



# Destination: Paradise

Fellowship—October 2003/04  
Major Florence L. Rodriguera  
Western Territory

## Hawaiian Luau

A Hawaiian Luau is a celebration feast of the islands and the symbol of Hawaiian hospitality. This event could be a fundraising project, a fellowship program to bring new or inactive women back into your group, or a family night program. To ensure a successful event, form a luau committee to handle all aspects of the event—decorations, menu selection and cooking, entertainment, music, games and clean-up. Suitable dress for the evening could be muumuus or colorful, flowered attire.

## Decorations

Use a variety of items associated with Hawaii—seashells, shell necklaces, straw hats, paper flowers, Hawaiian printed fabrics, fishermen’s net, paper leis, grass skirts, feather gourds, a set of oars, boogie boards, a surf board, or tiki torches (for outdoors). Create centerpieces using sprays of greenery, fresh flowers and fruit. Use votive or floating candles in bowls of colored water.

## Menu

Plan a menu suitable to the taste of the women. Check the Internet for uniquely Hawaiian recipes such as poi. The following are some suggestions:

- \* Roast Pork
- \* Teriyaki Beef or Chicken on a Stick
- \* Sweet Potatoes or Yams
- \* Rice
- \* Poi (small amount to taste)
- \* Fresh Pineapple or Fruit Salad
- \* Fruit Breads (banana, pumpkin, pineapple)
- \* Coconut or Pineapple Upside Down Cake
- \* Fruit Punch

## Program Ideas

### Lei Making

The lei is a floral adornment or necklace to wear at the luau. Depending on your budget and the number of guests, you can use fresh flowers or

paper leis. To make a flowered lei you will need a 45-inch length of crochet thread, a 2-inch needle and 30 to 60 full blossoms—carnations, daisies or roses. For paper leis, cut folded crepe paper into several 2-inch or 3-inch strips. Unfold the paper strips and draw a needle through each one using a long gathering stitch. Push down into gathers, twist paper strips into a rounded shape and tie the ends of the string together.

### Entertainment

For an authentic atmosphere, ask Hawaiian dancers or a dance school to perform some of the island dances. Invite a individual or a group to provide Hawaiian music. Print the words to one of the more familiar songs, such as “Pearly Shells,” and teach it to the

women. Play Hawaiian music throughout the luau. Borrow CDs of this type of music from the library or the women.

### Game

Movies and TV Series Filmed in Hawaii  
Fill in the blank.

- |                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hawaii      | <i>Five O</i>          |
| 2. Hawaiian    | <i>Eye</i>             |
| 3. South       | <i>Pacific</i>         |
| 4. Fantasy     | <i>Island</i>          |
| 5. Raiders     | <i>of the Lost Ark</i> |
| 6. Magnum      | <i>P. I.</i>           |
| 7. Diamond     | <i>Head</i>            |
| 8. Blue        | <i>Hawaii</i>          |
| 9. Jurassic    | <i>Park</i>            |
| 10. King       | <i>Kong</i>            |
| 11. Bird of    | <i>Paradise</i>        |
| 12. Pagan      | <i>Love Song</i>       |
| 13. Gilligan’s | <i>Island</i>          |
| 14. Donovan’s  | <i>Reef</i>            |

## A Homecoming Celebration

Read Luke 15:11–32.

A luau is a wonderful celebration honoring life and special events held dear by people in the Hawaiian Islands. Whether birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, family reunions, holidays, high school and college graduations, retirements, or welcoming visitors, the luau is done in the spirit of *aloha* (love) and island hospitality.

In Luke 15:11–32 we read of the parable of the Lost Son. The story tells of a young man who decided one day that he wanted to live his life as he pleased. So he went to his father and demanded his inheritance, which his father gave him. He left home for a distant country and spent all of it on reckless living. When famine came to the land, he found a job feeding pigs. It was then he realized that even the servants back home lived better than he did. So he came to his senses and returned home.

It was a joyous moment for his father as he saw his son coming down the road. Verse 20 and 21 says, “His father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’” His father replies in verse 22 and 23, calling to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.” What a great homecoming celebration it must have been for that father and son.

Perhaps at some time in our lives we left the will of God and became prodigals, lost children. And yet God in His great love and forgiveness is always there waiting to take us back. Unlike the older brother in this story, may we have a heart of compassion and forgiveness toward those who have hurt us and welcome them back home into the fellowship.

Jesus continues to wait and watch for those who need to return home to Him. When we do, He will receive us and say, “Welcome home My child! Let the celebration begin!”

### Decoration

Set up the room as you would for a yard sale, with tables for the items that you will be selling. Place large price tags made from poster board on the walls or hang them from the ceiling. Have the leader of the program dress up like Minnie Pearl, complete with a hat that has the price tag hanging off the side.

### Refreshments

True to the “yard sale experience,” provide donuts and coffee or cookies and lemonade for refreshments.

### Program Ideas

#### *Yard Sale Fundraising Project*

Invite the women to bring new items from home that they have no use for—possibly gifts that they have received and said, “Oh, you shouldn’t have,” and really meant it. To avoid hurt feelings, be sure that the person who gave the gift will not be at the sale. This is an excellent time for them to get rid of those unwanted items and not feel guilty about throwing them away.

Check your women’s ministries cupboard for those items that remain from previous sales. Make the prices reasonable so that they will sell.

Set up a table with Christian items. You can purchase Bibles from the American Bible Society at a reasonable cost. Their Website is [www.gospelcom.net/ibs](http://www.gospelcom.net/ibs). The women may have Christian books they would be willing to contribute for this table.

Assign another table for used books. Ask the readers in your group to donate the books they’ve read and no longer want.

#### *My Treasure*

Ask the women to bring a “treasure” that has special significance for them. Have a time of sharing to explain why the item is special to them. Relate this to God’s love being a treasure that we should value highly.

#### *Craft Idea*

Purchase small straw hats from a craft store. Provide a variety of items—lace, small flowers, beads—to decorate the hats. Hot glue price tags to the side with the imprint “My Treasures in Heaven.”

## You Can’t Take it with You

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”  
Matthew 6:19,20**



### Treasures

How many of you enjoy going to yard sales? Some people are up before the sun and ready to hit the neighborhood yard sales weekend after weekend. Why? There are probably many reasons, but mainly they are looking for a treasure at a bargain price.

Read *Proverbs 4:20–27*. What advice can we receive from this portion of Scripture that will help us relate a yard sale to spiritual growth? At a yard sale, we look at the price to make sure that the item is a bargain. It must be something we can use. God’s Word is a treasure, and what a bargain! We need to hide it in our hearts so that when times are difficult, or we need a little encouragement, we can turn to Him and lean on His Word.

