

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

activated

Vol 12 • Issue 4

ANGELS

12 things you should know

Are Science and Faith Compatible?

Nobel laureates speak out

The Miraculous

Only two things are needed





PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Some unlikely people have remarkable insight. I'm thinking specifically of the Roman army officer who begged Jesus to heal his servant. "I am not worthy that You should come under my roof," the centurion told Jesus, "but only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. I also

am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."—And the centurion got what he asked for: his servant was healed immediately, without Jesus having to go and see to it personally.¹

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's great faith, and I'm amazed at his understanding. He realized something that few others do: God delegates.

The centurion got his orders from his superior officer; Jesus got His instructions from His heavenly Father. The centurion had subordinates to carry out his orders; Jesus had (and still has) others in the spiritual realm to carry out His.

If God is infinitely wise and all knowing, all powerful, and ever present, why doesn't He just do everything Himself? Wouldn't that be quicker and simpler and get better results? Probably, but that would go against God's nature and His plan. God is neither a loner nor an autocrat. He made His creation diverse and interactive, some of it physical and some of it spiritual. He also established laws of physics and a natural order to regulate the physical realm, and He delegated authority and set up a chain of command in the spiritual realm. Then He put us in the middle.

Science has unlocked many of the secrets of the physical world, but exactly how things work in the spiritual realm remains one of life's great mysteries. God has given us clues in the Bible, though, and they make a fascinating study.

Keith Phillips
For *Activated*

1. See Matthew 8:5-13

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SOMETHING

FROM

NOTHING

BY CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER

WHILE VISITING MY DAD FOR HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY, WE WATCHED SOME OF OUR OLD FAMILY MOVIES. It was funny to see my brother as a one-year-old, crawling around, playing with the puppies, and eating from the dog's food dish. To think that this cute little baby would grow up to be a distinguished college professor and international lecturer! It got me thinking about how God makes special people out of nobodies. We come into this world naked and helpless, and God transforms us into the unique people we each are through our experiences and choices.

It's been said that God delights in making something out of nothing, and I believe it. In fact, I believe that God made *everything* out of nothing.

-
1. James Perloff, *Tornado in a Junkyard* (Arlington, Mass: Refuge Books, 1999), 29.
 2. Paul Davies, *The Edge of Infinity* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981), 161.

Skeptics ask, "How could the universe have been created from nothing? The laws of science say that nothing can ever be created or destroyed—only rearranged. You have to have something to start with." Perhaps the clearest and most compelling answer I've found to that argument is put forth by James Perloff in *Tornado in a Junkyard*.¹

The most widely accepted theory of the universe's origin says that, at one time, all mass and energy were compressed in a tiny "cosmic egg." Then the egg exploded, creating the universe in the Big Bang. ...

But the Big Bang itself violates natural law. The laws of physics state that matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed. This is the First Law of Thermodynamics, the law of conservation of energy. As the well-known physicist Paul Davies wrote in his book *The Edge of Infinity*, the Big

Bang "represents the instantaneous suspension of physical laws that allowed something to come out of nothing. It represents a true miracle."²

If one allows for an event beyond natural law—a "true miracle," as Davies put it—then it is logically inconsistent to exclude other events, such as creation by God. If there was a "cosmic egg," who put it there? The cosmic chicken? Scientists have always agreed that there is a cause for every effect. How then can the greatest effect of all—the universe itself—have arisen without a cause?

That cause, I believe, was God's command. God spoke and—*BANG!*—the universe was created.

CURTIS PETER VAN GORDER IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN INDIA. ■



ARE SCIENCE AND FAITH COMPATIBLE?

—NOBEL LAUREATES SPEAK OUT

“IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO MODERN SCIENCE THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS EXQUISITELY FINE-TUNED TO ENABLE HUMAN LIFE. WE ARE SOMEHOW CRITICALLY INVOLVED IN [GOD’S] PURPOSE.

