

April 2011



# **Lighted Lamp Magazine**

# From the Editor

Easter is a wonderful holiday because it gives us a chance to recall and meditate on the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection on our lives. I am so thankful for the love and mercy of God, that He would send Jesus to die for us, and I am so thankful for His power to overcome death. Easter is the reason for all of our hope, and the reason that we can have a relationship with God. Life would be a horrible experience without Easter, but because of Easter, we can be free from the power of sin and can have fellowship with God and live forever with Him. I think John 11:25 sums up the promise of Easter very well.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

-John 11:25 (NKJV)

Have a blessed Easter!

*Priscilla*

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with Thorns





*"Bundle of Beauty" by Elaine Schnider*

“Resolved: that all men should live  
for the glory of God.  
Resolved second: that whether  
others do or not,  
I will.”  
—Jonathan Edwards

*Photography by Isaac Swanson*



**Mission:**

To encourage and strengthen  
Christian teens to love and  
follow God with their whole  
hearts, souls, and minds; and  
to glorify God.

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Clip art on page 3 from <<http://www.christmas-graphics-plus.com/free/christian-easter-clipart.html>>.

# The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns

*by Thomas Kelly*  
*(as posted on Utmost Christian Writers.com)*

The Head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty Victor's brow.

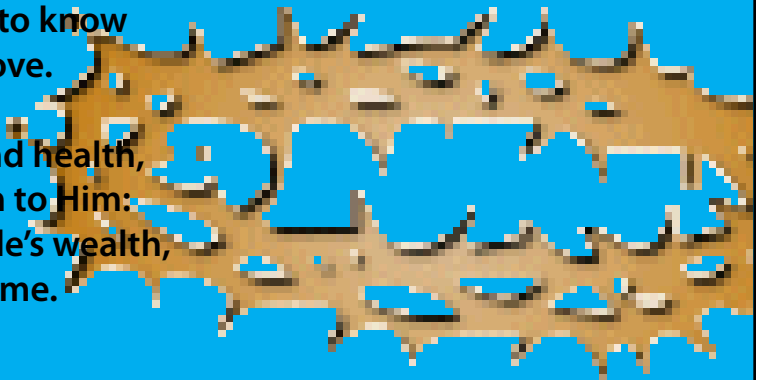
The highest place that heaven affords  
Is His, is His by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
And heaven's eternal Light;

The Joy of all who dwell above,  
The Joy of all below  
To whom He manifests His love  
And grants His name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,  
With all its grace, is given;  
Their name an everlasting name,  
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with Him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The mystery of His love.

The cross He bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to Him:  
His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.



# Heartening Words

*by Kyle Cheng*

“Hide God’s Word in your heart.”

This single phrase is one of the most popular among Christians and the Church today, and for a good reason. Not too many people know the true value of the Word of God, for if they did, they would be cramming as much of it as possible into their minds.

One thing a person must know is that the Bible is no mere book. Yeah, jabba jabba habba. You’ve probably heard messages on the importance of the Bible a million times. But have you stopped and really thought about the power of God’s Word? How it governs whole nations, brings hope to the hopeless, impacts thousands through different messages, and drives demons away? How desperate some Christians are to read just one or two pages of the Scriptures in their own language that they travel hundreds of miles on foot just to get a copy? How other Christians risk their lives to bring God’s Word to restricted areas? How imprisoned Christians can only rely on the Bible passages they’ve memorized to learn more about their Lord, for they may never gain access to a Bible ever again – or at all?

The Bible is a privilege. Here in the U.S. you can buy Bibles for less than a dollar... where in other nations some give their lives to provide Bibles for others. Just what is in this Word that compels people to take such great measures to obtain it? Maybe because the Word is like a refreshing drink of water after years spent in the desert. I believe that many Christians, since

they are regularly exposed to the Word of God, have become somewhat desensitized to the power of God’s Word. We take its accessibility for granted, and depreciate how important it is to the daily Christian life. What we really need is a new perspective on the value of the Word of God... and why it is important to hide it away in our hearts.

