiding *gyre* and endanger their lives and the lives of others. God promises that if we listen to Him, we will prosper; but if we continually disobey, we will ultimately meet with ruin. “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth” (Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, NIV). The beautiful truth is that it doesn’t matter how far off we’ve veered; the moment we choose to return to God, He can bring us back on track.

Keeping sea turtles on track is no small feat. The seven species of these amazing marine creatures (leatherback, olive Ridley, Kemp’s Ridley, hawksbill, flatback, loggerhead, and green sea turtles) live in almost every ocean throughout the world and migrate



*“God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able.”*

*—1 Corinthians 10:13*

long distances across entire oceans. Some loggerheads nest in Japan and migrate to Baja California Sur, Mexico, to forage before returning home again. Mature leatherbacks can withstand the coldest water temperatures, even below forty degrees Fahrenheit, and can be found as far south as Chile and as far north as Alaska. Green and olive Ridley species travel on shorter migrations, while hawksbills rarely leave a relatively small area. As vast as their territories may be, they stay within their allotted boundaries.

Sea turtles vary in size with the olive Ridley usually weighing less than a hundred pounds while the leatherback typically ranges from six hundred fifty to one thousand three hundred pounds! The upper shell or *carapace* of each sea turtle species differs in length, color, shape, and arrangement of scales. Researchers do not yet know how long baby turtles spend in the open sea or exactly where they go, but theories suggest that the infant turtles spend their earliest, most vulnerable years floating around the sea in giant beds of sargasso weeds to do little more than eat and grow. Once the young turtles reach dinner-plate size, they feed in near-shore waters to grow slowly and, depending on the species, take between fifteen and fifty years to reach reproductive maturity. It is difficult to determine the age of a sea turtle from its physical appearance, but researchers say most live between thirty and fifty years while some species can live more than a hundred years.

The design of a turtle's body clearly demonstrates that every part fits together perfectly to help this awkward creature overcome the challenges of living in the sea and briefly on land. While some entertainment depictions show turtles leaving their shells, they are actually stuck with this protective home that grows with them until death. Their shells provide exoskeletons that serve as their rib cage, sternum, vertebrae, and spine. Because their rib cages

cannot expand like that of other animals, these reptiles have to breathe through their mouths with the help of internal muscles. An amazing feature includes the ability to exchange gases through a feature in their rear ends called a *cloaca*. They suck in water through their cloaca and absorb oxygen via papillae structures that serve somewhat like internal gills. The papillae also expel carbon dioxide from the turtle's system.

Their shells also help them to respire anaerobically (ie. without oxygen). During the winter most sea turtles migrate to warmer tropical waters. However, some of them hibernate and slow down their metabolic activities. Hibernating in cold water means they have little access to oxygen. So, their bodies generate energy anaerobically, the by-product of which is lactic acid. This lactic acid can kill the turtles if it builds up to a critical point. The shells assist by absorbing the acid and releasing bicarbonates to neutralize the acid.

This process is only possible because turtles are cold-blooded animals that generally have lower rates of metabolism compared to homeothermic animals and thereby require less oxygen to survive.

The body features of these reptiles are designed to match their behaviors. Leatherbacks, the largest of the marine turtles, have streamlined shapes in order to dive deep in search of jellyfish. Loggerhead turtles have strong jaws that allow them to crack open prey with hard shells. Such intentionality of their design cannot be ignored. We can see that God designed creatures with everything needed to function or overcome various circumstances that 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us, “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (KJV).

Some onlookers have observed these docile creatures on the beach and claim they appear to be





Melissa Ish



Melissa Ish

A large green sea turtle rests on the beach in Maui, Hawaii (above), while another surfaces for air in the choppy sea (left). Sharp facial features show the turtle's unique characteristics (below).







Tom Ish

Co-author Jennifer Ish and daughter Melissa keep a safe distance from a green sea turtle in Hawaii (above). The scaly patterns of sea turtles inspire works of art (below).



Melissa Ish





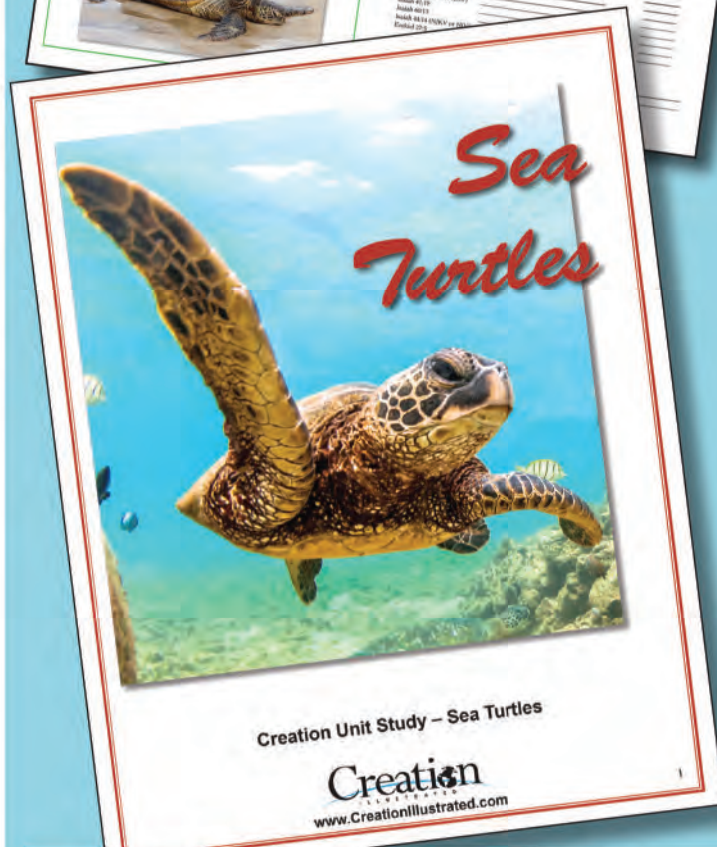
crying. Others claim that these tears are for the lives of their unhatched young, but that's not true. Those tears actually serve two purposes. First, they help the turtles get rid of excess salt from their hyper-saline environment. Salt glands that empty into their eyes form a concentrated salt solution that are the tears we see. Fresh water and land turtles can't survive in saltwater because they lack this mechanism. Secondly, these tears help to flush and protect sea turtles' eyes from sand particles while they dig their nests.

While God provides these special protective functions, we still have the responsibility of tending to the well-being of His creatures since He gave us dominion over them. We can help share knowledge on how to protect turtles and their nests wherever they may exist. Current laws prohibit harming turtle species found in U.S. waters. Harassing, capturing, or hurting sea turtles in Hawaii is punishable by a fine up to \$2,000 and/or thirty days in jail.

Shockingly, all seven species of sea turtles are endangered, and if we don't take action to protect them now, we'll soon lose these amazing, gentle creatures of the sea forever.

If these awkward amphibians can cross the line dividing land and water and flourish in daunting deep sea environments, then we, too, can depend on the Creator's wisdom to help us function wherever we may go as promised in Matthew 28:20. "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (NIV). **C**

*Dilosi Allgain writes from Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where he is a student and freelance writer who runs an uplifting Christian blog, [www.aclick4christ.wordpress.com](http://www.aclick4christ.wordpress.com). He hopes to start a turtle conservancy someday. Jennifer Ish is associate editor of Creation Illustrated.*



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*The water planet*

*“Then God said,  
‘Let the earth bring  
forth the living creature  
according to its kind:  
cattle and creeping  
thing and beast of  
the earth, each  
according to its kind’;  
and it was so. . . .  
And God  
saw that it  
was good. . . .*

# CREATION DAY 6

■ BY JERRY BERGMAN, PHD

---

## The Creation of Animals, Creeping Things, and Humans

Editor’s Note: This article is the seventh part in our eleventh series of features that focus on the Creation week. Some days are divided into segments, and in the next issue we will explore the seventh day of the Creation week when God created a day of rest and worship. 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.





*Cattle according to its kind*

**W**hen God planned to create humans, He first had to create a universe conducive to human life. This required creating our Milky Way Galaxy and then our solar system that has eight planets that help protect the earth from outer space debris such as meteorites.

Designed very differently from all of the other planets, the earth (referred to as the *water planet*) exists as the only one in which water can simultaneously exist in three forms—solid, liquid, and gas. Then He had to make the earth ready for human habitation. He did all these things in the six Creation days as described in Genesis chapter one. The end goal of the Creation week, from day one to day six, was the creation of humankind.

Creation day six provided the

capstone of God's creative activity when He created the land animals that serve as a central part of our lives to this day. He also created humans and gave them two instructions—to fill the earth with their offspring and to care for the earth. When creating the land animals, God reminded readers that the creatures were created according to their kind. "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind'" (Genesis 1:24). The Genesis *kind* is not a modern taxonomic category but a logical grouping that is still used today. Examples include the cattle kind, the dog kind, and the camel kind. Modern taxonomy, developed only in 1735 by Carl Linnaeus, set forth in his *Systema Naturae* has been extensively modified at the discovery of new animal types.





Mark Gottlieb

*And beasts of the earth according to their kind*

From the dust of the ground, God made the livestock animals and insects that serve us well including sheep, cattle, goats, horses, camels, and a myriad of insects as chronicled in Genesis 1:24, 25—“cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.” The livestock included animals designed specifically for farm work both then and now that shows God had humans in mind from the beginning.

Also created on day six were the nondomesticated animals including lions, tigers, bears, deer, beaver, raccoons, and hundreds of other mammal *kinds* that

reveal part of God’s required ecological balance we recognize today as critical for a flourishing environment.

Making animals from the dust of the ground may sound more poetic than factual, but all life on earth ultimately comes from and is sustained by the soil. Plants obtain their minerals and other building material from the soil, and herbivores in turn live off of the plants. Carnivores then live off of the herbivores, and ultimately when all animals die, their minerals and biochemicals return to the soil in an endless well-designed recycling system.