Our job is to sense that purpose as best we can, love one another, and help Him get that job done.”—*Richard Smalley (1943–2005), awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of fullerenes, the third elemental form of carbon. Smalley is considered the Father of Nanotechnology.*

“If I had no other data than the early chapters of Genesis, some of

the Psalms, and other passages of Scripture, I would have arrived at essentially the same picture of the origin of the universe as is indicated by the scientific data.”—*Arno Penzias (b. 1933), awarded the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of cosmic background radiation—patterns that physicists have interpreted as showing that the universe was created from nothing.*

“We’re just working with the tools God gave us. There is no reason that science and religion have to operate in an adversarial relationship. Both come from the same source, the only

source of truth—the Creator.”—*Joseph Murray (b. 1919), awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology for his pioneer work in transplantology.*

“A scientific discovery is also a religious discovery. There is no conflict between science and religion. Our knowledge of God is made larger with every discovery we make about the world.”—*Joseph H. Taylor (b. 1941), awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of the first known binary pulsar.*

“When confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why the

only possible answers are religious. ... I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life.”—*Arthur L. Schawlow (1921–1999); shared the 1981 Nobel Prize in Physics for the development of laser spectroscopy.*

“So many of my colleagues are Christians that I can’t walk across my church’s fellowship hall without tripping over a dozen physicists.”—*William D. Phillips (b. 1948), awarded the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics for using lasers to produce temperatures only a fraction of a degree above absolute zero. ■*

“I only trace the lines that flow from God.”—*Albert Einstein (1879–1955), awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work in theoretical physics, especially the law of photoelectric effect.*



the miraculous

BY VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG

IT TAKES ONLY TWO ELEMENTS FOR A MIRACLE TO TAKE PLACE: GOD'S POWER AND OUR FAITH. Whenever the faith of some humble believer meets the power of God, a miracle can happen. Genuine faith results in genuine miracles.

Faith that miracles can happen to you begins with faith in the Bible. The Bible is a supernatural book. It has transforming power. Read, study, and absorb it, and your faith will grow. Faith in the Bible creates faith in the miraculous.

Why does it seem strange to expect God to perform miracles today in answer to our prayers? Not only can He work miracles today, but miracles are necessary to accomplish all He has promised and all He has planned for us. Jesus said, "He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."¹ He also said that anything is possible if we have faith.²

Christians today are the custodians of the same divine power with which Jesus' original followers "turned the world upside down."³ Those humble, formerly unheard-of men and women had such confidence that God's supernatural power was at their command that they even dared to challenge the Roman Empire—and they shook it to its very foundation. If miracles are less prevalent today, it is not because God's power or promises have changed, but because fewer people believe those promises.

If you will take in God's Word, trust Him to keep the promises you find there, and give Him a chance to work, you will see things come to pass that are beyond the realm of the natural; you will see God work in the supernatural realm; you will see miracles.

The Bible says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."⁴ That is as true today as it was when it was written.

Put your faith in Him. Claim His promises with full confidence—promises like this one: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered

Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"⁵ God's love, power, and promises haven't changed. God is still on His throne, and prayer changes things.

EVANGELIST AND AUTHOR VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG (1886–1968) WAS THE MOTHER OF DAVID BRANDT BERG (1919–1994), FOUNDER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL. ■

If miracles are less prevalent today, it is not because God's power or promises have changed, but because fewer people believe those promises.

1. John 14:12

3. Acts 17:6

5. Romans 8:32

2. Mark 9:23

4. 2 Chronicles 16:9



CALLING THROUGH THE REGISTERS

By JOYCE SUTTIN

MY GRANDPARENTS' 1920 FARMHOUSE WAS GRACED WITH SOLID OAK FLOORS AND WOODWORK, AND THERE WERE "REGISTERS," adjustable grates in the floors that made it possible to regulate the flow of warm air that passed through ducts from the furnace in the basement to each of the upstairs rooms. My cousin and I had great fun talking to each other through the registers.

"Are you there?" one of us would ask from a downstairs room.

"Yes, I'm here," the other would answer from an upstairs room. "How are you down there?"

"Good. Now let's switch places."

We would scramble to change places, carefully avoiding my grandmother, who was quick to remind us to not run on the stairs and to stop our "titterin'," which was what Grandma called our giggling.

When I was growing up, my family attended a small independent church that frowned on such things as playing card games that involved jokers and aces, dancing, and women wearing pants to church, not to mention the seemingly endless list of more serious deviations from the straight and narrow that is common to many churches, some of which are more clearly scriptural than others.

But when I met the Family International in 1969, I knew I was "home." At last I had found a religion that was relevant and rang true with what I believed deep down inside, even though it was very different from the way I had been brought up. Getting used to hallelujahs and guitar-music worship services wasn't easy.

One day I was desperate to know whether or not I was right in embracing the Family's beliefs and lifestyle, and I prayed earnestly. Suddenly it was as though I was back in my grandparents' farmhouse. This time it was my grandfather, who had passed away years before, who was upstairs, talking to me through the register. Our conversation went something like this:

"Hi, honey. Are you okay?"