Bible memorization is key in understanding the Word. When we hide God’s Word in our hearts, we are allowing its power to work in our lives. The Word is a living creature that encompasses the souls of people and points them in God’s direction. It was there since the beginning of time and governs everything we say and do, being God’s written law to us. Through meditation it helps our picture of God to become stronger and clearer. In the face of sin and temptation it is a lethal weapon, as well as a shield against the enemy’s lies. It guides us towards God, governs what we say and do, and provides rules for us to follow so that we don’t stray off the path of life. There are so many layers in the Scriptures; you can never fully comprehend them all. And that’s reflecting who God is. Man’s mind can never fully understand God, but they can know Him in part, and the same goes for His Word. There is always something new to learn. Why else are dozens of books on the Bible being published every year?

Think of the persecuted Christians in the World. Most have limited or no access to a Bible, relying on scraps of paper with Bible passages or people who have memorized portions of the Scriptures to hear or read the Word. They crave for more of the Word, but sadly cannot obtain it most of the time. We are given the privilege to read God’s Word every day, and yet we leave it for another time. How ignorant can we get?

If the Word was to be removed from our lives, the World would be in chaos. There will be no morality and no order, for where would these laws come from?

I hope you all have had those times where you desperately want the Word of God. Maybe when you are struck with a sudden opportunity to share the Gospel. Maybe when a hurting friend could use some comforting words and promises. Maybe when you're trying to live for God but just can't recall those passages on whatever you're struggling with. Whatever the case, think of those incidents. How awesome would it have been for you to have God's Word at the tip of your tongue, ready to dispense at a minute's notice? Your life will be profoundly different, your morals strengthened, and your impact on other people lasting. In my personal experience, I find that delving deep into God's word, memorizing and meditating on it, gives me unspeakable joy. I laugh and smile to the point that some think me crazy, but hey, the joy of the Lord is undeniable! His Word is compelling me to glorify God's name; how can I sit still and stew in anger and dissatisfaction with the world?

We should approach the Word all the time with that same mentality, with joy in finding out new truths and promises. Meditating on God's Word will help us uncover layers after layers of these truths. Hiding God's Word in your heart is not meant to be cliché. The Word is so wonderful, so powerful, that it will be a welcome ally in times of trouble and need. That's why every believer should take every opportunity possible to create a storehouse of Scripture in their hearts, easily accessible at any place and at any time. ☪

# Serving the Local Church

*by Margaret Neufeld*

It's nice being a pew warmer. You can just show up to church Sunday morning, even a few minutes late if you're dragging your feet, take your seat in the crowd, listen to the sermon, sing some songs, and go home to your lunch without a second thought. It's quite convenient when you can just sit back, be blessed, and let everyone else do the work. And that's precisely what millions of Christians do.

I want to suggest a different way, that we as young people become involved in serving the local church. I could speak about the importance of being committed to a church, but I want to focus more on being an active part of the church you attend. There's more to being part of a church than just having your name on the membership roll or dropping your offering in the collection plate, although these are important as well. There's work to do to make everything run smoothly and I think it's great if we can become a part of that.

When I read about the early church, I never get the idea that when the believers met together, that there were just a few select people running the show. Rather, it seems to me there was involvement on everyone's part. Galatians 6:10 (ESV) says "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith." One of the ways that we can do good to one another is by



serving each other within our church.

Very often, there are many ways in which we can serve, we just don't realize it. Sometimes, that's because the work goes on behind the scenes and not many people know or think about it. Just recently, I joined the cleaning team at my church. It's not often that you go to church and think about how clean and tidy the facility is. Nobody's going to stand up on Sunday morning and applaud me for the awesome job I did on cleaning the toilets, but I don't doubt that people will start complaining if they ever got really dirty because that's just gross. Sometimes it's easier to notice a job not done than one that's well done.