Created in a separate category unconnected to the animals, humans revealed that they were not just naked apes as some teach. Also created from the dust of the earth, *Adam* comes from the



*Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' . . .*



Marty Betts

*Apes are not of the human kind.*

Hebrew word *adamah* meaning *earth*. But most astoundingly, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (Genesis 1:26). Created in the *image* and *likeness* of God offered a description bestowed on no other life form that He created. Humans, in contrast to all of the other physical life forms, were in many ways like their Creator—sharing personality, intellectual, and emotional traits.

Also true of no other life form, God commanded humans to rule and have dominion over all the creatures including fish, birds, creeping things, and even the nondomesticated animals. "Then

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:28).

Then God gave humans every seed-bearing plant and every fruit tree (except one) for food. (See Genesis 1:29.) And, He added in verse 30, "'I have given every green herb for food'" for the creatures. "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day; and it was so" (Genesis 1:31). Notice that on the end of nearly all the other days of the Creation week, we read "God saw that it was good." But at the end of Creation day six we read that it was *very* good.



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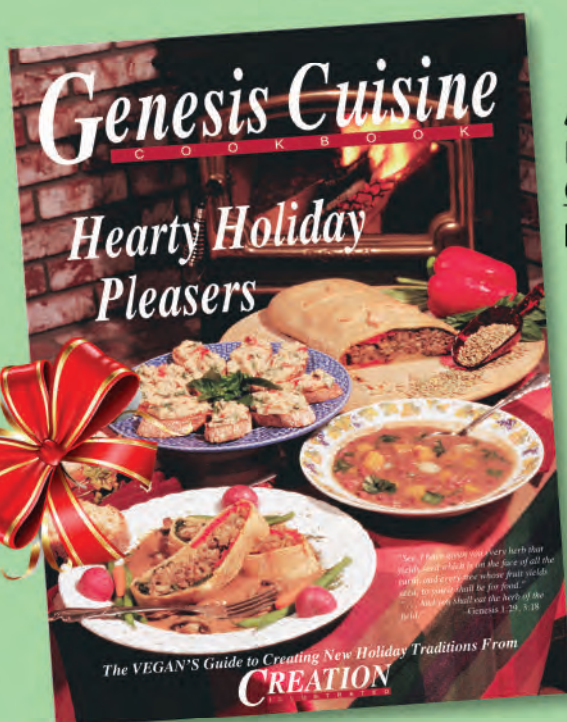




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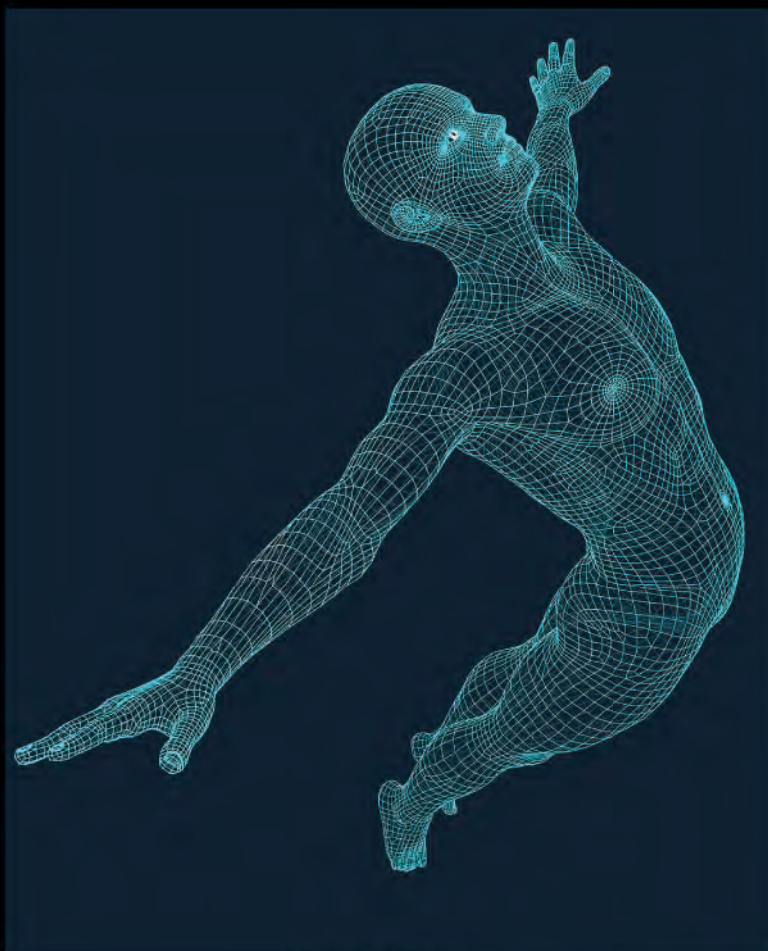


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*Made in His image*

*So God created man  
in His own image; in  
the image of God He  
created him; male and  
female He created  
them. . . . Then God  
saw everything that He  
had made, and indeed  
it was very good.  
So the evening and  
the morning were the  
sixth day.” —Genesis 1:24–31*

Chapter one of the book of Genesis provides a brief outline of the Creation of the universe, the earth, and all life. Chapter two goes into more detail, especially about the events of day six pertaining to the creation of humans who were assigned to take care of the plants and animals in the Garden of Eden. But they were without names; so, God brought the livestock, birds, and the nondomesticated animals to Adam so he could name them.

Taking care of this paradise with all of its trees, plants, and animals was a lot of work for one person; so, God told Adam, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Psychologically all persons need friendships and companions. While God likely had many conversations with Adam, he needed the companion of

another human to help care for Creation.

So, God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he slept God removed one of Adam’s ribs to create a partner. “Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). Adam now had a companion and a helper for the work of maintaining the Eden paradise in which they lived.

When Adam first saw the woman, he acknowledged “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man” (Genesis 2:23). From Adam and Eve all humans descended; therefore, there is only one race—the human race.


God not only made a male and a female, He made them in such a way that both were required to fulfill His





*Human family relationships*

command to ““be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth”” (Genesis 1:28). The ideal environment in which to raise children was designed to include both the mother and the father. As Genesis 2:24 teaches, a man and a woman were to leave their mothers and fathers and become one flesh, united in their role of nurturing children.

So, why did God create humankind as His crowning act on the sixth day of the Creation week? He not only wanted to provide cooperative human interaction in caring for His creation; He also wanted to have an eternal relationship with humanity for whom He created everything. 

---

*Jerry Bergman, PhD, writes from Montpelier, Ohio, and has taught biology, genetics,*

*chemistry, biochemistry, anthropology, geology, and microbiology in various universities and holds nine degrees, including seven post graduate degrees. He has written for many publications, as well as several books.*

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# CREATION HIGHLIGHTS

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

## Is Species Change Biblical?

Some creationists have objected to the idea that species might have changed significantly since the Creation. One objection is that Genesis speaks of different *kinds* of animals, each of which should reproduce after their own *kind*. The account of Creation day three indicates that different kinds of plants were created on that day, and days five and six reveal diverse creatures filling the sea, sky, and land.

The phrase “after their kind” is not referring to reproduction but to a diversity that was present from the beginning of creation. It did not derive from long ages of cumulative changes in species.

There is nothing unbiblical about the idea that species have changed in significant ways. What is unbiblical is the notion that such changes are responsible for creating various *kinds* of plants and animals that populate our world.

We should reexamine the phrase “after its kind” and recognize that it refers to the creation of many different kinds of organisms during Creation week but does not address the question of whether they change or not. This biblical teaching of created diversity followed by corruption due to sin is incompatible with the general theory of evolution.

**Condensed from a Geoscience Research Institute article by L. James Gibson, [www.grisda.org](http://www.grisda.org).**

## Encode vs. Evolution

If evolution is a result of mutations occurring randomly over long periods of time, then the human genome would just be filled with extra stuff—junk DNA.

The ENCODE (or Encyclopedia of DNA Elements) Project undermined the junk DNA myth and simultaneously fulfilled an intelligent design prediction that non-coding parts of the genome would prove functional. Junk-DNA proponents like Dan Graur were upset at the time admitting, as Jonathan Wells reported, “If encode is right, evolution is wrong.”

Well, ModENCODE (ENCODE for model organisms) found “unprecedented complexity” in the

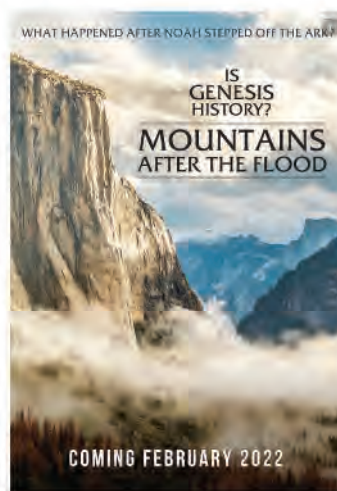
fruit fly genome in 2014, then ENCODE 2 followed up with more discoveries of function. Now, ENCODE 3 has just finished submitting its reports with record numbers of DNA annotations listed, and ENCODE 4 is gearing up. Nothing like a little overkill to drive the point home: “then evolution is wrong.”

**Condensed from a Creation Nuggets online post by Brian Mariani, August 17, 2021, Alpha Omega Institute, [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org)**

## Sequel to Is Genesis History?

What kind of post-Flood catastrophes and forces shaped the earth into all the different landscapes we see today? The new film *Mountains After the Flood* will explore what the world was like when Noah stepped off the ark.

The damage caused by the Flood would have created *post-apocalyptic* landscapes. Imagine a world without mature forests and widespread plant life but



with huge, captured bodies of water, masses of broken trees and vegetation, dead animals, and endless vistas of earth and mud. Many geological events were still happening during the years after the great Flood. The continents were shifting, there were major earthquakes, regional floods,

continent-sized hurricanes, growing ice sheets, and mountains rising.