*Proverbs 4* talks about our eyes, mouth and feet. These are physical symbols for how we communicate, where we focus our attention and how we behave. We are told to value and protect our mind, emotions and will. We are to pay attention to our words and to be certain that what we share with others enhances their life and promotes the Christian walk.

We need to be careful what words come from our mouths, just as we carefully decide which treasure to purchase at a yard sale. Words once spoken cannot be taken back. The type of language we use is an example of our character. We should steer clear of foul language. Just as we would not purchase a damaged article at a yard sale, we would not want our mouths to cause damage, pain and hurt to those around us.

When we start out in the morning, we focus on the address of the yard sale. We don’t want to get lost by taking a wrong turn. We also want to get there before the bargains are gone. In our spiritual life we need to keep our eyes focused on God, so that we will not take the wrong turn and miss the rewards stored up for us in heaven.

When we search the newspaper to decide which yard sale to visit, we look at the location. Is it close to our house? Is it a safe place where we would feel comfortable taking our children? These same thoughts should direct our daily decisions. Are we doing what God would choose for us? Will it be a good example for our children? When in doubt about a decision ask, “What would Jesus do?”

Some items in a yard sale are priced too high. They are not what they seem to be, or are not in good working order. We carefully weigh our decision before we make that purchase. The same should be true of our daily life. We need to be careful not to “buy into” something that is not right. We must remove ourselves from anything that resembles temptation or evil. The greatest treasure we have here on earth is the assurance of God’s love and His promises to us. Let’s keep our focus on the treasures that will be ours in heaven. Don’t look for that cheap bargain on earth that satisfies for only a short time. Set your standards high. Let your love of the Lord guide you, and you will be laying up treasures in heaven.

# Tea, the Stop that Refreshes

Service—October 2003/04  
Major Joy Ross  
Central Territory

## Decorations and Refreshments

Borrow enough tea pots from the women for each table. Fill them with assorted silk or fresh flowers. Insert a tea bag, with a Scripture verse attached, in the center of the arrangement. Use lace doilies under the tea pots with paper lace place mats and pastel colored napkin.

Serve small tea sandwiches, fancy cakes and cookies with assorted teas.



## Service Ideas

### Mother/Daughter Tea

Hold a tea for mothers/daughters at a senior citizen apartment or a senior day center. Don't limit attendance just to mothers. If you advertise it in this way, all will be included as all women are "daughters." Use this as an opportunity to inquire about starting an outpost women's ministries group or to invite the women to attend your women's ministries.

### Door Prizes

Have those in attendance complete a registration card which includes their name, address, telephone number and birthday (day and month only). Use these cards to draw for door prizes. Following the tea, use the information for follow-up to invite the women to attend the corps.

### Birth Cards

Using the registration cards, send birthday cards to those women who attended the tea. This will give you another opportunity throughout the year to contact these women. Add a personal note once again inviting them to attend your corps. Set up a small group of women who will take on this responsibility throughout the year.

## Program Ideas

### Fashion Show

You will need the assistance of the extroverts in your group to be the models for this fun fashion show. Have them make their elegant outfits. The narrator should be very sedate and logical in her description of the ensembles.

- ☛ Plunging neckline dress—tuck a

toilet plunger into the neck of a dress. Finish off the ensemble with a white toilet tissue hair bow.

- ☛ Cotton dress with summer straw hat—attach cotton balls or cotton batting to a dark dress. Make a muff from the batting. Create a hat from drinking straws by tying them together to form a pompom.
- ☛ Sack dress—this is a dress covered with paper sacks. Use a smaller bag to create a hat.
- ☛ Print dress with a spring hat—cut articles and advertisements from newspapers or magazines and attach them to a plain dark dress. Sew different types of springs to a hat.
- ☛ Drape dress with the newest shade—use colorful drapes, one over each shoulder and brought together down the front and back to form a dress. The hat is a lamp shade.
- ☛ Pin striped suit—cut large bowling pins from white paper. Sew or attach

them with safety pins, in rows, on the skirt and jacket of a dark suit. Make a necklace and earrings from a child's small toy bowling set. Use a bowling ball bag as a purse. Complete the outfit with bowling shoes.

- ☛ Tea dress—cover a dress with tea bags. Use the tea box with ribbon straps as a purse. A tea cozy makes a fashionable hat.

- ☛ Box coat and pill box hat—use a large cardboard carton for the coat, cutting holes for the head and arms. For the sleeves, attach large size oatmeal boxes and secure small cottage cheese carton down the front as buttons. Attach pill boxes in all sizes to a hat to create the pill box hat.

### Tea Story

Divide the women into small groups. Have them write a short story using the word "tea" as often as possible. The story cannot be more than 100 words.

## Needed, Rest Stops

*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).*

What a welcome sight to see the sign, "rest stop—one mile ahead." You know if you just go a little farther down the road you will be able to take a break from the stress of travelling. The rest area offers physical relief and refreshment. You can take advantage of travel information or greet a fellow traveler. You are able to walk around and breathe fresh air. Many times just a short stop helps refresh you for the rest of the journey.

God knows we need time to rejuvenate on our life journey, that we must take time for reflection and rest. We are not made to go full-steam ahead for hours on end without resting. We need to make opportunities for our bodies and mind to recharge and to remember that the world will keep turning without our help.

A story is told of a young mother of three toddlers who was feeling overwhelmed by her situation. She was having company for a birthday dinner. Her house needed to be cleaned, she had shopping to do, a meal to cook and gifts to wrap. And to top it off, her husband had to be picked up at the airport. In the midst of this chaos the telephone rings. She answers the phone, "Yes, this is Susan" and proceeds to tell the caller her dilemma. When the caller offers to come over and help, she is thrilled. Just as she is about to hang up she adds, "Why don't you call John and invite him to come too." The caller replies, "Who is John?" It is soon discovered that the caller has dialed the wrong number. The young mother with a disappointed tone asks, "Does this mean you aren't coming over?"

This is a humorous story, but it reminds us of our need for an oasis of time to reflect, rest, chat, laugh with a friend or even just sip a nice cup of tea. God knows our need for rest and tranquility. And you know what? When God calls, He never gets the wrong number.

Worship—October 2003/04  
Lt. Colonel Isa McDougald  
National Headquarters

### Quote for the Journey

*Teaching is challenging, sometimes thankless, but incredibly rewarding. We need many more dedicated Americans to teach our children how to learn so that they may ultimately lead successful lives.*  
—Laura Bush



### Journaling

In connection with each worship service there is an item titled "Journaling for the Journey." Portions of Scripture and a brief paragraph relating to the program will be given. The women will be invited to journal a response to these items. As a part of the first worship program, they will be preparing a journal that will be used for the rest of the year.

### Decorations

Set up your room as a schoolroom with rows of tables. Place the teacher's desk and a blackboard at the front of the room. On the table put a pile of books, an apple, a ruler and pencil box.