Depending on what kind of church you attend, there will be different areas you can get involved in. Some of them will be clearly seen by men, others will not. There are positions like leading worship, playing piano, helping with a Sunday school class, ushering, running the library or kitchen and helping in the nurs-

ery. These are great areas for young people to get involved in. In our church, we've also had young men in their late teens and early twenties teaching the adult Sunday school class. Of course, this requires spiritual maturity and the ability to confidently speak in front of a crowd, but it's great to see them learning to minister at a young age.

There are other things that happen more behind the scenes that are equally important. Cleaning was one that I already spoke about. The church grounds also have to be maintained, the grass cut, gardening done, and the parking lot cleared in the winter. Chances are that within your church, there are people who are doing this regularly without your knowing it, or in my church, if there's a big yard project to be done, it will be announced and they get a large group to come out one day and help. There may also be different events throughout the week that you can help with. Like I said, depending on your church, there will be different areas to serve, so don't be afraid to do something.



*"White Country Church at Sunset" from Public-Domain-Photos.com*

Whether they're still in school or working part-time (like me), many young people have extra time on their hands to practically serve their local church. If you're not sure where help is needed, don't be afraid to ask someone. It's likely that there are individuals overlooking different facets of ministry and a leader in your congregation should be able to direct you to them. Yes, it may mean sacrificing a few free hours out of your week or coming to church earlier or staying later. My experience, however, has been that I'm blessed serving my church, even if it isn't that glamorous. Use your time and talents to serve and I don't doubt that you will be blessed too. 🕯

# Prayer Page



## **Ephesians 1:15-21 (NKJV)**

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

It is important to pray for our unsaved family and friends, and for the message of salvation to be spread to those who don't know about Jesus. We are so blessed to know Him and believe in Him that we should greatly desire that others will share in that blessing.

Sometimes it seems like our prayers for unsaved people aren't having any effect, but I John 5:14 says, "Now this is the confidence that

we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." And I Timothy 2:3 says that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." So we can be assured that God cares about our family and friends even more than we do, and wants them to be saved. He is listening to our prayers for them. We just have to be patient and keep praying. ☺

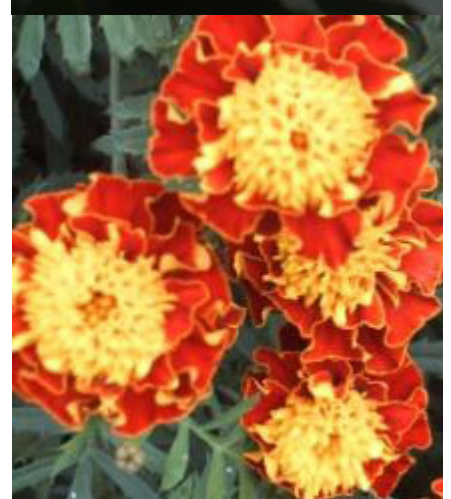
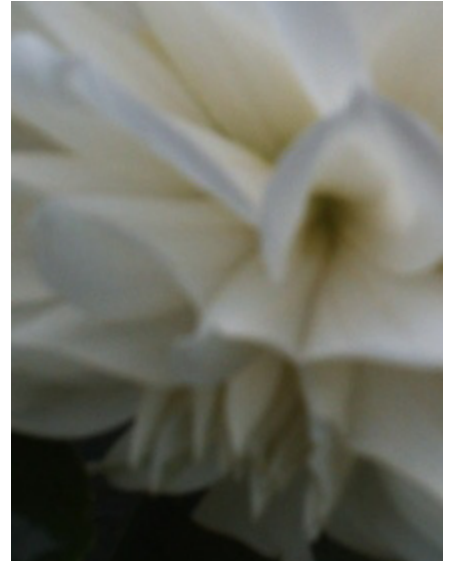
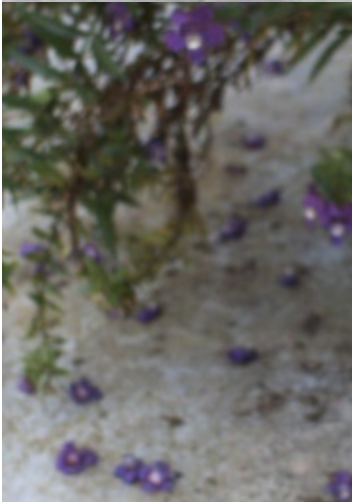