The sequel to the *Is Genesis History?* movie will show creation scientists in the process of doing new research. One will look at the enormous folds in rock layers found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Were these folds soft when the folding occurred? The release date goal for *Mountains After the Flood* is February 2022.

**Condensed from an announcement by Is Genesis History? [www.isgenesishistory.com](http://www.isgenesishistory.com)**



# CREATION STEWARDSHIP

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

## Sharing Facts and Figures

As towns and cities expand into former wild lands, wildlife has been forced to find creative ways to survive and adapt in urban surroundings. With the ability to tag and track animals (as well as almost everyone having cameras to photograph and video encounters with wildlife), we can learn more about how creatures function.

Remember that all wildlife need four essential elements to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. The list of wild animals and birds that have learned to thrive in urban areas differs on each continent, but here are a few of the most common ones:

- The world's fastest creature, the peregrine falcon, thrive in New York City and London as the tall buildings appear like cliffs where they perch and hunt for abundant prey of pigeons and ducks.
- Wild boar in Berlin, Germany, have adapted well to this large city because of the many trees that provide shelter and a good food source.
- Mountain lions or cougar are appearing in the Los Angeles and other western cities and towns as skilled hunters of pets, as well as invading small farms where llamas, sheep, alpacas, and goats provide easy prey. Even attacks on small children have increased.
- Bears in North America have a keen memory and sense of smell and will naturally gravitate to easily found food sources like neighborhood garbage cans.
- Coyotes found in urban areas across North America pass the survival skills on to their offspring that is called "natural habitat-biased dispersal."



## Tips For Simple Living

Observing and studying wildlife forests, national and state parks, and the seashore is a wonderful activity, but what do you do when the wildlife is in your neighborhood or on your own land?

It is generally not safe for you to get too close to wild animals; so, observe them from a distance. Some animals may *look* tame but still could bite, carry rabies, or have fleas that can carry diseases.

Here are a few helpful tips to help reduce hazards and potential conflict with wild creatures in order to protect both you and the wildlife:

- Do not catch or remove animals from their makeshift urban homes. If you have questions, reach out to experts in your area.
- Always close and lock all doors, windows, storage sheds, and outdoor garbage cans.
- Dispose of fallen fruit from trees or surplus vegetables in your garden.
- Avoid easy access for creatures to get into bird feeders or pet food dishes.
- Keep your pets indoors at night.
- Protect farm animals like sheep, goats, and chickens by placing them in a covered enclosure at night.
- Keep cats indoors when migratory birds are around.
- If you cook outdoors, always clean the grill and eating area of leftover food residue.
- Close off entry points to your house like dryer vents, chimneys, attic or basement vents, torn screens, etc.

## Biblical Stewardship of Creation

"So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field" (Genesis 2:20). What a thrill this must have been to begin understanding the complexity of the vast array of creatures that God had just created. God gave humans the blessing and instructions to have dominion over the fish, fowl, cattle, and every creeping thing.

Did Adam and Eve understand the complexity of interrelated ecosystems in the Garden of Eden? Humanity is still seeking understanding as we work to fulfill this heavenly instruction—to care for the creatures of the earth amid great challenges.

God sees every creature and knows their needs. Luke 12:6 says, "'Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?'" (KJV). He wants us to love and care for His creation the way He does.





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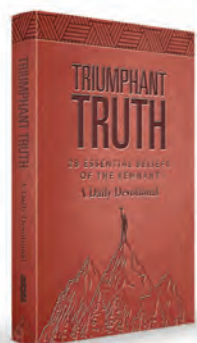
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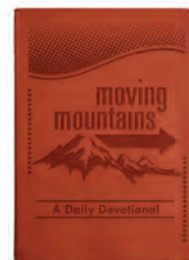


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# Wait for Him

When I began work at a rural Zambian hospital, the days were long and the learning curve steep. Sunrise brought a rushed scurry to make morning ward rounds. Sunset found me slowly trudging home with my mind full of the patients' needs and my eyes aimed at my feet. Exhaustion was mixed with gratitude that my missions agency placed me in a home within walking distance to work.

Then one day I found a book called *Birds of Southern Africa*. It contained page after page of bright, beautiful birds, and the map

indicated that many of them lived in my area. So, the next morning I let my head swivel with my eyes looking up hoping to catch a glimpse of some exotic avian species.

The first bird I saw looked rather drab with simple black feathers. But my disappointment soon vanished when replaced with astonishment as a closer look revealed startling red-rimmed eyes on this unassuming bird. All day my thoughts returned to wondering what kind of bird I'd been blessed to see that morning. I rushed home after work and quickly found it in my book—a red-eyed bulbul. I saw a red-





*Red-eyed bulbul*

eyed bulbul! I felt ecstatic at my discovery.

Walks to and from work quickly turned into the highlight of my days as I eagerly scanned the skies for new discoveries of feathered creatures. I would see a new one, try to memorize what it looked like, and then look it up in the book as soon as I got home—a wholesome substitute for television or the Internet.

Within a short time, I had seen the magnificent mohawk of the African hoopoe, the regal stature of the African fish eagle, and the watercolor palette of the lilac-breasted roller. I wondered how many times I must have



*African hoopoe*





*African fish eagle*



*Lilac-breasted roller*

walked by these amazing creatures and remained oblivious to God's stunning creations because I was concentrating on myself and my woes. I needed to focus on Matthew 6:33, 34, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things."

After identifying thirty species, I thought I'd seen the whole bird population in my little corner of rural Zambia. However, I had yet to even hear about the most marvelous bird of all!

My discovery of this fascinating creature started with a buzzing sound behind our bedroom walls. Then I noticed more and more dead bugs every time I swept the floor. By the time we realized we had a bee infestation, thousands of them had taken up residence around our home. With no exterminators to call, my husband and I wrung our hands for a few days trying to figure out how to rid our place of these menacing insects.

Then one morning I noticed a colorful flash of red and teal outside my window. I went outdoors to investigate and saw a small, brilliantly adorned bird performing an elaborate aerobic dance through the air. My mouth hung open as I wondered if this was some kind of a mating ritual.

The sight grew even more curious as the *technicolor* bird



suddenly landed in a tree and began vigorously slamming its head against a branch. Within a few seconds it flew away, and I stood frozen in amazement at the bizarre performance. Then I ran to consult my bird book.

After a little research, I concluded I had just witnessed a southern carmine bee eater enjoying its breakfast! It turns out that those acrobatic turns through the air were actually the bird stalking a bee. What I misinterpreted as the bird banging its head on the tree branch was really the creature's creative way to dislodge the bee's stinger.

Slowly more and more bee-eaters started visiting our house, and my husband and I began our morning ritual of bird watching that never ceased to amaze us. The bees that had once been a source of great frustration and worry now provided the highlight of our day!

The strikingly beautiful southern carmine bee eaters' daily aerobatics and darting for a meal actually provided a feast for our senses. We thrilled at seeing the bright streaks of turquoise and crimson flying through the air. We sometimes grew dizzy trying to follow their tortuous daredevil paths, gasping when they appeared to stop in mid air to rapidly switch directions. We even saw a bird catch a bee, bring it to a branch to remove its stinger, and unfortunately lose grasp of it. Instantly the hunt was on again!

I nearly memorized all

the bee-eater information in my *Birds of Southern Africa* and learned that besides bees, these creatures also ate grasshoppers, locusts, water bugs, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, and cicadas. God gave them long, slightly curved bills to help them hunt and dig. They don't make their nests in trees like other birds, however. Instead, they use their bills like shovels to dig out nesting perches in sandbanks where the bee-eaters create tunnels and lay two to six eggs at the end of the chamber.

One day we saw a bird kill a bee and then feed it to another bird as part of their courtship ritual. In addition to being kind and caring mates, these birds also



*Southern carmine bee eater*





*Southern carmine bee eaters*

display strong family dedication. They live in colonies of one to two hundred birds with each bird living with its extended family that can include up to four generations.

God used the southern carmine bee-eater to teach me two important lessons. First, signs of God's creativity, beauty, goodness, and grace can be found all around me if I look for them. I had lived in Zambia for months before noticing the plethora of brightly colored birds that surrounded me, and once I started looking, I discovered more each day.

It is the same process with finding God. Once we recognize His goodness, we become detectives of grace and discover much evidence of God's presence

in our everyday lives. Seeing signs of God's creative power in the world moves us to declare, "'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being'" (Revelation 4:11, NIV).

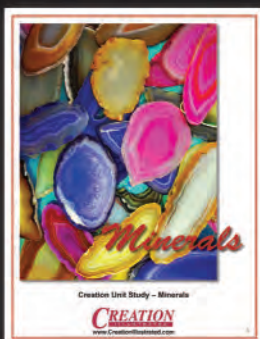
The second lesson of the bee-eaters is that God truly can work all things together for good as promised in Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." My husband and I initially thought the bees presented a terrible problem that caused us a lot of stress. However, the bees ended up attracting a huge blessing that filled our days with joy!