### Back to School

#### Opening Exercises

Write your name on the blackboard and welcome the schoolchildren. Take attendance. Explain the classroom rules and what disciplinary actions will be taken if these are not followed.

*Conduct the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*

#### Morning Prayers

Allow a minute of silent prayer followed by a short audible prayer for each of the following:

- ▲ Children in your immediate family—children, grandchildren
- ▲ Youth and teens in the corps
- ▲ Neighborhood children, especially those who have no church affiliation
- ▲ Schools and teachers
- ▲ Parents and grandparents responsible for caring for young children

## Path to Learning

### Music Class

Lead the class in singing "America," *Salvation Army Song Book*, #967.

### Art Class

Make journals by providing each woman with a page for each month of the year. Pre-print these pages with the Scripture, paragraph and item that the women will be responding to as a part of the journaling exercise. You will find these items just before the devotion in each of the worship programs. Pass out the pages to be placed in folders which can be individualized in class with the "student's" name, stickers or art work. Make extra folders for those women not in attendance at this meeting.

### Scripture Quiz

Provide a Bible, preferably with a concordance, for each table. Working as a group the women are to find the Scripture reference that relates to the following questions.

- ❖ What is the Scripture reference for: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"? **Proverbs 22:6**
- ❖ What were the names of Adam's and Eve's first two children? **Genesis 4:1,2**

- ❖ What was the name of Moses' first-born and what did the name mean?

**Exodus 2:21,22**

- ❖ My name is Eunice and my mother's name is Lois. Can you name my son? **2 Timothy 1-5.**

- ❖ I gave one of my sons a special coat. What is his name and mine?

**Genesis 37:3**

- ❖ Jesus blessed the little children. Give two of the three references for this event. **Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:17-16; Luke 18:15-17**

*Lesson for the Day—Devotional Path to Wisdom*

### Journaling for the Journey

Scripture: Proverbs 4:1-13, Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:1,2

Wisdom is the "principal thing" of permanent importance. Learning without the gain of wisdom is a waste. Wisdom refers to the core values about life that are passed on from generation to generation.

1. List the core values that have been passed on to you.
2. What wisdom are you passing on to others?

### Path to Wisdom

One of our greatest responsibilities as parents is to teach our children the important lessons of life. When they are infants, our responsibilities are fairly simple. We teach them to drink from a cup, to handle a spoon so that they can feed themselves, to stand and then to walk. Later comes talking and potty training. But by far, the most important lessons are teaching them to decide right from wrong—the gaining of wisdom.

In Proverbs 4:1-13 Solomon tells how his father, David, encouraged him when he was a child to seek wisdom. This encouragement might have prompted Solomon to ask God for a discerning heart above everything else (See 1 Kings 3:9). David taught Solomon that seeking God's wisdom was the most important choice he could make.

Wisdom can be passed on from parent to child, from generation to generation. Ultimately, of course, all wisdom comes from God. Parents can only urge their children to turn to Him. But it is our responsibility to teach our children about the Lord. Some of you might now be teaching your grandchildren these important lessons.

But how do we teach wisdom? In James 1:5 we read, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." Wisdom is not only knowledge, but the ability to make wise decisions in difficult circumstances. We need to teach our children by example how to pray, to read His Word and to seek His will in our daily lives. If our children learn at an early age to turn to God for His guidance in all things, making good decisions will be much easier.



# The Pilgrim's Journey

Fellowship—November 2003/04  
Lt. Colonel Debora K. Bell  
Western Territory

We associate Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims who moved to a strange land in order to win the freedom to worship God. At this time of the year, we should be giving thanks to God for all the gifts that He has given to us. It is a good time for families to create memories. Even if the majority of the women know how to create memories, they may not be aware of how important it is to celebrate them as a family. By capturing their imaginations, you can give them a wonderful gift of memory making during this holiday season.

## Decorations and Refreshments

Collect fall foliage and use it in the centerpieces. Add seeds—pumpkin, squash, beans and other large colorful seeds. Use fall-colored tablecloths—browns, oranges, gold, dark green. Good programming uses all of the senses. Include items with an earthy smell like potpourri and spiced candles. For refreshments serve fragrant food—spiced cider, popcorn and baked goods straight from the oven.

## Program Ideas

- \* Demonstrate how to make squash bread or pumpkin pie.
- \* Have a "then and now" demonstration, where one item is made from boxed or instant ingredients and another is made the old fashioned way, from scratch. Is there a big difference in the taste of the two items?
- \* Arrange for a demonstration of how to make centerpieces using fall foliage.
- \* Make Thanksgiving cards using construction paper, glue and seeds.
- \* Arrange for a candle or soap making demonstration.
- \* Demonstrate how to preserve memories by making creative scrapbooks, photo albums or journals.
- \* Ask one of the women to give a report on the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. The Internet is a helpful source for information.

## To Be a Pilgrim

*Ask the women to bring an item that represents what they are most thankful for that has occurred the past year. A new bride may bring a favor from her wedding, a new mother one of her baby's toys and a grandmother a picture of her latest grandchild. Place these in a thanksgiving memory basket.*

The dictionary indicates that a pilgrim is: "One who journeys in foreign lands, a wayfarer. One who travels to a shrine or holy place as a devotee. One of the English colonists settling at Plymouth in 1620." Those of us who belong to God are all pilgrims in the sense that our spiritual home is not here, it is in heaven. We are pilgrims in this world. The goal of those who travel in foreign lands is to explore, learn and find joy in the journey. The pilgrim knows that the things experienced on the journey enrich the final destination. It should be the same in our journey through life. We explore, learn and find joy in the journey. Our life experiences shape us, stretch us and allow us to fit in to our final destination. Our life's journey is a gift from God. The things we encounter on the way, life experiences, will help fit us for our final destination. Those experiences make memories that are worth celebrating.

Psalm 145 lends itself to a thanksgiving theme celebrating life's journey. "I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise You and extol Your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts" (Ps. 145:1-4).

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded to give thanks to God for all He has done for us. Why is it important to celebrate our gifts from God by offering thanksgiving? Why is it important to deliberately celebrate life experiences and memories with our families? The simple answer is because thanksgiving is attractive and contagious. As we celebrate the gifts from God by offering thanks, we are reminded how much God has given us. Each of you was asked to bring an item that represents something that occurred this year and for which you want to thank God publicly. *(At this point, have the women share the items from the memory basket.)*

How can we effectively communicate the wonders of God and the joy of the Christian journey to our families? One way is to celebrate God. If our spiritual experience is vital and alive, it will be attractive to our families and friends. If we make our relationship with God a natural and normal part of our daily lives, they will be exposed to what it means to have a real relationship with God. Our thanksgiving multiplies and overflows into every part of our life's journey. Giving thanks becomes natural. Our thanksgiving and joy will infect those around us so that they will want to have a vibrant and joy-filled experience with God also.