"Yes, Grandpa. Is that really you? I am okay, but there is something I need to know. Am I right in wanting to serve the Lord like this? Is this what I am supposed to be doing?"

"Well, what do you think?"

"I think it is right, but I grew up singing hymns in church, not singing songs about Jesus to strangers in parks. This is all so different!"

THE PHONE CALL

By Clara Dunnow

Laurita had only been home for a few minutes after visiting me when she realized she needed bread for dinner.

She grabbed her car keys and headed for the store, but as she was closing the door behind her, she heard her phone ring inside the house and went back in to answer it. At the same moment, my home phone rang. It was in another room, so it took me a few rings to get to it. When I answered with "Hello," so

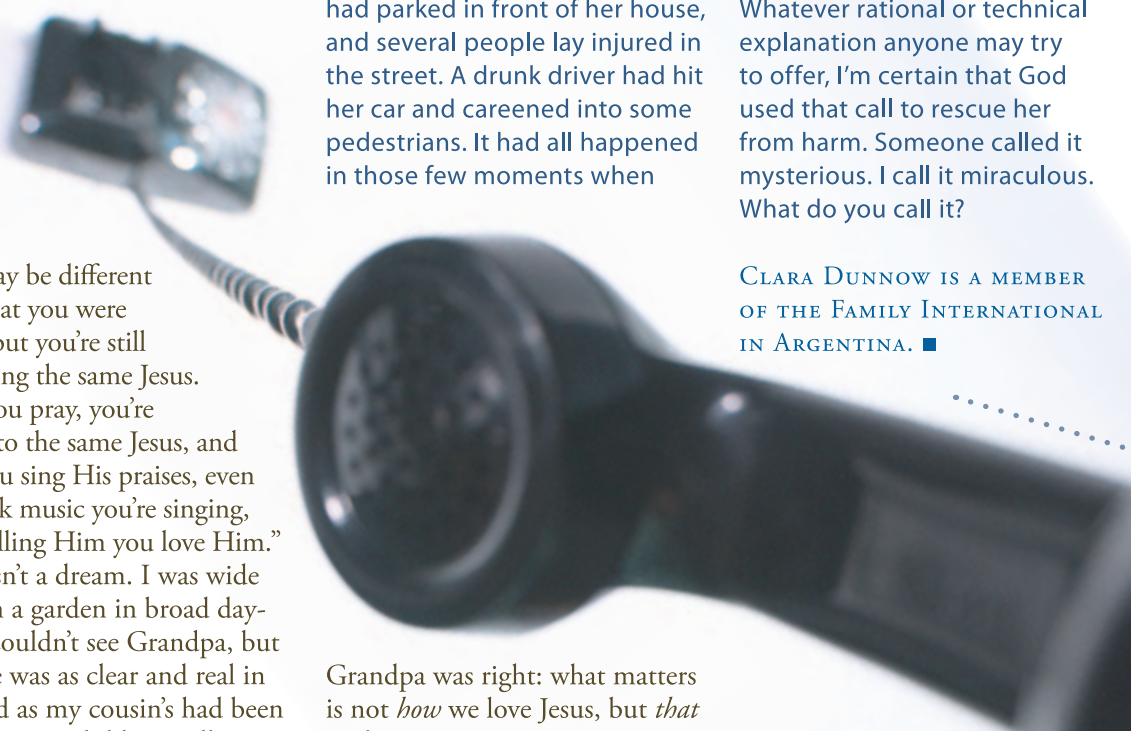
did Laurita. There was a long moment of silence as we each waited for the other to say why she had called. I hadn't phoned her, I said, and she said she hadn't phoned me either. I asked where she was, and she said she was at home and everything was okay. Then we both hung up.

At that instant, Laurita heard a commotion in the street and went to see what had happened. Arriving at her front gate, she saw that someone had sideswiped her car, which she had parked in front of her house, and several people lay injured in the street. A drunk driver had hit her car and careened into some pedestrians. It had all happened in those few moments when

she had stepped back inside to answer her phone and talk with me.

I hadn't called Laurita and she hadn't called me, so how did both of our phones ring at the same time and connect us? Whoever made that call had saved her from an awful accident, as she would have been getting into her car when that drunk driver hit it and the pedestrians. Can you explain it? I can't, but I know Laurita was miraculously protected. Whatever rational or technical explanation anyone may try to offer, I'm certain that God used that call to rescue her from harm. Someone called it mysterious. I call it miraculous. What do you call it?