# DRIFTING SPRING BLOSSOMS

*by Tabitha Hope, featuring photography by Rebekah M.*



Spring's bright beauties, pale and free  
Edge the clouds and line the sea  
Blossoms float like cups of light  
In the crystal waves of night.  
On they go, through brook and bay  
Petals soft with evening's gray,  
Past the mighty river's flow  
On they dance and on they glow.  
Drifting, drifting, with the wind  
In amongst the foam they wend  
Then they reach the open sea  
Bursting from the woodland bree.  
Sailors shade their open eyes  
Watching blossoms' silver dyes  
Touch the ships with sighing leaves  
Heading out to unknown seas.  
One last time they gleam and wink  
Far too fair to slip or sink;  
Sepals shift, with petals bright  
Stars within the ocean night.



# Rebekah M.'s Insights through Hebrew

## A LOOK AT GOD'S WILL FOR YOUTH

The following is a statement of blessing:

Psalm 144:12 “That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as pillars, Sculptured in palace style”

תיוזכ וניתונב מהירוענב מילדגמ מיעטנכ ונינב רשא  
לכיה תינבת תובטחמ

Translit: a.sher ba.nei.nu kin.ti.im me.gu.da.lim  
bin.u.rei.hembe.no.tei.nu khe.za.vi.yot me.khu.  
ta.vot tav.nit hei.khal:

English: We whose sons are as plants grown up in their youth; whose daughters are as corner-pillars carved after the fashion of a palace;

What does it mean to be sons grown up in our youth? What does it mean to be daughters who are sculptured palace pillars? As youth, that is what we should be. But what does that mean?

In Jewish culture and society, a boy is bar-mitzvah-ed at the age of 13. A girl is bat-mitzvah-ed at the age of 12. Bar mitzvah is a coming-of-age milestone where a child is now considered an adult. This tradition came about during the middle ages.

Bar mitzvah means “son of the commandment”. A bar mitzvah is now regarded as man, and can testify in court. A bar mitzvah is responsible for

his own actions. Previously, parents were held responsible for a child’s misdemeanor. Now the Bar Mitzvah, an adult, can be held responsible for his own actions. A child is not required to fast on certain holidays, an adult is. A Bar Mitzvah is one who is counted among men in the synagogue count. A Bar Mitzvah makes a life-long commitment to be a son of the commandment, to study the Torah, and to live an observant life according to the ethics and traditions of his community. His delight is in the Torah of His God, and in this Torah he will meditate day and night (Psalm 1).

“Plants grown up in their youth” paints a portrait of young men. Plants really grown up have impressive stature. They flourish, they bear fruit, they continue to grow, and they gradually become a strong tree. The Hebrew word for son (ben) means, “Builder of the family name”, a son should not and cannot be the “cause of the family’s shame”. Clearly these sons are after the order of true “Bar Mitzvahs”, mature beyond their age. In their youth they are already grown up, “wise beyond their years”. They reject the concept of “teenagers” but rather are men. Bar Mitzvahs are not given full rights and privileges of a man immediately, they first learn responsibility. This is God’s way. So often we teenagers want our privileges but shy away from responsibility first. In God’s ways, responsibility comes before privileges, submission before authority, suffering before glory, and faith before

fulfillment. These sons are trustworthy; they are counted among men of Israel.