Praise is a natural expression of a real relationship with God. Praise should come easily, but sometimes we have to learn how to praise God. We can all think of times when it is easy to celebrate our love and praise for God, but we've all faced times when it was not so easy to be thankful. At those times praise is most important. Here is an amazing paradox: when we practice praise, we will have victory even in defeat. Those closest to us will see that our commitment to God is real and vital, and they will desire to know Him in the same way. When we practice praise as a natural expression of our trust in God, our lives will make a difference for His kingdom.

### Preparation and Decorations

The week before the program give everyone a ticket to the show. Include the date, time and place. Invite the women to bring an antique from home to share with the group the following week. Decorate the meeting room with road maps, old books and magazines or books about antiques.

### Refreshments

Serve Coca-Cola® in the 8 oz. collectable bottles. These can be purchased by the six pack at Wal-Mart or Target. Serve old fashioned sugar or molasses cookies. If you do not have time to bake, the Archway® brand is a good substitute.

### Facts About Antiques

In 1980 a lunchbox with a thermos, embossed with "Charlie's Angels," sold for about \$5.00. Now it sells for \$10,000 to \$20,000. The most valuable item ever appraised on the "Antiques Roadshow" was a hand woven blue and white Navajo Blanket. It was appraised at \$350,000 to \$500,000! The owner said he generally kept the blanket folded over the back of a chair. The appraisers get their information from a 300-volume reference library that travels with the Roadshow. To learn more about this program check their website—[www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/roadshow](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/roadshow).

### Program Ideas

#### TV Show

Record 15 minutes of a current episode of the "Antiques Roadshow." Allow the women to hear the story and description of the item being appraised. Just before the actual value is announced, stop the video. Ask the women to guess the appraised value. Award a prize to the one who guesses the actual value or comes the closest.

#### My Antique

Ask the women to share a little about the antique that they brought—how did they get it, how old is it, do they know the value? You could hire an appraiser to give the women an idea of their antique's worth, but be aware that reputable appraisers almost always cost money. Unless you are

## Antiques Roadshow

able to secure the services of one, do not attempt to put a price on a cherished possession.

#### ARC

Contact the Adult Rehabilitation Center to see if they have someone who could come and talk about antiques. They often have reference material regarding the different categories of antiques which they may be willing to share.

Inquire as to whether the ARC would be willing to loan you some of the antique items that they use for decorating their stores or that they have for sale.

#### Field Trip

Take the group to visit some antique stores in your area. Quite often you can find an antique mall where a number of dealers are housed under one roof.



#### Antique Dealer

Invite an antique dealer to speak to the group. Dealers may be willing to bring some small items with them to show.

#### Antiques on the Internet

Using a computer with Internet capabilities, demonstrate how to check out some of the antique web sites. An interesting one is [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com). If you search using "Salvation Army," you will find items for sale associated with the Army.

### Road Adventurers

No matter where the "Antiques Roadshow" stops, crowds gather. There are always incredible surprises and personal stories to go along with the antiques that have been brought for appraisal. This very same statement can be made about Jesus. No matter where He stopped, the crowds showed up, and there were always incredible surprises and personal stories that resulted.

*Read Luke 24:13-32.* Two men were walking on the road to Emmaus. We know the name of one was Cleopas. They had an incredible surprise—they met Jesus face to face. They also had a personal story to tell. Verse 32 states that, "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'"

*Read Acts 9:3-5.* On the road to Damascus, Saul had an encounter with the Lord. Without a doubt, this was a very personal experience. That encounter meant that Saul would never be the same. Even his name was changed, to Paul.

*Read Mark 15:21-22.* On the road to Calvary, crowds showed up. Again there were incredible surprises and, yes, personal stories that changed the world. But most important, Christ's sacrifice at Calvary provided the way for us to have eternal life.

We see such valuable treasures on the "Antique Roadshow." Some items are worth hundreds and thousands of dollars. Many are regarded as useless and in some cases even ugly. However, after they are handled by the appraiser, who can see the value in the misjudged treasure, their true value is revealed. (*Read the poem "Touch of the Master's Hand." You will find the words on the CD-ROM.*)

Let's allow the Lord to mold us and make us the vessel He would have us to be, for service in His kingdom. Our true value will be revealed as others see Him in us.

## Antiques Roadshow Supplemental Material



### Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer  
Thought it scarcely worth his while  
To waste much time on the old violin,  
But he held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bid, good folks?" he cried,  
"Who'll start bidding for me?  
A dollar, a dollar—now who'll make it two  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
Going for three" ... but no!  
From the room far back a gray-haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow;  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
And tightening up the strings,  
He played a melody, pure and sweet,  
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow.  
"A thousand—and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand—and who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand.  
What changed its worth?" The man replied:  
"The touch of the Master's hand."  
And many a man with life out of tune,  
And battered and torn with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd,  
Much like the old violin.  
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,  
A game—and he travels on,  
He's going once, and going twice,  
He's going—and almost gone!

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd,  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.

—Myra B. Welch

Service—November 2003/04  
Lt. Colonel Darlene Winkler  
Central Territory

## Men Working



### Worship Table

Set up a small table with a red or blue tablecloth. Place a small vase containing red, white and blue flowers on it, along with a picture of a veteran. A military hat, American flag and the flags of the various units of the armed forces would also be suitable.

### Refreshments

Use a red, white and blue theme—red, white and blue corn tortilla chips with salsa and cheese dip. Or serve red, white and blue sundaes. Use strawberry ice cream drizzled with blueberry sauce, topped with whipped cream and a fresh strawberry or cherry.

### History of Veterans' Day

As WWI ended on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, people began to commemorate it on November 11 each year. A memorial ceremony to the Unknown Soldier was included in these celebrations. This national holiday was called Armistice Day, a time which allowed citizens to pay tribute to those soldiers who died in battle but whose graves were unknown, and to the ending of WWI. This was to be the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, it was not.

After WWII, in 1954, in order to pay tribute to the more than 400,000 soldiers who died, President Eisenhower signed a bill changing the name from Armistice Day to Veterans' Day. Today bodies of soldiers from WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam War are buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C., where an Army honor guard keeps vigil day and night.

### Service Projects

To honor our veterans we can:

- ❖ Participate in Veterans' Day parades, ceremonies and community events.
- ❖ Visit veterans in nursing homes. Call the activities director to identify those residents who would appreciate a visit.
- ❖ Visit a veterans hospital ward. Share conversation and bring comfort items such as canteen vouchers, postage stamps, lotion, combs and tissues.
- ❖ Homeless veterans could use warm

clothing, especially socks, gloves, hats. Donate these items to your corps, Harbor Light or local churches who are involved in warming centers or feeding programs.