CLARA DUNNOW IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ARGENTINA. ■



"It may be different from what you were taught, but you're still worshipping the same Jesus. When you pray, you're praying to the same Jesus, and when you sing His praises, even if it's rock music you're singing, you're telling Him you love Him."

It wasn't a dream. I was wide awake in a garden in broad daylight. I couldn't see Grandpa, but his voice was as clear and real in my mind as my cousin's had been when we were children, talking through the registers. It was a life-changing, faith-building experience, and 40 years later I can say without a doubt that

Grandpa was right: what matters is not *how* we love Jesus, but *that* we love Jesus.

JOYCE SUTTIN IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN THE U.S. ■



FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT! WE ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE DRAB AND RESTRICTIVE DOMAIN OF THE FLATLANDER AND DELVE INTO THE THRILLING REALM OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!

Come now and tune in to the mysterious dimension of eternal realities: the living world of forever rather than the dying world of now, the everlasting realm of eternity rather than the temporary space of time, the fascinating dimension that is largely unseen by us in mortal flesh, rather than this mundane plane, which is so temporary.

The Bible tells us to set our affection on things above—heaven—not on things on the earth, for the things which are seen are only for a time, but the things which are *not* seen are eternal.¹

All God's children of faith since the beginning of time have been looking for an unseen world, a "city which has foundations"—*eternal* foundations—"whose builder and maker is God"² Not having received all that God had promised them but having *seen* those promises from afar, they remained strangers and pilgrims on the earth because they sought a better, heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, and He has prepared just such a place for them, the awesome heavenly city, New Jerusalem, which will come down from God, out of the heavenlies, to rest on planet Earth.³

This is the hope of all ages: that now unseen eternal world where we shall dwell with Him forever, the heavenly city described in the last two chapters of the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22, and mentioned several times elsewhere in the Scriptures. That's what we're all looking forward to—not pie in the sky, but literal heaven on earth.

But God's invisible heavenly kingdom is *already* in operation and existence, here and now! It not only surrounds us but is *within* us. As Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you"⁴

I'm holding in my hand an amazing little postcard, a beautiful underwater scene of God's gorgeous and colorful creation. Now the strange thing is that as I look at this postcard nearly edge-on, I can really

FLATLANDERS

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

only see about two dimensions, length and breadth. I am in the land of the Flatlander who can only understand his own little world of two dimensions, with no depth whatsoever. He can't see anything else. And as I look at this card edge-on, I can't see anything else either. If I were a Flatlander, I would insist that there *was* no other world beyond my two dimensions, just because I couldn't see it.

But as I move in a direction unknown to the Flatlander so that I'm looking down on the postcard from above, I find myself in an amazing world indeed, because this is a three-dimensional postcard. Suddenly it seems to have an altogether new dimension, depth. I seem to be able to see *into* the picture and observe some objects in front of others. A reed is growing in front of a lovely red coral, fish are swimming in between, and the pebbled bottom fades away into the distance, even beyond my new 3D vision.

So now we have entered a new world, beyond the scope of the poor Flatlander who can only see two directions, if he could exist at all, and we are looking in a new direction which opens a whole new beautiful world to explore.

We have become like a god to the Flatlander, a being entirely beyond his comprehension.

We are now above his lowly plane of only two dimensions, and because he can neither look up nor down, we have passed completely out of his sight. Unless we stoop to his lowly level, he cannot see us at all, much less understand our new dimension. For him to be able to see us, we have to get on the exact same plane as him; the moment we vary the slightest fraction out of his plane we are truly "out of sight"!