Imagine what we could have done with that time we spent worrying and wondering what to do. We could have spent more time in prayer and praise! I don't know if every bee problem has a bee-eater solution, but what we perceive to be problems can become conduits of God's grace. We simply need to have the courage to trust Him and have the patience to wait for Him. **C**

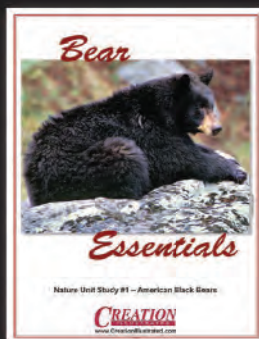
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*Alyson Rockhold served as a missionary in Haiti, Tanzania, and Zambia. She now writes from Spring, Texas, where she and her family continue to explore God's creation while gleaning vital lessons worth sharing with others.*

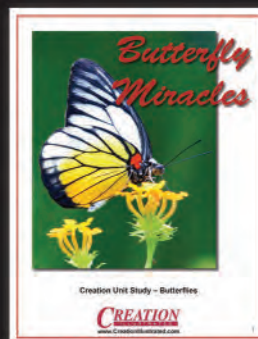




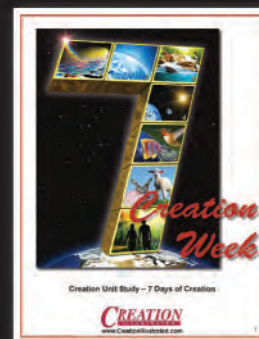
Minerals



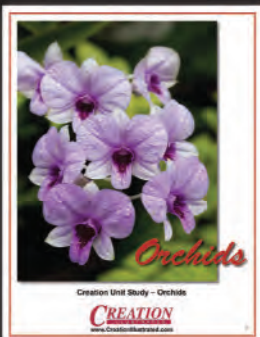
Bears



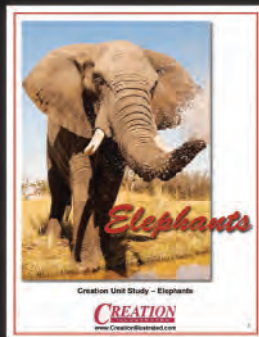
Butterflies



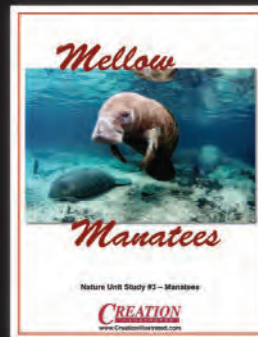
Creation Week



Orchids



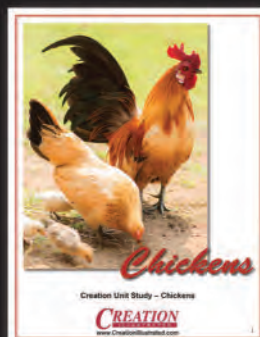
Elephants



Manatees



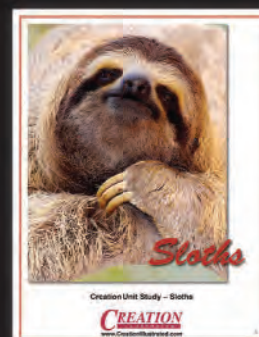
Horses



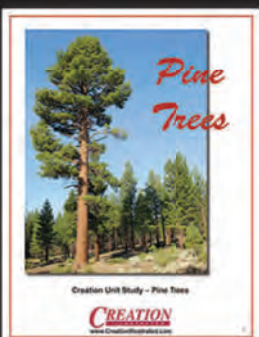
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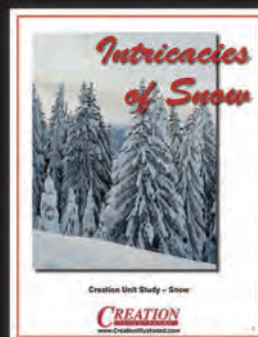
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"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:  
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Darren Greenfield

*Weimar farm crops flourish including watermelon, summer squash, and other melons (left to right).*

# *farming by*

**I** was quite shocked when the president of a northern California health and education ministry phoned and offered me the job of managing the campus agricultural program. Although an avid gardener, I had no experience running a commercial farm. So, this dream come true was at the same time very daunting.

As I prayed about the opportunity, a familiar passage of Scripture came to mind that speaks about how God teaches the farmer. "For He instructs him in right judgment, his God teaches him. . . . This also comes from the Lord of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance" (Isaiah 28:26, 29).

After accepting the position, another Christian farmer offered to teach me how to test and balance the mineral content of the soil. He took samples and sent them to a lab for analysis, and when the results came back, he even supplied the deficient minerals and taught me how to

*gardens from eden*





*Soil testing for proper mineral balance is crucial.*

# design

apply them. After reading the book *Hands on Agronomy* by Neil Kinsey, I learned that the right mineral balance in the soil closely parallels the makeup of the human body, which confirmed that this revelation was of the Lord since we were made from the dust of the ground. Everything in that Edenic loam fresh from the Creator's hand must have been present in humankind from the beginning.

The healthy and productive plants that grew in this newly balanced soil offered luscious produce that became much sought after by local markets and consumers. Upon delivering some freshly harvested vegetables to a local store one day, the manager told me that the night before the computer that controlled the refrigerated display had malfunctioned and had frozen nearly everything. He said they lost about \$5,000 worth of vegetables! But then he said none of our produce froze, and he asked what made it different.

*by darren greenfield*





*Local markets clamor for high quality organic produce.*

I explained the Creation model we were following from God's original design, and he responded by asking "What else do you have to offer?" Not only are our crops resilient to the colder temperatures, but being nutrient dense, the results taste remarkable! Over and over again I hear comments about our tomatoes, eggplant, squash, and herbs such as "I never really liked this until I tasted yours," or "This is the best I have ever tasted in my life!" As a result, I have not had to spend anything on marketing; the biggest challenge has been keeping up with the demand for the quality, nutritious produce.

With a constant focus on learning more about how God designed His garden to work, new discoveries kept sprouting up. One day as I contemplated how birds and animals distribute seeds, I realized that as a seed goes through the gut of a creature, the tiny morsel gets coated with organisms from the natural digestive microbiome. Then as seeds get deposited on the ground, they conveniently get dispatched with a fertilizer package. During the last few years I have used Peruvian sea bird guano as a fertilizer and have witnessed it to be the most effective in feeding the plants.

In addition, as I read through the Bible, I found that Job, who was the most successful farmer, fed the microbial life in the soil. "'If my land cries out against me, and its furrows weep together; if I have eaten its fruit without money, or caused its owners to lose their lives; then let thistles grow instead of wheat, and weeds instead of barley'" (Job 31:38-40). Soil has a way of expressing its health condition by what grows naturally in it. I have watched soil that is properly inoculated with beneficial bacteria and fed with a molasses-based food source start growing lush grass instead of weeds and thistles.

Furthermore, scientific researchers have discovered that plant roots appear to





*Nesting boxes attract avian assistance for pest control.*

*communicate* with the most beneficial type of microbes in the soil and work together in a symbiotic relationship. Through photosynthesis plants can exude about twenty-five percent of the carbohydrates and sugars produced into the soil that feeds the microbial community. The microscopic microbes in return convert minerals in granite particles into forms that the roots can absorb. Such manifestations of cooperation reveal that all of God's creation ministers to other forms of life as a living object lesson about His desired interdependency throughout the earth—a life-sustaining signature of approval within His design.

A fascinating book called *The Hidden Half of Nature* by David R. Montgomery and Anne Bikle tells how the Darwinian theory of survival of the fittest has had to change due to recent microscopic discoveries about the complexities of the smallest forms of life in the soil. Even single-celled life forms live in symbiosis with other similar forms of life where mutually beneficial cooperation can be observed at every level. This has underscored that our purpose in creation is to minister and in turn be ministered unto, or as Jesus said, "'Give, and it will be given to you'" (Luke 6:38, NIV).

One of the most common questions I am asked is: "What do you do about pests or diseases?" For the most part, I do not have a lot of experience dealing with pests or disease issues. It seems that the healthier the soil and the stronger the plants, the more resistant they are to pests and disease. But nature also offers helpful creatures and plants that will work to eradicate these issues for us.

Providing bluebirds with nesting boxes will attract these feathered friends to eat bugs and feed them to their hatchlings. Putting hummingbird feeders in fruit trees invites these agile creatures to chase away other birds that want to eat your precious fruit. Bat houses enable these





*Biblical principles and parables provide guidance toward fruitfulness from the hand of the Creator.*

voracious eaters to stay local and consume moths or other insects. Raptor polls provide a perch for easy hunting of rodents. The practice of companion planting such as putting sweet alyssum among kale plants and other greens will keep the aphids away. The list could go on, but the lesson is that God will teach us and give us wisdom through experience as we seek to cooperate with Him as our all-wise Creator and Master Gardener who also taught our first parents in the Garden of Eden.

Such interdependence designed by the Creator underscores our dependence on Him as the oldest and most reliable gardening manual promises in Psalm 65:9–11, “You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; . . . You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance.” **C**

---

*Darren Greenfield, also a pastor, writes from Weimar, California, where he serves as farm manager for Weimar University—a 450-acre health and education ministry dedicated to wholesome living and teaching God’s design so that patients and students can “prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 1:2).*





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# Genesis Cuisine

## Rare Raviolis

*“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, Melissa, and Tom Ish, Photos by Melissa Ish





## Tofu-Ricotta Beet Ravioli

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Pasta:</b> 3 C. soft wheat flour | 2 Tb. food yeast                   |
| 2 pinches of salt                   | 1 Tb. liquid aminos                |
| 3 tsp. olive oil                    | 1 tsp. lemon juice                 |
| 1 C. beet juice, more if needed     | 1 tsp. ea. onion and garlic powder |
| <b>Tofu-Ricotta stuffing:</b>       | 2 C. beet greens and/or chard,     |
| 14 oz. extra firm tofu              | shredded and wilted                |

Mix flour and salt then pour oil and red beet juice in the middle and mix and knead for about 5 minutes. Cover the dough and let it rest for 30 minutes. Cut dough in half and roll out two thin layers that are about three inches wide, or use a pasta machine. Mix tofu, seasonings, and wilted greens in a bowl. Place a soup spoon full of the mixture on the pasta every four inches. Moisten pasta around each mound of mixture, then place the other pasta layer on top and press around the mixture to seal the two layers. Cut into triangles and repeat until dough and mixture are gone. Bring a large pot of water to boil and cook approx. 3 to 5 min. Enjoy with a creamy cashew-lemon sage sauce.