- ❖ Invite a veteran to be your guest speaker to tell his or her story.
- ❖ Make cookies and send to those serving in the military.
- ❖ Send a greeting via the Internet to those serving in our armed forces.

Long term commitment:

- ❖ Adopt a ward at a veterans' hospital. Work with the VA Voluntary Services Director.
- ❖ Adopt a veteran who is living in a skilled care facility and visit on a regular basis.

### Game

*Do You Know Your Armed Forces?*

- ◆ Name the service branches of the United States Military.  
*Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and*

*Coast Guard*

- ◆ Where are the US Military Academies located?

*Army—West Point, NY*

*Navy—Annapolis, MD*

*Navy Special Warfare Command—Coronado, CA*

*Air Force—Colorado Springs, CO*

*Coast Guard—New London, CT*

- ◆ What is the name of the commanding branch of the military?

*Department of Defense (The Pentagon)*

- ◆ What was the original name of Veterans' Day? *Armistice Day*

- ◆ Where is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located?

*Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, VA*

### Work for the Lord

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Col. 3:23).*

We often see the familiar orange signs from the vantage point of our car as we are rushing on our way to work or shopping. Slow—the sign warns, reminding us that we are going too fast. As we tap the brake, another sign is seen—Men Working. Be watchful, the sign indicates, these are men who are working on our behalf, repairing the roads to make them safe for us.

Like the quiet before the storm, it seems as though November is a month that has been set aside as a time of waiting. The leaves of autumn are now mostly drab, but still swirling. They seem to say, "Slow down, observe your family, your friends and your community."

Veterans' Day, commemorated on November 11, is also a day to slow down. It has been set aside to pay tribute and honor all American soldiers who served our country in the armed forces. The men and women of our country's armed services don't ask for much. Those in active duty simply say, "I'm just doing my duty," or "This is the work I was trained to do." Anne Morrow Lindbergh said, "To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own."

*Read Psalm 46.*

We see at the beginning of this Psalm that the believer has a fearless trust in God. The author indicates that although the continents break up and sink beneath the sea, God will be our helper. We read of a time when there will be no more war, "He [God] makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He burns the shields with fire" (verse 9). God's voice is then heard as it breaks through all the confusion: "Be still, and know that I am God" (verse 10). The swirling leaves of fall tell us to be still, slow down, reflect upon the blessings of our country and the specific freedoms we have because of those uniformed "men [and women] working."





# Journey to Thanks—Living

Worship—November 2003/04  
Captain Cathy Himes  
Eastern Territory

## Quote for the Journey

*A grateful spirit and a thankful heart are an integral part of a holy life. The woman who recognizes God's goodness and is thankful has a heart full of praise that brings joy to the Father and glory to His name. An attitude of gratitude will bring your heart a host of blessings and make you a channel of blessings to others.*

—Leslie Armstrong

## Decorations

Set up the room as a bedroom, hospital room or a doctor's office—a place associated with sickness or being tired.

## Program Ideas

### "Sick and Tired" Sword Drill

See who can find the following Scripture passages the fastest.

- ❖ Exodus 17:12—"When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him ... "
- ❖ Isaiah 40:28—"The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of earth. He will not grow tired or weary ... "
- ❖ Isaiah 40:31—"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
- ❖ Matthew 9:12—"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."
- ❖ Matthew 11:28—"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
- ❖ James 5:14—"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him ... "

### Pictionary or Charades

Divide the women into groups and have them draw or pantomime these Bible characters who were healed by Jesus. Give them the Scripture reference as their cue card.

1. The man with leprosy. (Luke 5:12–14)
2. The crippled man lowered through the roof of the house where Jesus was preaching. (Luke 5:17–26)
3. The woman with the issue of blood. (Luke 8:42–48)
4. The demon possessed man and the pigs. (Luke 8:26–39)
5. The blind man who was healed. (Luke 18:35–43)

## Relay Races

Using walkers or crutches, the women must race from one spot to another. This will give them an appreciation for those who have to use these every day in order to walk.

Provide supplies for making arm slings or finger splints. Form the women into teams and see which group can perform the medical procedures on their partner the quickest.

## Family Feud Game

This game is based on the TV show. At the beginning of the program, ask the questions listed below. Then sort the answers to come up with the most frequent responses. Divide the women into family groups and see if they can match those answers. Use these questions as a jumping off point for a discussion of ways to deal with stress.

1. Where do you go when tired?

2. Name a type of bed.
3. Who stresses you out?
4. What do you eat when sick?
5. What do you eat when stressed?
6. Where would you find weak people?
7. How many hours of sleep do most people get?
8. On what day of the week are you most tired?
9. What household chore makes you tired?
10. What is something that you might do when you are stressed out?

## Journaling for the Journey

Scripture: Psalm 103

This Psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving, glorifying God's mercy and His benefits to His people. Re-write it to make it your own. For example, "My soul blesses You, O Lord. From the top of my head to my toes, I bless Your holy name."

## Sick and Tired

Read James 5:13–16.

Do you ever feel sick and tired? These two words seem to go together. The most likely meaning for the word translated as "sick" in James 5:15 is "weak," and the word for sick person, later on in the verse, is probably best translated "weary person." To be spiritually weary is a sickness that only God can heal. Restoration means to be brought back to a previous state. In Psalms 23:3, David says, "He [God] restores my soul." A tired, weakened spirit needs to be restored. When we are weak, we are susceptible. Mothers know that when their child is sick, they are more susceptible to germs. Their body's defenses are down.

Jesus, our great physician, tells us to come to Him when we are weary and He will give us rest. We may need forgiveness during times of weakness. Sometime we sin because our defenses are down. James writes to the early church telling them that they are to go to the elders after they have been sick (weak) for an anointing of God's spirit, symbolized by the anointing of oil. James 5:15 indicates that not only will the prayer offered in faith make the sick person well but, "If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." When we come to Him weak and weary, He takes care of our soul's weariness.

Because we are a trinity of soul, mind and body, when we are physically weak, we need special grace from God to keep us spiritually strong and free from sin. If we have grieved the Lord in a time of weakness, we can confess our sins and be assured of God's loving forgiveness.

Confession of our sins to others helps us to seek God's forgiveness and sweet release such forgiveness brings. Prayers of intercession are a natural reflection of God's love, blessing both the person offering the prayer and the one being prayed for. How lovingly God will restore our soul and bring us the needed healing.

## Eastern Travelers



### Refreshment

Serve foods that you would eat on a trip—sandwiches or snack type foods—potato chips, carrot sticks, celery, trail mix, fruit.

### Games

#### *The Magi*

Answer these questions about the Magi. The correct answer is in bold.