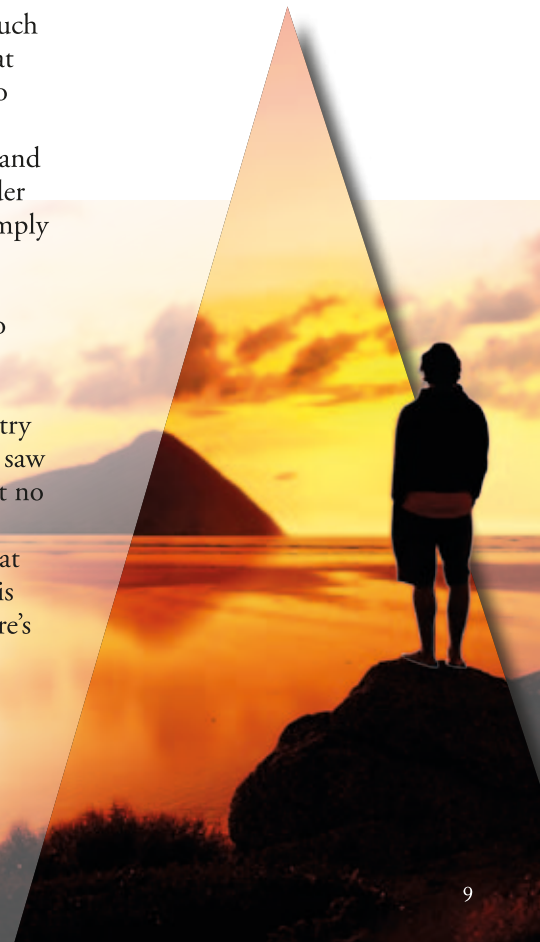
Our 3D world is one of almost unlimited space, so much larger and greater than his that he could not possibly begin to understand it or us. Ours is a whole new world, marvelous and magnificent, that the Flatlander does not even know exists, simply because he cannot see it.

Even if it were possible to show it to him, it would be so beyond his two-dimensional understanding that he would probably be like the old country farmer, who, the first time he saw a giraffe, said, "There just ain't no such thing!"

The fact of the matter is that the dear little Flatlander, in his pride, hates to admit that there's

anything beyond his level. Poor fellow! How limited his vision, how narrow his realm, how restricted his scope of operation! Since he can't go anywhere else, he just hates to admit that there *is* anywhere else. And he is particularly furious with anyone who claims to have been lifted up into that other world and caught a glimpse of what is beyond his own little domain. But just because he doesn't believe in a realm that is invisible to him, that doesn't make it not so!

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1. Colossians 3:2;
2 Corinthians 4:18
 2. Hebrews 11:10
 3. Hebrews 11:13–16;
Revelation 21:2–3
 4. Luke 17:21



And so it is with what the Bible calls the “natural man” who refuses to believe that anything such as a *fifth* dimension, a spirit world, could possibly exist, simply because he’s never seen it or been there. “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him”⁵ And so he says, “There just ain’t no such thing,” simply because he never saw it before.

To dismiss the entire spiritual realm like that would be as absurd as saying, “I don’t believe that New York City or London exist because I’ve never been there.”

The Bible is full of evidence, stories, and positive declarations of the existence of this fifth dimension, the spirit world. Some of its immortal characters, having passed on into it through death, even came back to tell us about it. Others were lifted up into the realm of the spirit to get a brief glimpse or vision of it, and many received messages from there. And some of us have even been there! I have, so I *know* it exists.

You can know too. If you really want to know the truth, humbly confess your limitations, and ask God to help you find that whole new world, He will. Why not try it? What have you got to lose? ■

5. 1 Corinthians 2:14

FEEDING READING **The world of the spirit**

The Bible is full of amazing glimpses into the world of the spirit. Here are a few:

Angels to the rescue
Genesis 19:1–28

Jacob wrestles with an angel
Genesis 32:24–30

The heavenly army
2 Kings 6:8–23

A chariot of fire
2 Kings chapter 2

God’s throne
Ezekiel chapter 10

The message gets through
Daniel chapter 10

Jesus’ summit conference
Matthew 17:1–9

John’s trip to the spirit world
Revelation 1:10–18

A vision of the heavenly city
Revelation chapter 21; 22:1–5

POINTS TO PONDER

SPIRITUAL POWER



POWER FROM GOD MAKES POSSIBLE THINGS THAT ARE BEYOND OUR HUMAN CAPABILITIES. This power can manifest itself in many ways: a miraculous healing; an easing of stress and emotional pressure; a change in circumstances that couldn't be brought about through human effort; insight that transcends earthly wisdom, knowledge, and experience; the capacity to love sacrificially and unconditionally, as God loves us. From simple solutions to outright miracles, all come from a force outside of us. It is the power of God.

- There is tremendous power in God's love. It forgives sins, changes hearts, renews spirits, restores health, gives hope to the despairing and strength to the weary, and brings sunshine where there is darkness.