## Mushroom-Walnut Spinach Ravioli

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Pasta:</b> 3 C. soft wheat flour | 1/2 C. walnuts, chopped            |
| 2 pinches of salt                   | 1 garlic clove, minced             |
| 3 tsp. olive oil                    | 1 C. onion, chopped                |
| 1 C. spinach blended to juice       | 1/4 C. sun dried tomatoes, chopped |
| <b>Mushroom walnut stuffing:</b>    | 1/4 C. kalamata olives, chopped    |
| 2 C. mushrooms, chopped             | 2 tsp. dried oregano               |

Mix flour and salt then pour oil and spinach juice in the middle and mix and knead for about 5 minutes. Cover the dough and let it rest for 30 minutes. Cut dough in half and roll out two thin layers that are about three inches wide, or use a pasta machine. Saute all the stuffing ingredients until moisture is cooked off. Place a round tablespoon full of the mixture on the pasta every four inches. Moisten around each mound of mixture, then place the other pasta layer on top and press around the mixture to seal the two layers. Cut into round discs and repeat until dough and mixture are gone. Bring a large pot of water to boil and cook approx. 3 to 5 min. Enjoy with a thick marinara sauce.



## Pumpkin-Pecan Baked Ravioli

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Pasta:</b> 3 C. soft wheat flour | 1/4 C. pecans, chopped            |
| 2 pinches of salt, 3 tsp. olive oil | 4 Tb. brown sugar                 |
| 2/3 to 1 C. water, more if needed   | 1 tsp. vanilla, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon |
| <b>Pumpkin pecan stuffing:</b>      | 1/4 tsp. ginger, 1/8 tsp. cloves  |
| 1 can pumpkin puree                 | pinch of salt, 2 Tb. cornstarch   |

Mix flour and salt then pour oil and mix and knead for about 5 minutes. Cover the dough and let it rest for 30 minutes. Cut dough in half and roll out two thin layers that are about three inches wide, or use a pasta machine. Mix the pumpkin stuffing ingredients together and cook over med. heat, stirring constantly until thick. Place small spoon full of the mixture on the pasta every four inches. Moisten around each mound of mixture, then place the other pasta layer on top and press around the mixture to seal the two layers. Cut into squares and repeat until dough and mixture are gone. Place on wire rack, dust with cinnamon sugar, and bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 25 min. Enjoy with a maple syrup, brown sugar, and pecan topping.



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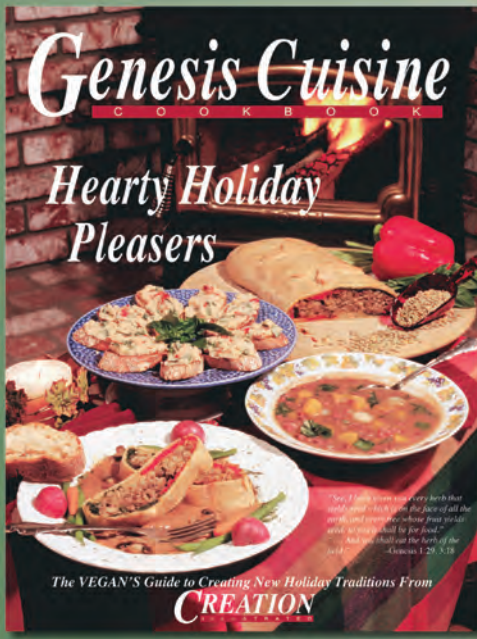


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# Galvesto

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



Bobby Harrison

*Reddish egret*



Bobby Harrison

*Clapper rail*

Birds reside there in abundance year round, but during the spring and fall migrations a great diversity of feathered species can be observed. Millions of birds pass through Galveston Island on their northerly and southerly sojourns. Among the ebbing tide, expansive mud flats, and endless cordgrass marshes, the weary travelers can rest and refuel.

The tan, sandy beaches expand over wide-open spaces, but the tide line is favored by gulls, terns, and shorebirds. Sanderlings, least sandpiper, ruddy turnstones, willets, piping, and Wilson's plovers are just a few of the birds that can be found running wildly along the beach and stopping abruptly to probe the sand for morsels that lay hidden beneath the surface. The countless quantity of shorebirds can be staggering at times; when weather conditions allow, flocks of thousands can be seen along the beaches.

Beyond the beaches and dunes lay a vast cordgrass saltwater marsh where the diversity of life explodes. The shallow tidal waters of the marsh teem with fish and invertebrates that offer a smorgasbord for hungry herons, egrets, terns, rails, and various other waterfowl. The most notable birds of the marsh are the herons, egrets, white ibis, as well as the great blue-, little blue-, tri-colored-, and night heron. The

Scripture declares, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:4, NIV).

Like a glistening necklace of pearls, the barrier islands of Texas stretch along its southeastern gulf coast from Galveston to the Rio Grande. Among those pearls is the lower half of Galveston Island—a stunning amalgamation of beaches, grasslands, and saltwater marshes that follow the length of the island from Saint Luis Pass to Surfside Beach. With more than twelve miles of beaches and two thousand acres of undeveloped barrier island habitat, Galveston Island provides an avian paradise.



# n Island

BY BOBBY HARRISON

American-, reddish-, and snowy egrets abound among the bays and tidal sloughs. During low tides certain species such as marbled godwit, willet, dunlin, and short-billed ditcher inundate the exposed mud flats. Patient and attentive birders can also find the reclusive clapper rail venturing out of the cordgrass onto a muddy slough.

The island's higher elevations consist of coastal prairies and woodlands dotted with small, fresh-water ponds. The long prairie grass habitat provides an abundant food source and haven for both migrant and resident species such as the long-billed curlew, marbled godwitt, and greater yellowlegs. The wetter parts of the prairie offers a prime nesting habitat for willets, laughing gull, and black-necked stilt.

The woodlands host a plethora of passerines, and in the spring and fall the woodlands fill with the cacophony of untold numbers of singing neotropical migrants. Among the towering trees warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, buntings, orioles, and other migrating flocks find an abundance of food and safety among the leafy branches.

With more than three hundred bird species coming to feast on Galveston Island, it remains a popular destination among those who love to explore and observe God's great creation.



Bobby Harrison

*Longbilled curlew*

This jewel among the Texas barrier islands shines as a rich treasure that is vital to the survival of the birds that move north and south each year.

The almighty God of all creation bountifully provides for His creatures as the words of the psalmist eloquently express, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing" (Psalm 145: 15, 16, NIV). **C**

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

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



Bobby Harrison

*Little blue heron*





**C**hameleons absolutely fascinate me. When I was in the fourth grade, my teacher had one of these lazy lizards in our classroom, and my desk stood right next to the table where this wondrous creature lived. I enjoyed watching him nearly all day long!

Spending time admiring different animals helps us understand how amazingly God created all of them. Think about cats, giraffes, turtles, whales, elephants, polar bears, and so many others. I have

always been wide-eyed about animals, but I know that God made each of us amazing also. Psalm 139:14 reminds us, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well” (NIV).

As a fearfully and wonderfully made grade schooler, I became totally enthralled by Jake, our chameleon. I waited and hoped to see his tongue zip out like a laser and snag his next meal. Chameleons have astonishing tongues, and some reach out twice the length of their bodies! Just imagine if your tongue

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





# Your True Colors

was twice the length of your body. That seems crazy, but a chameleon's tongue is also speedy and strong.

James 3:5 reveals another truth about tongues. "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!" (ESV). In this verse we are told how the words from our tongues can create problems. God wants us to remember that unkind words can hurt someone just like fire hurts a forest.

Have you ever cut your finger? Now, you did not do it on purpose, but it still hurts. Words can

be like that. Ask God to help you know what to say because Satan likes to start fires with our words.