- ❖ In what book of the Bible is the story of the Magi recorded.  
1. *Matthew*, 2. Mark, 3. Luke, 4. All the above.
- ❖ Where did the Magi come from? 1. Egypt, 2. Persia, 3. **The East**, 4. Media.
- ❖ What city did they go to first?  
1. Bethlehem, 2. **Jerusalem**, 3. Nazareth, 4. Bethany.
- ❖ What was the name of the King they visited? 1. **Herod the Great**, 2. Herod Agrippa II, 3. David, 4. Caiaphas.
- ❖ What were they seeking? 1. a new star, 2. a baby, 3. great gifts, 4. **a king**.
- ❖ When the king heard this he was ... 1. delighted, 2. angry, 3. **disturbed**, 4. full of wonder.
- ❖ The king called the Magi and told them ... 1. Go home, what you seek isn't here, 2. You've come to the wrong city, 3. **As soon as you find Him, report to me**, 4. The teachers tell me the one you seek is in Bethany.
- ❖ What guided the Magi on their way? 1. the moon, 2. a pillar of light, 3. a dove, 4. **a star**.
- ❖ What gifts did the Magi bring?  
1. gold, 2. frankincense, 3. myrrh, 4. **all the above**.
- ❖ The Magi's names were ...  
1. Casper, Melchoir, Balthasar, 2. Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, 3. Ahadrack, Meshach, Abednego, 4. **Scripture doesn't tell us their names**.

#### *Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh*

Prepare questions that can be answered with "yes," "no" or "maybe," such as, "Do you have a dog?" or "Are you over 50?" The moderator asks the women to answer these questions truthfully; however, they must respond with "gold" for yes, "frankincense" for no and "myrrh" for maybe. The questions should be asked and answered as quickly as possible to add to the fun of the game. Once she answers incorrectly, she is out of the game and the challenge

of answering the questions moves to the next woman.

#### *How Do You Get There?*

Obtain maps of large cities that are unfamiliar to the women. Give them two locations that they are to find on the map. They must then plot a course from one to the other. Ask them to describe the scenes and people they might encounter along the way using their imaginations. It's okay to encourage them to stretch the truth, since they would have no way of knowing what they might encounter. Give a prize for the most imaginative story, the most direct or creative route.

#### *"Star" Sing*

Divide the women into four groups, a S, T, A and R team. Ask them to sit according to their team letter. While singing favorite Christmas carols, each group stands up when they sing a word

beginning with their team letter. The next time their team letter starts a word in the song, they sit down. There should be a lot of confusion and laughter as the women stand up and sit down while trying to sing. Upon completion, congratulate the women because they can all be stars, shining lights to show people the way to Jesus. Give a prize to those who participate to the end of at least one song because they made it to the end of this journey.

#### Prize Ideas

Award butterscotch candies or any other gold colored candy to remind us of the gold brought by the Magi, potpourri to remind us of the frankincense and scented lotion to remind us of the myrrh.

### The Magi's Visit

What do we know about the Magi? Scripture does not give a lot of information. In fact the Magi's visit is recorded in one Gospel alone. Matthew describes their search for the King of the Jews, their encounter with King Herod and the fulfillment of their search as they worshipped and gave gifts to the Christ child.

We do know that they traveled. They came from the east—maybe from Media, Persia or Parthia. Scripture does not give us that information. But it does remind us that we have a loving heavenly Father who in His great mercy and grace forgets where we came from in our sin and only remembers that we found Him!

We know they asked directions. It is difficult to travel to unknown places without a map. Look at this map. (Use the map of the city used during the game). Do you think you could find a friend's house that you have never been to in that city without directions or a map? God has given us a spiritual map that gives wonderfully clear directions to a closer spiritual relationship with Him. It's the Bible. But just like a map, it won't do us any good unless we take it out and use it.

We know that when the Magi found Jesus, they worshipped Him. "On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him" (Matt. 2:11). These were highly respected experts of their day who were probably accustomed to others paying respect to them, and yet we see them bowing in humble worship to the One they recognized as greater than themselves. How often do we allow the things of the world to distract us and keep us from bowing in humble adoration before God?

We know that the visitors brought gifts and that these gifts had purpose. Gold for a King, frankincense for a High Priest and myrrh for His sacrifice and death on our behalf. He gave us a precious gift with great meaning—salvation. This season let us remember to put meaning in each gift that we give and especially in the gifts we bring to the Savior.



## License to Read

Education—December 2003/04  
Major Arduth Jones  
Southern Territory

### Preparation

This program is best done as a field trip to the local library. Ahead of time, meet with your local librarian to find out what type of library skills orientation they offer. Many offer group tutorials for children, adults and seniors. If your library does not offer such a program, you can still conduct your meeting at the library using this program material.

### Introduction

What's new in the library? It would be easier to list the things that have remained the same in the library. This is not your grandmother's library! The library of today is more user friendly than it was in her day. No longer is the library just a building full of books. It is now a storehouse of inexhaustible information that can be gleaned from a variety of methods. Renew that old expired library card and start taking advantage of "What's New in the Library," and it's all free!

### Library Services

- ❖ Free internet accessibility—If you do not have a home computer, you can use one at the library and have free access to the internet. You can set up a free email address to send and receive electronic mail or take advantage of the opportunities afforded those who learn to surf the Web.
- ❖ Braille and talking books for the visually handicapped.
- ❖ Audiotapes and CDs—Recorded music, lectures, books and resource material are available to members.
- ❖ Videotapes—Movies, lectures and children's videos are also available.
- ❖ Bookmobiles and postal delivery—Many communities have mobile libraries with a variety of books. You can reserve books and other resource material that will be brought on the next trip. These items can be reserved online or by phone. Most have a program for postal delivery to shut-ins.
- ❖ Voter registration and tax form distribution—You may register to vote and get your tax forms at the library.

- ❖ Online or telephone renewal—You may renew items checked out by phone or online to save you a trip.
- ❖ Remote online research—Your library card entitles you to most resource material offered by the library via the library's web page. Check the CD-ROM for helpful sites.
- ❖ Computer resource locator—Use the computer databases to help you locate resource material. Follow the on-screen commands to find the exact location of the material you need.

### Program Ideas

#### *Library Scavenger Hunt*

Print a list of questions that participants must answer using the resource material at the library. Sample questions can be found at virtual library

sites online or at the library.

#### *Speaker*

Secure someone from the library to lecture your group on the resources to be found there.

#### *Book Reviews*

Have members do short book reviews to whet their appetite for literature. Plan a variety of types of books. Check out of the library copies of the books being reviewed.

#### *Book Club*

Form a book club. Interested members would pledge to read the same book over a period of time and then meet to discuss what they read.

#### *Reference Crossword*

Check the CD-ROM for a crossword.