- God is all-powerful, and all things are possible for those who tap into His power through faith and prayer. With faith no bigger than a mustard seed, anyone can cast mountains into the sea,¹ heal the sick, raise the dead, and give new life to the desperate and needy.²
- Do you think millions of people throughout the ages would have believed in prayer if it didn't work? Discover the power of prayer for yourself. It's no secret.
- God knows each person's heart and innermost needs, feelings, and fears, and it's in His power to give each person exactly what he or she needs.
- The secret of spiritual power and victory and overcoming and fruitfulness and fire and life and light—the secret to everything good—is found in God's Word!
- God has unlimited power, but to tap in to that power you need a conduit, a line. Faith is like a cord that carries God's power from the source to the appliance.
- We've all seen superhero comic books and movies like *Superman* where people had supernatural powers. Though they lived in the physical world, they had powers that enabled them to defy its limitations and to do things that were impossible for mere humans. That's how it is in the spirit. God's Spirit in you gives you power to break out of the problems and despair of life by bringing you happiness, hope, courage, and new strength that is unquenchable and unstoppable.
- Including God in everything adds a whole new dimension to life. It's like stepping into a new world where even things that used to be mundane can become extraordinary. ■

1. Matthew 21:21

2. Matthew 10:8

Angels

BY SAMUEL KEATING



ANGELS ARE MENTIONED HUNDREDS OF TIMES IN THE BIBLE, BOTH IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS AND WITH DIVERSE ROLES. Here are answers from the Bible to some of the most frequently asked questions about angels.

Where did angels come from?

Angels were created by God.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.—*Colossians 1:16*

Angels have been around since before the world was made.

The Lord answered Job. . . . “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? While the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?” —*Job 38:1–7 NIV*

What are angels like?

Angels are wise.

The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. —*2 Samuel 14:17*

[Archangel] Gabriel . . . said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.” —*Daniel 9:21–22*

Angels are innumerable.

A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. —*Daniel 7:10*

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels. —*Hebrews 12:22*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures,

and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.—*Revelation 5:11*

Angels are immortal.

Nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels.—*Luke 20:36*

Some angels have wings.

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.—*Isaiah 6:2*

Some angels appear as humans.

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.—*Hebrews 13:2*

What do angels do?

Angels are protectors and deliverers.

He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.—*Psalms 91:11*

My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me.—*Daniel 6:22*

Peter was sleeping [in prison], bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him; and he raised him up, saying, "Arise

quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.—*Acts 12:6–10*

Angels are providers.

Suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water.—*1 Kings 19:5–6*

Angels are God's messengers.

And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son."—*Judges 13:3*

And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."—*Luke 1:19*

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."—*Luke 2:10–11*

Angels fight the Devil and his demons for us.

Then [the angel] said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me."—*Daniel 10:12–13*

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.—*Revelation 12:7*

Angels praise God and rejoice in His work.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"—*Luke 2:13–14*