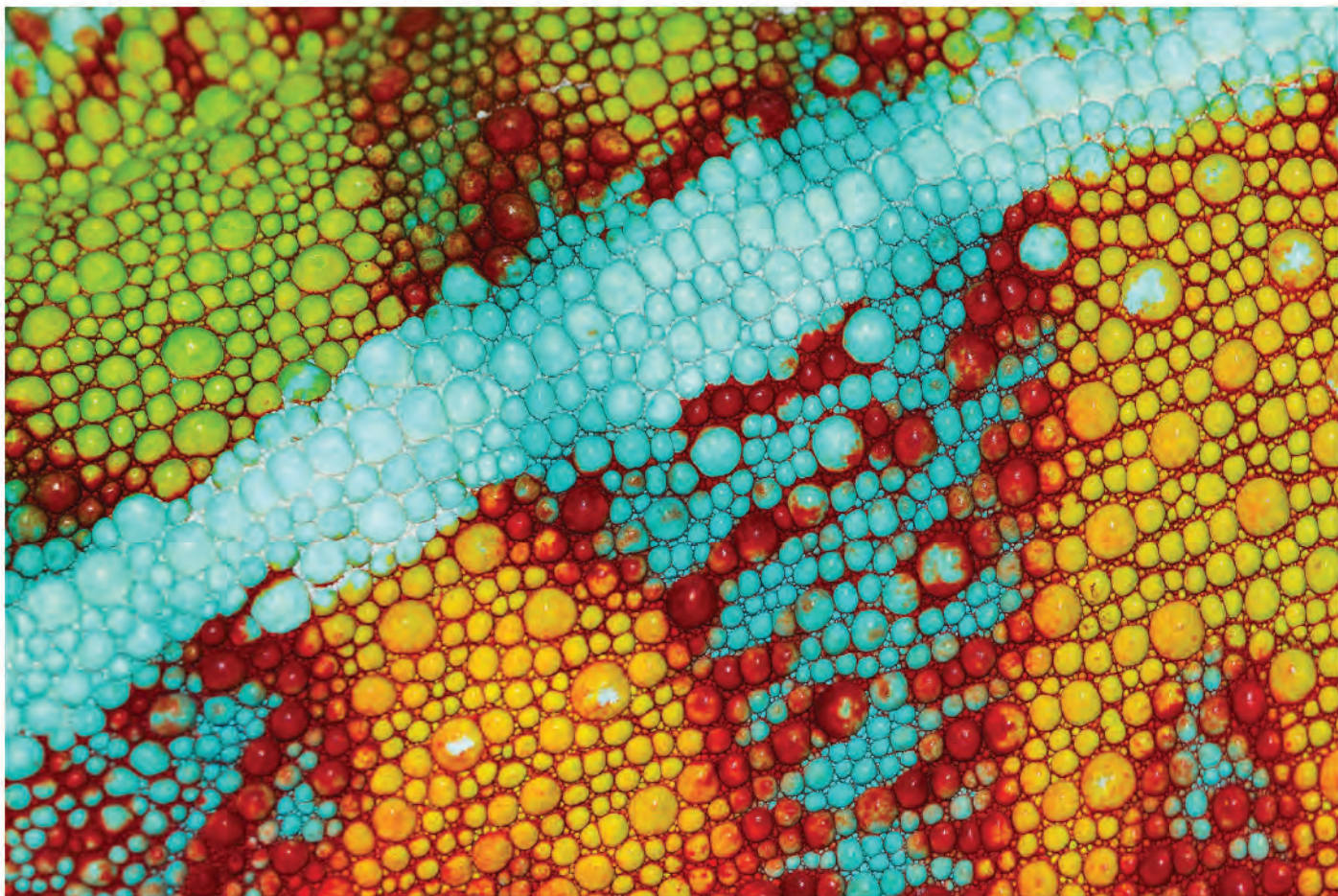
Chameleons know when to use their tongue and when to keep their mouths closed. I knew when to talk in class and when to listen. We can also use our words to help someone have a better day, to pray for a friend, or to tell someone about God because not talking to someone who needs a kind word can cause them to feel alone and empty.

My fourth-grade teacher was the first I ever had with a pet living in her classroom. We learned

B Y S A R A H

S L A G L E





that any chameleon reacts when feeling attacked, in danger, emotional, or when the temperature changes, which can happen a lot in a class of twenty-six fourth graders all wanting the chameleon to be their new friend. The many different types of chameleons can change in various colors or in patterns on their skin. They can be pink, blue, red, orange, green, black, brown, light blue, yellow, turquoise, or purple.

Chameleon skin has a superficial layer that contains pigments and underneath cells with *guanine* crystals. These dazzling creatures turn various colors by changing the space between the guanine crystals, which adjusts the wavelengths of light reflected off the crystals. This appears to transform the color of the skin.

While we may turn a bit red in the face when frustrated or embarrassed, we cannot change the color of our skin. In fact, Jeremiah 13:23 asks, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil" (NIV). This means that we are born a certain way as sinners, and only the power of the Holy



Spirit can change us from the inside out. Just like the chameleon, the way we react shows our *true colors* or the way we really are beneath the surface of our skin.

How do we react about the people around us—brothers, sisters, parents, friends, and others? Are we always kind and helpful? Or can we sometimes get frustrated? Can people tell when we're having a bad day or feel gloomy? I am so glad that we have a loving God we can pray to when we need Him to understand how we feel or to change how we react to a situation.

I am thankful that we can go to the Bible and read about people who depended on God when in pain or scared or alone. God cares for us so much that He understands our feelings and emotions even when we do not.

In Deuteronomy 31:8 we read, "'It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed'" (ESV). What a beautiful hug from God to know that He will even send people to pray and comfort us!

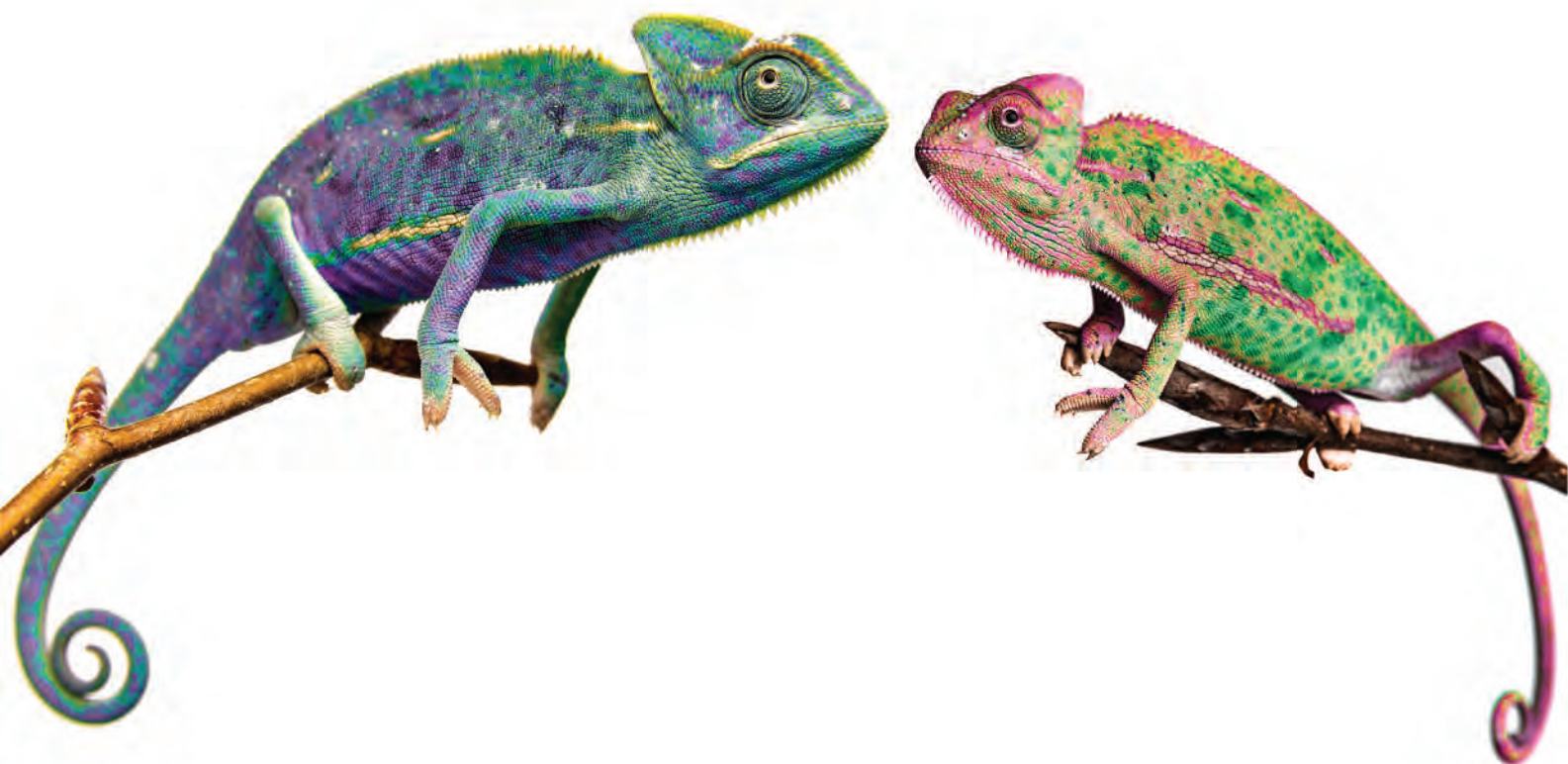
Just as the chameleon changes colors

depending on what is happening in his life, we can change and grow stronger under any circumstances as long as we are close to God. Just like I watched and cared for that chameleon in my fourth-grade classroom, we have friends and family who watch and care for us so God can work in our lives to make any changes we may need.

Although chameleons are wondrous creatures, even more wondrous is our walk of faith with God. Do people see the changes in us? How can we use our tongues to help someone know God better? Can you pray for someone? Do you need to spend more time getting to know God better by reading the Bible? He will help you let others see your faith grow from the inside out to show your true colors of love, joy, and peace. **C**

---

*Sarah Slagle writes from Warrensburg, Missouri, where she has retired after thirty-four years of teaching students to realize the joys of this world through object lessons that connected to the beauty of nature with one's growing faith in the form of devotionals, Bible studies, and speaking opportunities.*







## Green vs Dry

The difference between a green tree and dry tree is life. The green living tree pictured here is a birch tree. Dry dead trees, like the one on the left, are called snags. When the wind blows, a green tree will bend with the wind. A dry tree will not, and if pushed too hard, will snap and topple.

In a similar way, when family members are full of the life and power of the resurrected Christ, the winds of conflict are unable to break them. Instead they bend, yet stay true, kind, and friendly. People without the indwelling power of Christ are like dead trees: they snap into rude and angry quarrels and are not fun to be around; but where there is life there is flexibility and joy. "He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:12.

When Jesus was on His way to the cross of Calvary to pay the penalty for our sins on a dead tree, women began to weep when they saw Him suffering. He thought of the future and said, "Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" Luke 23:31 KJV. By the

green tree Jesus was speaking of Himself, the innocent Redeemer, being crucified for the sins of men. What suffering then would be borne by the dry tree, the sinner who continues in his sin?

Trees that are alive, die. Sometimes this death is senseless. "It took more than 3,000 years to make some of the trees in these western woods . . . Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time . . . and long before that . . . God cared for these trees, saving them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling, tempests and floods; but He cannot save them from fools." Taken from *The American Forest* by John Muir.

Man can take a living tree and make it dead. But man cannot take a dead tree and make it live. With what careful respect then should we take life from a tree when we cannot give it's life back! One of the miracles of redemption is that a dry tree, a person dead in trespasses and sins, can accept Jesus Christ and allow Him to live in his heart, and thereby become as a living tree.