## Written on Our Hearts

From the earliest forms of hieroglyphics carved on stone walls to the highly technical electronic communication of today, the written word has impacted our lives. People tend to believe what they read, whether it be good or bad. Perhaps that is due to the effort required to communicate through this medium in the past. It seems natural to believe that one would not go to such lengths for false communication.

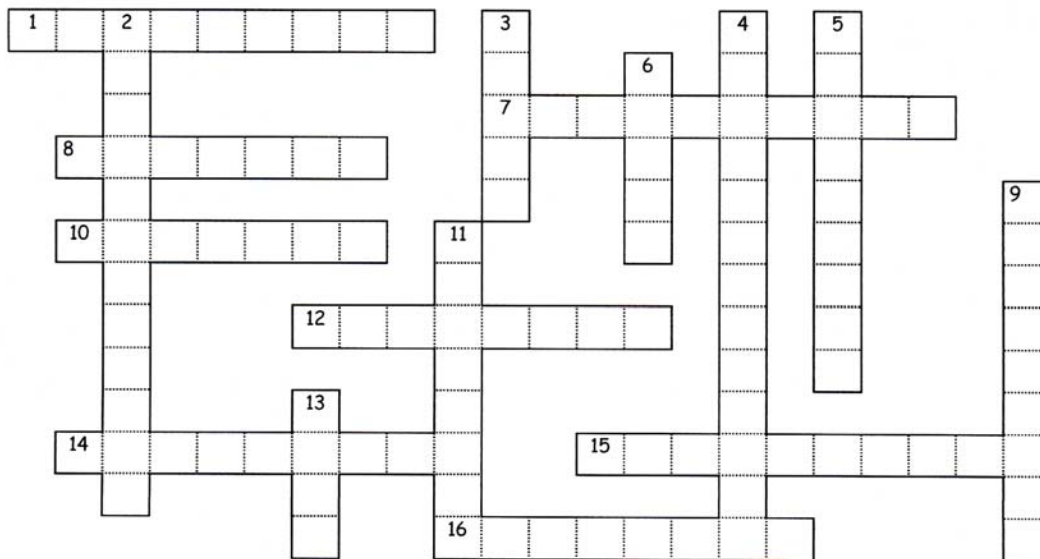
We have our Bible because of the dedication of early day saints committed to sharing the inspiration of God. How marvelous to think of the effort and sacrifice of those great men of faith who wrote and preserved the message under the most primitive of conditions.

As time progressed, the written word has become more accessible through the discovery of better techniques of reproduction. Johann Gutenberg, a German inventor, ushered in the beginnings of mass production that was to be the forerunner of the printed word that we have now. And yet his invention did not overshadow the notoriety of the words that he printed. The Bible has afforded Gutenberg the distinction of being the man most responsible for the ownership of Bibles by the masses.

Today there are more books in print and readily available than ever thought imaginable. The Library of Congress lists over 17 million books and well over 95 million other forms of information in audio or video format. The Internet is an inexhaustible source of information on any subject you can think of. Why then, are we not the wisest, most enlightened generation since the beginning of time: Why is our generation always searching for answers? Could it be that we have become so in awe of what is written "with ink" or "on tables of stone," that we have ceased to be "a letter from Christ?" We rejoice with Paul over the Word that was written on the tables of human hearts. "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corin. 3:2,3). The written word affords us the opportunity to obtain great knowledge. But wisdom writes its message on the tables of the human heart touched by God.

# License to Read Supplemental Material

## Reference Crossword—Find the Best Answer



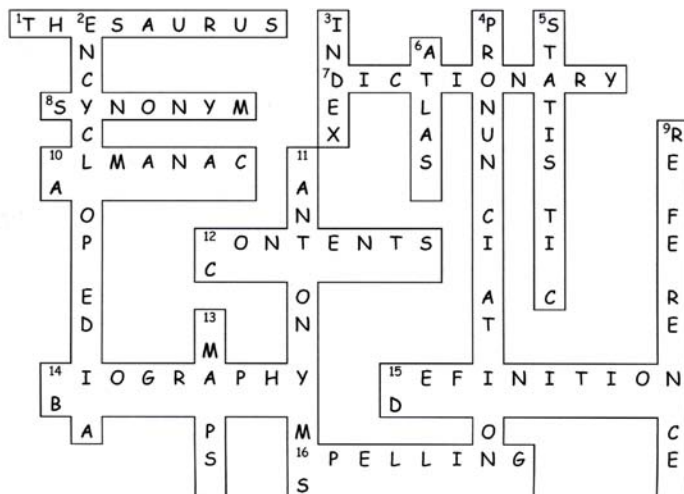
### Across

- Best source to use to find 8 across.
- Read your Webster's ...
- Word that mean the same.
- Best source for quick facts on a wide variety of subjects.
- When using a book, this table can help determine what information is in the book.
- A book that tells about a person's life.
- The meaning of a word, which can be found easily in 7 across.
- The proper order of letters in a word, also found in 7 across.

### Down

- In many volumes or in one, this tool holds the key to large quantities of information.
- Use this to find the correct page number in a book or set of books.
- How to say a word: Use 7 across to find the correct way.
- Try the almanac to find lots of these factual numbers.
- A collection of maps.
- The section of the library where many of these tools are kept.
- A word meaning opposite.
- Found in an atlas.

### Answers



### Helpful Web Sites

[www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com)—Library Services, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries  
[www.oclc.org](http://www.oclc.org)—On-line Computer Library Center  
[www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)—Internet Public Library  
[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)—American Library Association  
[www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)—LA Public Library  
[www.britanica.com](http://www.britanica.com)—Encyclopedia

### Search Engines

Search engines that use everyday language—  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
[www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)  
[www.hotbot.lycos.com](http://www.hotbot.lycos.com)  
[www.dogpile.com](http://www.dogpile.com)

# Under Construction

Service—December 2003/04  
Captain Christine Merritt  
Central Territory

## Service Project

Plan for a day when the women will babysit in order for parents to enjoy some Christmas shopping. Ahead of time decide if this will be for corps members, parents of children attending youth activities or as an outreach for social service clients.



Place a baby food jar lid in the bottom of the glass as a holder for the votive candle.

into groups and have the children decorate the houses.

## Activities

*Decorate Gingerbread Houses*

Purchase easy to assemble gingerbread houses. Break

## Video or Book

Show a video or read a short version of the story of Hansel and Gretel. These can be borrowed from the public library.

## Invitation

Design an invitation using the theme of gingerbread houses. Set a time and an RSVP to ensure that there are sufficient materials on hand. Specify what age group you will be prepared to watch. Include a form that contains the names of the children and their ages, a permission statement for emergency treatment and emergency contacts.

## Sign-in

On the day of the event, have all the childcare providers in the facility at least 15 minutes before the children and parents arrive. Provide the leaders and the children with name tags.