Let all the angels of God worship Him.—*Hebrews 1:6*

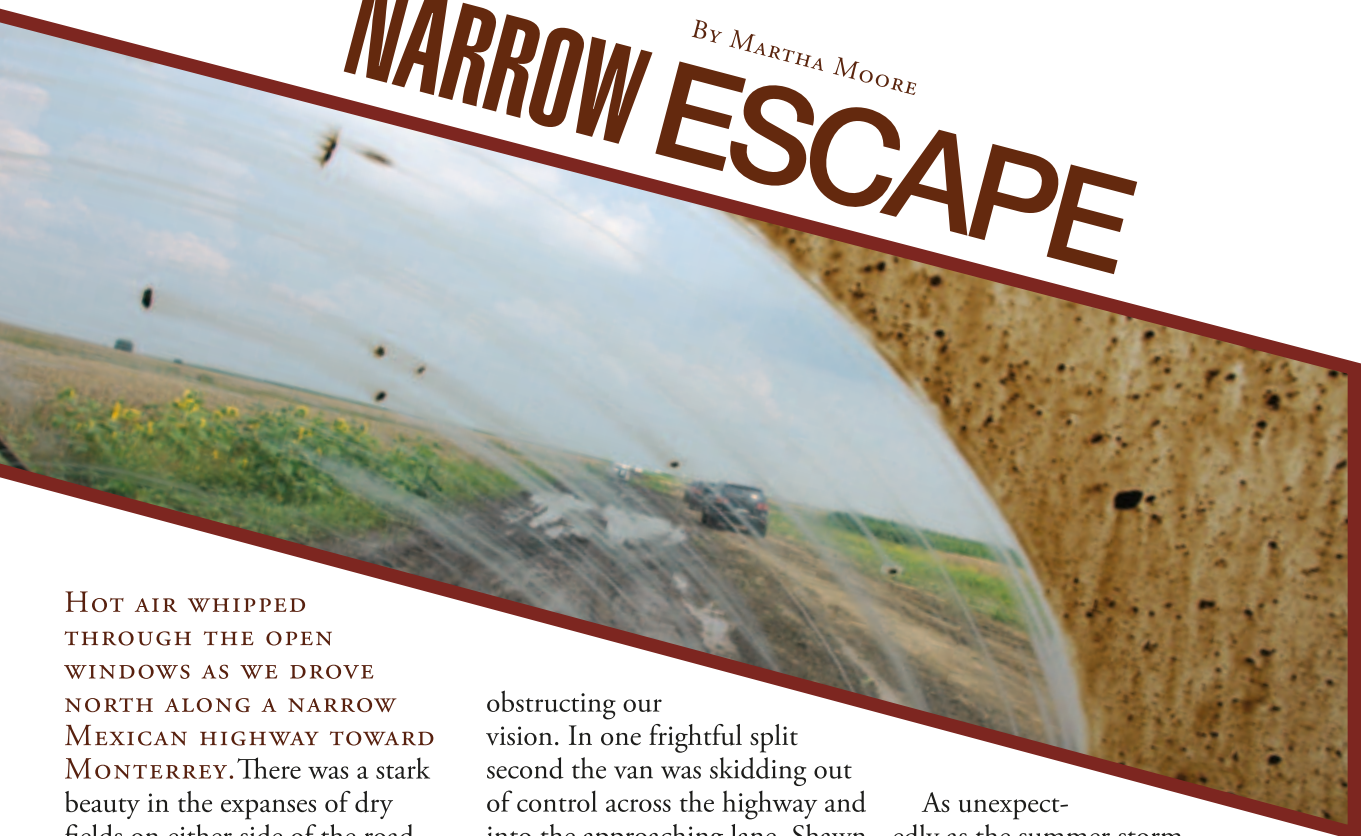
Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.—*Luke 15:10*

SAMUEL KEATING IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL AND AN ACTIVATED CONTRIBUTING EDITOR. ■

1. See also Genesis 18:1–2; 19:1–3; Daniel 10:18; Zechariah 2:1

NARROW ESCAPE

By MARTHA MOORE



HOT AIR WHIPPED THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOWS AS WE DROVE NORTH ALONG A NARROW MEXICAN HIGHWAY TOWARD MONTERREY. There was a stark beauty in the expanses of dry fields on either side of the road, broken only by an occasional tree or house, but the sweltering summer heat and the hum of our van's motor were beginning to take their toll. My son Shawn and I fought drowsiness. Four fellow volunteers were already asleep in the back of the Volkswagen van. The back highways in Mexico are notoriously narrow, and this long stretch had no lighting or firm shoulders, making night driving even more unsafe than under more "normal" conditions. We were anxious to reach our destination before dark.

Suddenly the intense heat and humidity gave way with a loud crack of thunder, and there was a torrential downpour. Sheets of rain pummeled the windshield,

obstructing our vision. In one frightful split second the van was skidding out of control across the highway and into the approaching lane. Shawn gripped the steering wheel for dear life. Another split second and we were directly in the path of a speeding semi truck.

The terrifying scene seemed to shift to slow motion, and I felt a strange, overwhelming urge to thank God for His love and goodness. Just as we were about to collide head-on with the semi, I mouthed what was probably the shortest prayer I had ever prayed—"Thank You." Instantly, all fear left me.

Then, instead of colliding with the truck, our van swung abruptly off the highway, into a field, and back onto the road behind the truck, where Shawn was able to regain control. We had escaped death by the narrowest margin.

As unexpectedly as the summer storm had begun, it passed, and we found ourselves driving peacefully down the road as though nothing had happened. When I looked to see how our co-workers in the back had fared, to my amazement they were all still asleep. God had spared them the whole ordeal.

I've often thought about that incident and wondered what it would be like if we could see behind the scenes, into the spiritual dimension. Miracles like the one Shawn and I witnessed on that Mexican highway are unmistakable, but how many others do we "sweep through"?

MARTHA MOORE IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ROMANIA. ■

LISTEN

A Spiritual Exercise

“THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD,” THE PSALMIST WROTE. “The skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”¹ The Creator speaks through His creation.

You can hear Him too, if you’ll stop what you’re doing and listen.

A quiet spot in nature is best, but if that’s not possible, a view of a tree, a few plants, or even a patch of sky will do.