### PRACTICAL PROJECT:

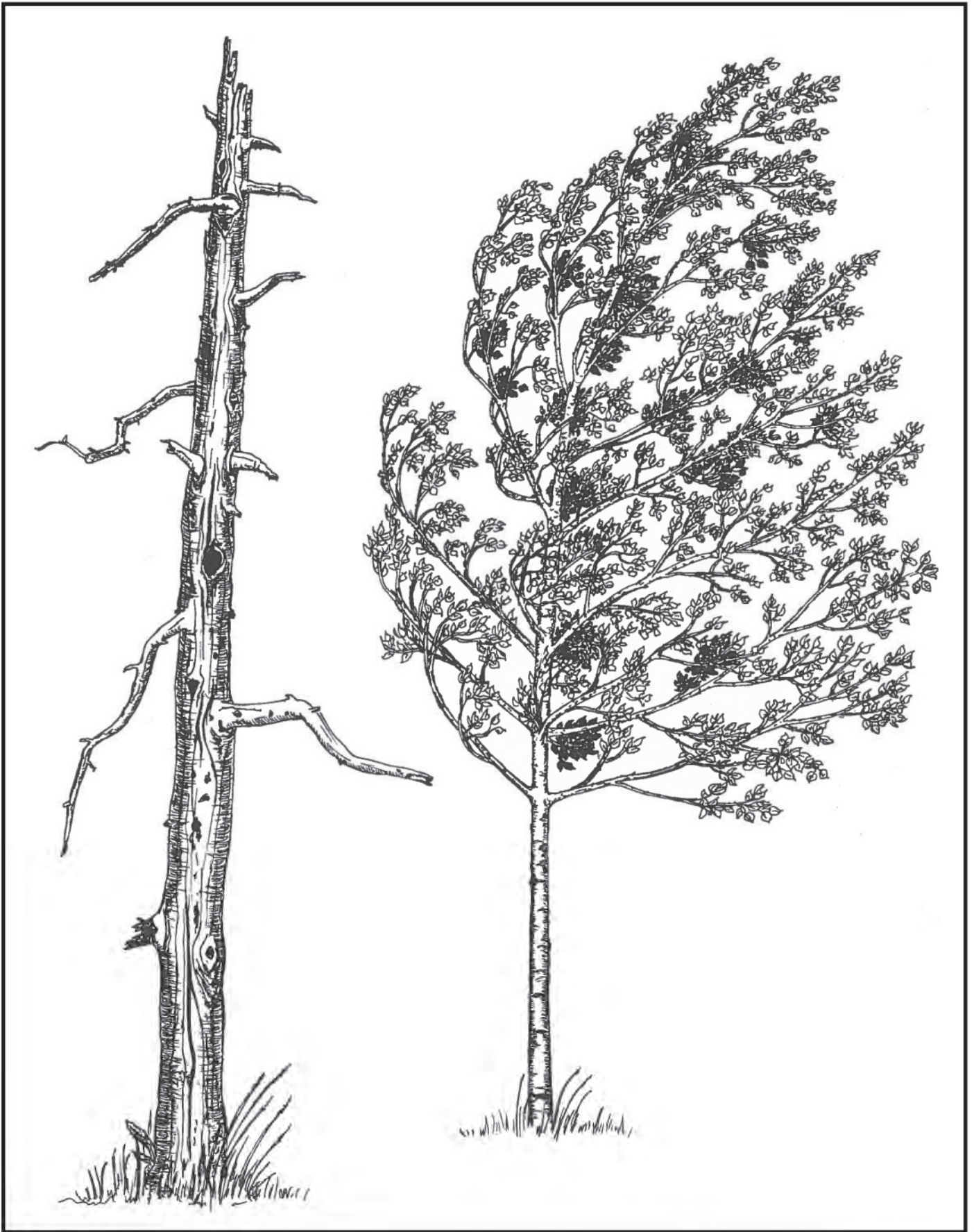
Take up some dry twigs and bend them; see how little pressure it takes before they snap. Do the same to a living twig; see how far it will bend before it breaks. Then discuss family relationships. How can we let the life of the living Jesus be revealed in our lives when family members may bend our patience to the breaking point?



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







Fall 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*

*Payton T., age 11, North Little Rock, Arkansas*



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



*First Place, ages 12–18*

*Mikaela I., age 18, Oxnard, California*

*First Place, ages 19+*

*Deloris H., age 40, Hastings, Nebraska*

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest for ALL Ages!** Color in the picture on the previous page from the Character-Building Lesson. You can even add other creatures, clouds, sky, etc. Then scan or photograph your work (maximum one per quarter) and email an attached jpeg to: [coloring@creationillustrated.com](mailto:coloring@creationillustrated.com), Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for fall 2021 entries is November 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 December from fall-edition pictures, the first week of March from winter-edition pictures, the first week of June from spring-edition pictures, and the first week of September from summer-edition pictures. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)



## Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

### Winners From Summer 2021 Submissions



#### *First Place, ages 6–11 (left)*

Laura K., age 11, of Millet, Alberta, quoted Psalm 84:11, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (KJV).

#### *First Place, ages 12–18 (right)*

Leah K., age 15, of Millet, Alberta, wrote, "I took this picture at the Tonto National Bridge in Arizona. I love how God made the sun rays make everything appear brighter in color."



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

Madeline I., age 20, of Oxnard California, "This is a picture of a juvenile squirrel in our backyard. He was born in a tree nest in our backyard and is among the third generation born there. I love to watch how God made them to thrive in their environment. This picture shows him doing well.

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Photo Contest for ALL Ages!** Get creative with your camera in nature and email an attached jpeg (maximum one per quarter) to: [photos@creationillustrated.com](mailto:photos@creationillustrated.com), Subject Line: Photo Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address and one or two sentences on what your photo says about our Creator. The **DEADLINE for fall 2021 entries is November 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 December from fall submissions, the first week of March from winter submissions, the first week of June from spring submissions, and the first week of September from summer submissions. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)





# STUDY GUIDE

## for *Creation Illustrated*, Fall 2021 Edition, Vol. 28, No. 3

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

### I. Creation Up Close—"Our Daily Bread" story, pages 6–11

1. How many Scripture references relating to bread are there in the Bible? p. 6
2. What are the root meanings for the word *rye* in Russian and Serbian languages? p. 6
3. What was the most valuable grain grown in ancient biblical days? p. 7
4. What words does the Bible use for one who gathers crops and one who neglects crops? (Proverbs 10:5) p. 10
5. List the Bible references that tell how bread is made. pp. 10, 11

### II. Re-Creation and Restoration Outdoors—"Papua Indonesia by Land" story, pages 12–19

1. What was the reason the author went to the remote village? Explain how remote it is. p. 14
2. How do the villagers arrange their huts? What was used as a temporary school and home? p. 15
3. Explain the type of celebration the villagers gave the teachers to show their thanks. pp. 15, 16
4. What is the tropical water cycle of Pupa Indonesia? How does it support life on the island and illustrate God's Word? (Isaiah 55:10, 11) pp. 16, 17
5. Explain the sacrifices and blessings of teaching in this remote village. Whose example are they following, and what harvest will it bring forth? pp. 18, 19

### III. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—"Surreal Sea Turtles" story, pages 20–27

1. After laying around 150 turtle eggs, how many will hatch and live into adulthood? p. 23
2. What particles did researchers discover in the brains of sea turtles? What does it help them do? p. 23
3. List the seven species of sea turtles. p. 23
4. What is the smallest sea turtle, and how much does it typically weigh? What is the largest sea turtle species, and how much does it weigh? p. 24
5. Explain the unique way sea turtles can exchange gases to expel carbon dioxide and absorb oxygen? p. 24

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



### IV. The Creation Week—"Creation Day 6—Animals, Creeping Things, and Humans" story, pages 28–35

1. Why is the earth also called the water planet? p. 29
2. What two instructions were given to humans at the time of their creation? p. 29
3. All life on earth ultimately comes from what substance? p. 30
4. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word *Adamah*? p. 31
5. Why did God create humankind as His crowning act on the sixth day of the Creation week? p. 35



## Fall Family Fun Activities

Fall time provides a special time of the year to give thanks and be grateful for the many blessings throughout the year that you and your family can remember. Coming together to create a *thankful tree* can become an annual activity to enjoy. You can even invite other families and friends to join you.

Materials needed are several strong dried bush or tree branches such as willow branches that you can place in a sturdy vase. You can even spray-paint them ahead of time if you like. Then create a variety of colorful leaf cutouts from construction paper. Punch a hole in each one and then tie a twine string on them.

Pass out the leaf cutouts with a marking pen to each family member and friend to write down what they are thankful for. You might enjoy having each person share what they wrote and then have them hang their leaves on the branches.

You can make it extra special by having a few leaves made up earlier with thanksgiving, gratitude, and Scripture texts or sayings written on them. You and your children can enjoy finding your favorite gratitude texts and writing them on the leaves.

In fact, making a few extra thankful trees with these texts would make a very uplifting and encouraging gift to shut-ins or elderly neighbors.

Having a meal, snacks, or harvest foods to enjoy after assembling your thankful trees can make your gathering extra special and something more for which everyone can be thankful!