## Crafts

### *Christmas Candle*

You will need one of each of the following candy items per child—a roll of lifesavers, a peppermint patty, a red-wrapped Hershey Kiss®, school glue. Glue the roll of lifesavers upright to the peppermint patty. Let it dry and then glue the Hershey Kiss® to the lifesavers to resemble a candle in a candle holder.

### *Candle Holder*

You will need the following supplies—clear plastic punch cups, various colors of bright tissue paper, white glue, black permanent marking pens, baby food jar lids, white votive candles.

Mix enough water with the glue so that it can be spread on with a paintbrush. Brush a small area of the cup with the diluted glue. Cover that area with a piece of tissue paper. Paint glue over tissue. Repeat the process until the glass has been covered with at least two layers of tissue paper. Cover the whole cup with an additional coat of glue. Allow it to dry. Write “Jesus, the Light of the World” on the cup.

## The Light of the World

(A devotional for the children)

Hansel and Gretel started their journey with a lot of confidence, but we know from the story that things did not turn out as they expected. It became dark outside. The wonderful looking gingerbread house was not as “yummy” inside as it was on the outside. The children got lost and made wrong choices in their journey. There were some things that Hansel and Gretel could have done to stay out of trouble. They could have stayed where they were or gone home before it got dark. They could have remembered what they had been told about talking to strangers and staying close to home. They could have been more careful when they approached the gingerbread house. They made some bad decisions which got them into trouble.

As young people, you are all on the journey of life. God is making you into something special. Sometimes you will feel like you are lost and don’t know where to turn. You may see something that looks really good, but it is not good for you. You will have many decisions to make. There will be many opportunities to allow God to make you into what He wants you to be.

Jesus said, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before the darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going” (John 12: 35). Just like Hansel and Gretel, who did not know where to go in the darkness, sometimes it’s hard for us to know where to go in our life’s journey. When we light the candle that is in the candle holder that we made today, it looks beautiful. But the candle can’t light itself. Someone has to light it. In our lives we need someone to give us the light from God in our hearts. Jesus tells us, “I am the Light of the World” (John 8:12).

Watch what happens when this glass plate covers the candle. The flame goes out. That’s because a candle needs oxygen (or air) to keep burning. In our lives we need Jesus in our hearts so that we are not in darkness anymore. We need to read the Bible, because that’s where we find out what Jesus says to us and what He wants us to do. We need to pray and to be with other people who have Jesus in their hearts. All of these things help us to become what God wants us to be. Can anyone tell me what things we needed to create our gingerbread house? (Allow the children to answer.) When all of those things were put together, something really special was constructed. That’s how it is with us. God uses the light of Jesus, the Bible, church and other people to help us be something very special.

Some of you have already told Jesus you love Him. If you haven’t, now is a time when you can tell Him that you want His light in your heart. (*Have the children repeat the following:*) Dear Jesus, I love You very much. I want Your love in my heart and in my life. Help me to make the right decisions. Help me to read my Bible and listen to people who love Jesus. Thank You for helping me in my journey, in my life. Thank You for helping me become something special. Amen.

# The Road to Great Joy

## Quote for the Journey

*Joy lies within us. But it lies dormant until we make it alive every day by renewing our faith and our hope. There are a lot of fun things in life but they don't necessarily satisfy us for a long time. There's something about going to bed at night knowing that God is with you. He can restore all the years the locusts have eaten; and I've seen Him do it. Jesus is the answer. As a friend of mine said, "He's the Man!"*

—Luci Swindol

## What Brings Me Happiness

Ask the women to write their answers to the following questions. Collect the papers and see if the group can identify the woman by her answers.

1. My favorite thing to drink is ...
2. I love to eat ...
3. My favorite pastime is ...
4. If I had one hour that I could spend in any way I wanted I would ...
5. I find great happiness in ...

## Sharing Joy and Sadness

On another piece of paper, have the women write down something that happened during the Christmas season (past or present) that caused them to laugh and a difficult experience that made them sad. Share their responses in between the verses of the Christmas carols.

## Program Outline

Carol # 84, "Joy to the World"\*

Scripture Reading—Luke 2:1–15

Carol #93, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"\*

*When Next You Hear An Angel*

Stunned, shaking shepherds  
Admitted no subjunctive  
Patter,  
No preparation clatter,  
No scrap of speculative  
Waste.

The record states:  
"They made haste!"

Then found they,  
Mute and meek and mild,  
Heaven shaped in flesh—  
Our wondrous  
Redeemer Child.  
When next you hear  
An angel voice,  
Rejoice!

Again He's come:  
Get you up—and run!  
To Jesus

—Sallie Chesham

Carol #85, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"\*

*\*The Salvation Army Song Book*

Devotional, "Good News of Great Joy"

Prayer—Ask for short prayers for:

- \* Members of the women's ministries and their families.
- \* All who find themselves alone and are experiencing sadness.
- \* Single parents who are struggling to provide for their families.
- \* Those who are facing illness.
- \* Our neighbors who do not know the joy that Christ brings.
- \* God's guidance in deciding what is important and what can be left undone during Christmas.
- \* God's peace and joy during the busy Christmas season.



## Journaling For the Journey

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 43:4, Proverbs 15:13–15

The Bible is a book of joy. When we are in right relationship with God, joy and laughter are part of His plan for us. Since God Himself is the source of our joy, look for joy—look for "God Moments." Keep your head up! Don't miss Him. Record your God moments from this week.

## Good News of Great Joy

The angels came to the shepherds as they watched their sheep out on the hillside many years ago and told them of the birth of a Savior. They said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10,11). This message wasn't just for the shepherds, it was for all people. It was good news of great joy!

But what is joy? Often we think of joy and happiness as having the same meaning. The word happiness brings up visions of unwrapping Christmas gifts, sitting beside a roaring fire with your family, walking through the snow hand in hand with the one you love. We all want to be happy and spend great amounts of time and money chasing this elusive idea. But if happiness depends on our circumstances, what happens when the gifts break, loved ones die and our health deteriorates? Often that happiness we felt disappears and despair sets in.

For many people, Christmas is a difficult time of the year. When the world is telling them that they should be happy, they feel despair. They find themselves in difficult family situations; loved ones will not be with them to celebrate the season and they feel alone. Finances are tight and buying Christmas gifts puts a further strain on an already tight budget. Others are stressed because there seems to be too much to do and not enough time to accomplish the tasks. They ask, "Where is the happiness in Christmas?"

True joy is far deeper than happiness. We can feel joy in spite of our deepest troubles. Happiness is temporary because it is based on external circumstances, but joy is lasting because it is based on God's presence within us. As we celebrate His birth this Christmas, may we be aware of His daily presence and the joy that He can bring. It is then that we will find contentment and joy despite our circumstance.