Yeshua (Jesus ) was a picture of the most faithful, obedient, son the world has ever seen. He was so submitted to the will of God. He knew His Father's heart, He knew His Father's will, and He sought for the glory of His Father. Read John 17, look at the way He talks to His Father. Read Luke 2:40-52. What kind of son He was to His earthly parents? Yeshua was not just a son of the commandment, He was the epitome and personification of the commandment; He was the commandment of God in flesh. He was a plant so grown up before even reaching the age of Bar Mitzvah. He had the wisdom that was from above, that astounded the wise men of the day. He was a builder of His Father's name. No one knows God like Yeshua, no one, could ever, in himself, be such a son as Yeshua.

David is another example of a son "grown up in his youth". David sought after God with all his heart. God took him out of the sheepfold, where he was a faithful shepherd, and made him king over all Israel. God chose him, because God saw his heart. David was a man after God's own heart, meaning that he really sought to have the heart of God. David certainly loved God with all his heart. As a youth he was not concerned about his own name, but the name of YHWH. He was zealous for YHWH's name. He was a real leader, who would lay down his life for his sheep. Read John 10.

As a young man standing before Goliath, David didn't concerned himself with "my life, my protection, my glory, my rights", rather, "God's glory, God's people, God's name, God's honor". That is why he laid down his life before God and God used him to defeat the enemies

The Book of Samuel records again and again that as a youth, David, when he went out with the army of Saul, behaved wisely. David is another example of a true Bar Mitzvah who obeys God's commandments; especially the greatest of all and that is to love God. David is an example of a son who is grown up in his youth. He knew what it meant in Deuteronomy 30:14 when YHWH said, "But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."

(1 Samuel 18:5 KJV) And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

(1 Samuel 18:14 KJV) And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

(1 Samuel 18:15 KJV) Wherefore when Saul saw that (David) behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

(1 Samuel 18:30 KJV) Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Visualizing daughters that are corner pillars paints a picture of strong young women, daughters of virtue and excellence; empowered women. These daughters are polished – refined, carved, and vital to the function and structure of the "palace". These wise and mature daughters are precise, without "rough spots", wise,

of higher standard (not common stuff), erect, a pillar of fortitude and strength, not “wishy-washy”, not frivolous, not self-seeking, but noble (of high moral standing, upstanding). These are daughters that play their part and are content in their position, meek, and humble, yet key in the role they play.

Read Luke Chapter 1, especially vs.38 and 46-54. Mary (Miryam), mother of Yeshua, was an excellent example of such a woman. She played her part well. She had a true servant’s heart. I believe such daughters have an attitude of humility and spirit of a servant. God’s will for daughters is that they be “handmaidens” of His for His use, just like Mary. Whose welfare and honor was she thinking of? The LORD’s (YHWH’s). She was not concerned about her own reputation. Rather, she said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”. Here is a woman humble, meek, lowly, and submitted to the command of God, concerned with His reputation, His goodness, and His glory. Mary was a maidservant like Hagar, Zilpah, and Bilhah, who bore sons not for themselves. Theirs was a lowly, sore, existence as maidservants not by choice, but Mary chose and submitted himself to the will of God.

Shiphrah and Puah, Hebrew midwives during Israel’s slavery in Egypt, were wise and feared YHWH. They were noble, virtuous women, who did not save their own lives at the expense of their people, but instead served God by refusing to kill the Hebrew baby boys. Naaman’s servant girl was mightily used by YHWH. Instead of being bitter about her circumstances, she told Naaman that Elisha could heal his leprosy. Huldah, a housewife, was sought after by the King of Judah and the High Priests for counsel. She opened her mouth, saying, “Thus

says YHWH...” These are more examples of women who were like pillars.