F	R	T	Q	Y	E	H	Y	E	W	N	F
A	V	I	A	N	D	G	J	R	E	B	G
R	U	F	S	B	T	E	U	W	Q	S	T
M	I	N	E	R	A	L	N	J	R	O	U
E	O	I	D	E	E	R	G	O	A	I	I
R	E	A	E	A	H	T	L	L	I	L	O
S	L	R	N	D	W	O	E	E	N	L	L
D	T	G	I	H	C	I	Q	G	Y	A	W
E	R	V	C	T	A	R	W	G	E	N	Q
Q	U	M	D	Y	E	Y	O	S	H	D	Z
Z	T	O	N	G	U	E	S	P	G	Q	E
X	G	L	B	P	K	W	A	J	F	A	M

## 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. LAND    |
| 2. BARLEY  | 12. MINERAL |
| 3. BREAD   | 13. RAIN    |
| 4. COLORS  | 14. RYE     |
| 5. CROP    | 15. SEA     |
| 6. EDENIC  | 16. SOIL    |
| 7. EGGS    | 17. SOW     |
| 8. FARMER  | 18. TONGUE  |
| 9. GRAIN   | 19. TURTLE  |
| 10. JUNGLE | 20. WHEAT   |



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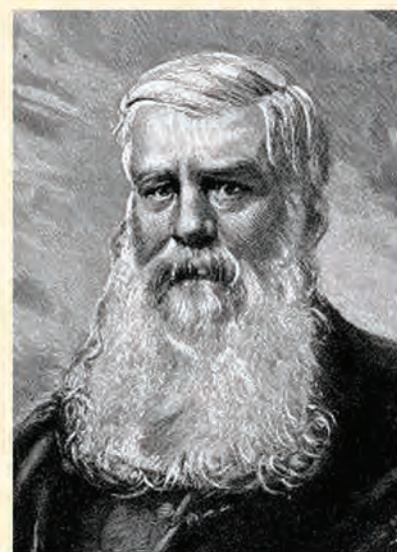
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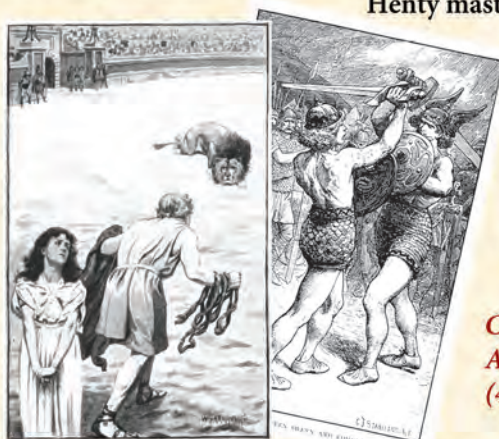
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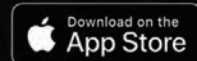
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DIETARY SUPPLEMENT



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## *Calming Harp*

*Music that Quiets the Soul  
from the Psalms of David*

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*These harp CD's are my original compositions from the Psalms of David using a Hebrew letter to musical note relationship recorded in the musical frequency of 528Hz.*

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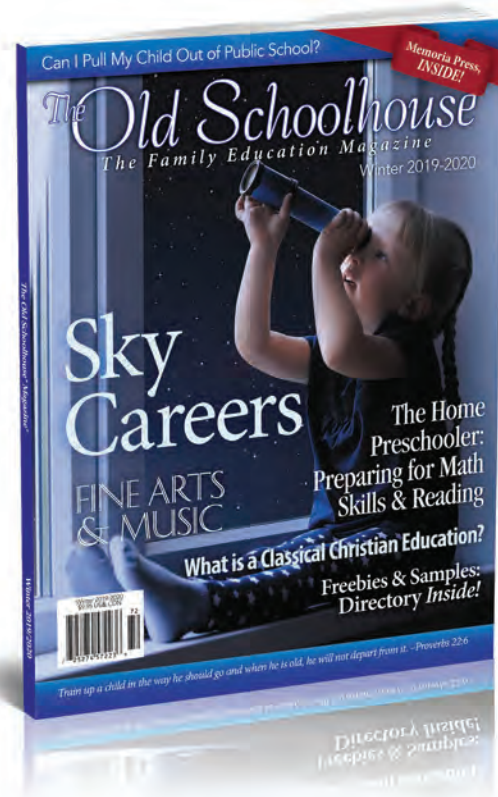
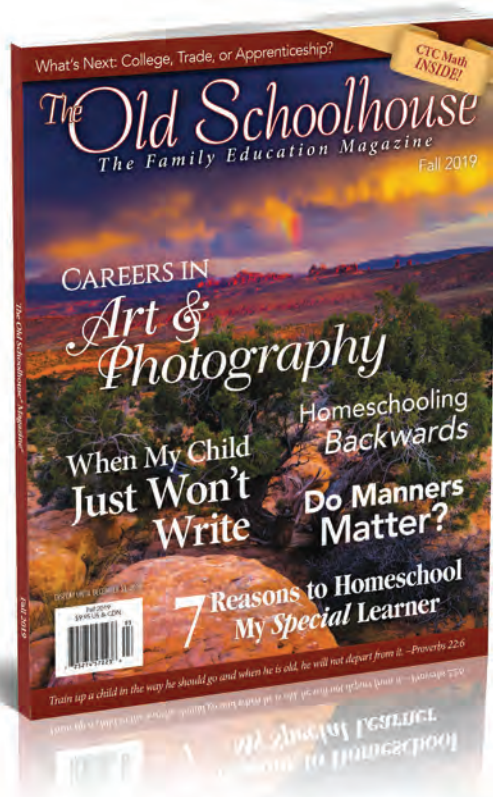


# Christian Children Don't Belong in Public Schools.

*"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."*

Luke 6:40

[www.TryHomeschooling.com](http://www.TryHomeschooling.com)



*The Old Schoolhouse*  
The Family Education Magazine





*Golden*





# Gifts

This morning I received a gift  
That gave my soul an upward lift;  
A lavish thing from nature's store—  
Some golden leaves outside my door!

My Heav'nly Father surely knows  
I cherish beauty He bestows,  
And so He scattered leaves galore  
Like golden gems outside my door!

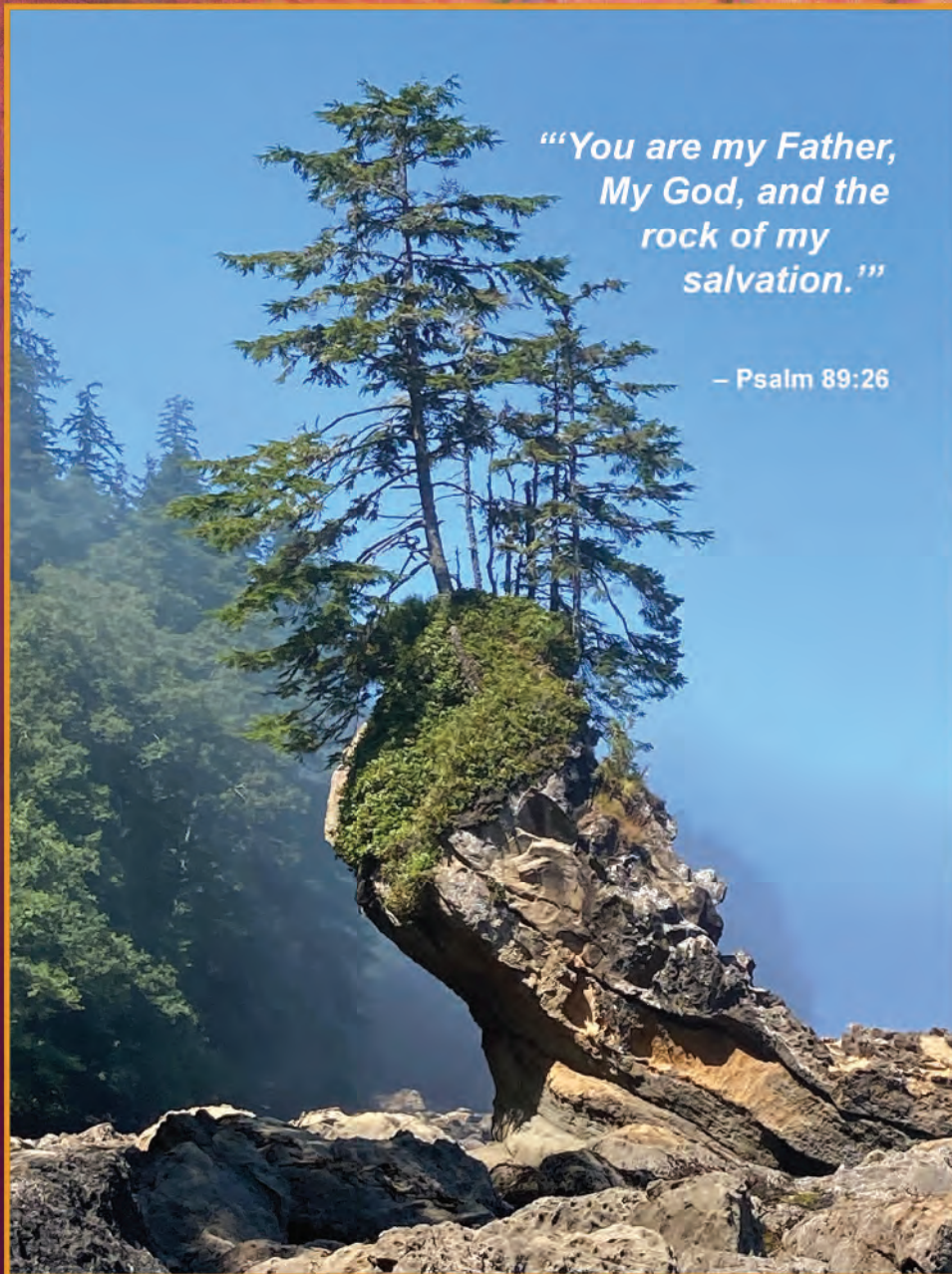
In winter days that loom ahead  
When all the dazzling hues have fled,  
I'll visualize this day once more  
When God placed gold outside my door!

— Gloria Wilde



*“You are my Father,  
My God, and the  
rock of my  
salvation.”*

— Psalm 89:26



Kurt Johnson

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