Switch off your phone. Forget your work. Forget the mess. Put all other thoughts aside, and give God your full attention. Block out everything in your vision that is manmade, and concentrate on something that God made—a flower, a tree, a bird, a butterfly, a cloud, a pond or stream, the breeze. ...

Imagine the love and care that God put into creating that single thing. Then multiply that by all the others like it in the world. What does that tell you about God’s love and care for *you*? Doesn’t that give you a sense of peace and well-being?

Take a few long, deep breaths. Relax, soak in God’s love, take in the view, and listen as God reveals more of His truths. ■

Since the creation of the world [God’s] invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.

—*Romans 1:20*

Be still, and know that I am God.—*Psalms 46:10*

LOVE YOU CAN SEE

Does God love you? You can see it and feel it in the beautiful world He’s given you to live in. Just look around.

God showers beauty and blessing not only on those who seem to deserve His love and mercy, but also on those who don’t.² He gives sunshine and rain, trees and grass and sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the rest. He didn’t have to make life so wonderful or the world so beautiful, but He did.—*David Brandt Berg*

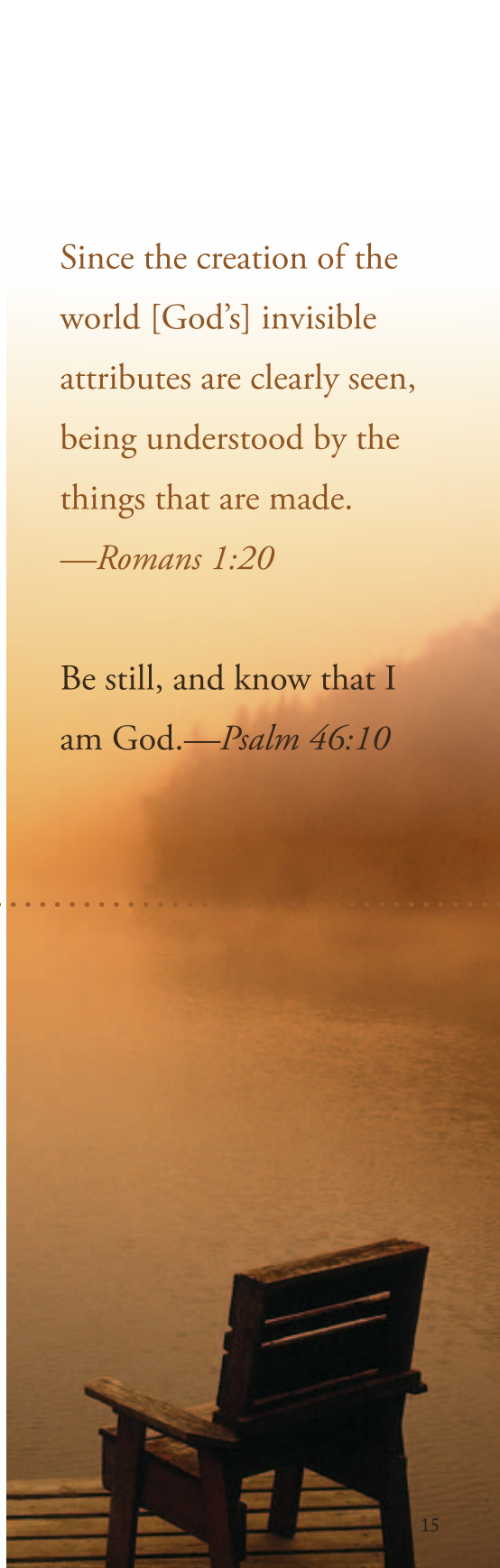
START HERE

If you don’t yet have a personal connection with God, you can make one right now by inviting His Son, Jesus, into your heart. Simply pray this short prayer:

Jesus, I believe in You and invite You into my life as my Savior and constant companion.

1. Psalm 19:1–2 NIV

2. Matthew 5:45





FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

*Always
and forever*

I pour forth My love constantly, without end. The flow is always rich and free and abundant, but how much you see and feel My love depends on your faith—how much you look for it and recognize it in the innumerable ways that I manifest My love each day. Whether or not you see it or feel it or recognize it does not change the fact that My love is constant and abundant and unconditional.

You cannot deserve it or work for it or be worthy of it in yourself, for My love is a gift. I love you because I love you. It is as simple as that! I love you, I will never stop loving you, and I will never love you any less than I do today. I will always love you with a perfect, unending, and abundant love.

I long for you to partake of this love of Mine in all its richness and beauty. My love for you is forever love.