Those are high standards, “ideals” you may say. When I compare myself to either to the descriptions, how do I measure up? Indeed, “Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the YHWH.”<sup>8</sup>



# Cream Cheese Brownies

*Submitted by Mari Carsten*



Prepare 1 pkg German chocolate cake mix as directed on box.  
Grease & flour 15X10 inch pan.  
Pour batter into pan.

Mix in separate bowl:

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 8 oz. soft fat-free cream cheese

Drop mixture by teaspoonfuls into chocolate batter.  
Cut through with spatula for a marbled effect. (Swirl it!)

Sprinkle over top:

- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Bake @ 350 degrees F. for 30 minutes.



# Living For The Heavenly Country

*Photography by Riley S.*

*by Priscilla Carsten*

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)- These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced [them] and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Are you looking for a better country? Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab were, and so were many other people, both in the Bible and in

more recent times. It troubles me that so many who label themselves Christians today do not act much differently from nonbelievers. Is Christianity only about being a little bit better than the rest of the world? Or why don't these people desire to live more like Jesus?

Christians are becoming less and less Christ-like because they are looking at the country that is physically around them. And that world is difficult to ignore. But the world around us is not where we ought to look. When we accepted Jesus, as I will explain further later in this book, we died to that world. We gave up our citizenship in it. We traded it for citizenship in a heavenly country.

People from other countries are easy to spot. First of all, they look different. They are taller

or shorter, and may have different skin color and facial features. It is often difficult to understand what they are saying, or if they have learned English well, they have distinct accents. Living in the United States doesn't change that. If a man from China lives here for fifty years, he will still be different from the stereotypical American.

Some foreigners come to the United States because they want to adopt it as their new native country. Those people try to learn about the country, and they spend time with Americans so they can become somewhat more like us, and at least function in our world. Some foreigners do not want to live in the United States. They want to go home when whatever business takes them here is over. These spend time with other people from their country and are not focused on fitting in with us. They observe us and spend some time meeting us, but they do not become one of us. They are focused on a different country. That is the kind of foreigners we should be in this world.

Heaven can be hard to focus on. The Chinese have been to China, the Germans to Germany. They know exactly how things work in their countries, and have tangible proof that their countries were there, and thus will be there when they go back. We have to have faith.

John 20:29- Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed [are] those who have not seen and [yet] have believed."

When Jesus was raised from the dead, Thomas did not believe it right away. If you are a Christian, you believe that Jesus has risen from the dead. You believe that the Bible is completely

true. The Bible says that heaven exists. There is a heavenly country. If you want to look up verses to be sure, try Matthew 8:11, John 14:2 and Revelation 3:12 and 21:2.

The list in Hebrews 11 gives us many examples of people who acted without knowing what would happen in the future. They trusted God's promises, His care for them, His knowledge of the future, and His character. Then they acted in the ways they knew were right.

Most of the people in Hebrews 11 were told directly by God what they should do. Though that does not happen today, we have the Bible, which tells us how we should act. Not all the acts in the Bible were accomplished because God appeared or sent a dream or an angel to talk to someone. A lot of times, He accomplished things through people who were just doing the things they knew were right. Joseph wasn't told expressly to travel to Egypt. He was taken there as a slave, but it was what he did while he was there that made a difference. He could have pitied himself and neglected his duties, but He honored God instead, because he trusted Him. Esther wasn't told by God to go to the king. In fact, she was not even assured of living when she went, but she did anyway, to save the lives of God's people.

I want to spend my life living by the standards of the heavenly country that we are citizens of, and I pray that you do too. They are totally different than the standards this world operates on; in fact, they are often the opposite. What kind of a country requires that you die in order to live (Romans 8:13) and be a slave to gain your freedom (I Corinthians 7:21), and allows you to be strong when you are weak (II Corinthians 12:10)? That's right, it's our country, and I'm so thankful that it is! 🙏

[The following text is a dense, continuous block of illegible characters, likely representing a redacted document or a corrupted scan. It contains no discernible words or structure.]