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"GOD'S SPECIALITY IS TURNING OUR MESSES Into Something Pretty Good."

MONTHLY TOPICS

We hope you are enjoying your summer vacation! As I said last month, the rotation continues year round because I happen to believe that learning isn't something you need to take a break from. But what you choose to read or study is entirely up to you. Maybe there's something you were introduced to during the year that you want to dive in a little more deeply. Or maybe 'life' kept you from studying a particular topic and you want to spend a little time on it. I like to use these open months to read lives of interesting people. And although you may not do it every year, you might want to pick one of the American History or World History overview books where you take in a quick sweep of the history to help cement the order of events.

I have been thinking of doing some kind of virtual back-to-school conference in the Fall. What I am thinking of doing will be more meaningful if you take the time to either go through the Intro Catch the Vision course, if you haven't already, or work your way through it again to review it. I guarantee you'll pick up something new or will see what is said through a new perspective. If you prefer to read rather than listen, most of the transcripts are on the Transcriptions page. You'll find a button in each of the sections—just look for it. Kind of a 'Where's Waldo' thing. Or they can be found in the Catch the Vision Reference Bundle which can be bought as hard copies or read online for free. You may have noticed the Reference Bundle has a LOT more than the intro course. It's meant for nourishment, no need to rush through it.

Summer is also a great time to declutter and simplify your house. Small and simple are the keys to your success in a WEH lifestyle.

I haven't been as active in the Facebook Group for a few weeks because I've been enjoying several family members who have been visiting and I spent time with Krystal, who has been recovering from some surgery. As (Monthly Topics cont.) most of you know, Krystal holds everything together!! I depend on her for so many things. I'm grateful the surgery went well and I've been trying to give her time to rest and recover before I start loading her up with all the new projects my mind—and her sisters' minds—concoct. We're heading out west in a few weeks—but I've been working hard to get some new series ready for the fall as well as some new intro videos that I hope will help you navigate the site easier and to better understand the use of the Forgotten Classics Family Library. So even though you may not see as many posts from me for a little while, there's a lot going on behind the scenes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--For those of you who have been ordering the images for My America Story Book, there is only one more packet and then you will have them all (for a total of 11) if you have been getting them from the very beginning. There won't be a packet for Book 12 as that particular book is the story of America in review. And then your shipments will automatically shut off. If you have to continue with My World Story Book next year, you'll need to sign up for that separately.

--PRICE INCREASE. We hate to do it, but we need to raise the prices on our books on July 15. We haven't raised the price in ten years, but rising costs in production as well as shipping necessitate it. The price increases for Individual Books/Series Bundles will be thusly:

- (Most) Individual Books: \$14.95 (was \$13.95)
- Complete Series Bundle: \$175.00 (was \$160.00)
- Nature Bundle: \$70.00 (was \$65.00)
- WEH Reference Bundle: \$45.00 (was \$39.00); \$16.95 per book (was \$14.95 per book)
- Shipping: \$6.99 (was \$5.99)--Shipping will still be free on orders over \$99

We also had to restructure our Subscription prices. Note that if you are currently signed up for a subscription, your price will not change. Only on subscriptions set up on/after July 15. The new prices still include the cost of shipping and are as such:

-1-series: \$20.00 (was \$18.00) -2-series: \$34.00 (was \$31.00) -3-series: \$48.00 (was \$44.00) -4-series: \$62.00 (was \$57.00) -5-series: \$76.00 (was \$72.00) -6-series: \$90.00 (was \$85.00) -7-series: \$103.00 (was \$98.00) -8-series: \$116.00 (was \$111.00) -9-series: \$129.00 (was \$124.00) -10-series: \$142.00 (was \$137.00)

--NEW MONTH 12 BOOKS

Sunshine Series: The Golden Name Day is a little book I picked up in a thrift store and fell in love with it, partly because of its Scandinavian culture (I'm pure Swedish), and partly because the story is just so sweet and so





"The education of even a small child...does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life."

--Maria Montessori

Art credit: A Mother and Child in an Interior by Peter Ilsted

(Announcements cont.) WEH-ish. It was up for the Newbery award the year it was published, but lost to Carry On, Mr. Bowditch. After some research, I found the text has fallen into the public domain, but unfortunately the Garth Williams illustrations are under copyright restriction, so I can't share the pictures. But it's so descriptive, it won't be hard to paint your own pictures. It's a great story to start your year, leading into the Month 1 topic that includes Sweden. You will also find an audio recording in BelMonde I made quite awhile ago. The second book in this volume is a favorite—Heidi—another little girl who finds joy in simple things.

My America Story Book: America in Review. While you have been picking up pieces of stories and introductions to the men and women of our history, this final volume will pull it all together in a narrative flow. I chose a book written by Elbridge Brooks who also wrote *True Stories of Christopher Columbus*, *The True Story of Lafayette*, and *The True Story of U.S. Grant*, which are all found in the Freedom Series. The story ends a hundred years ago—when public domain runs out. You'll need to fill in the next chapters.

Our Little Cousins takes us to the ancient land of India and the Hindus, which concludes all the little Cousins and Twins books we could find to republish. Although it's not a Little Cousins books, we also included a story of Kari, the Elephant which I think your young children will enjoy.

Finally, the World Freedom Series takes you back to where we started. Charles Coffin wrote a sequel to *The Story of Liberty* called *Old Times in the Colonies*. He continues the story up to the days of the Revolution. As he wrote in his introduction, "Through the colonial period there was an advance of principles which are eternal in their nature. All through those years conditions and influences were preparing men for self-government... When the world was ready for it, and not before, the American Revolution came, with the announcement that all men are created free and equal, and endowed with inalienable rights."

May we not lose that which was bought with so dear a price.

WEH IN ACTION

--I want to share an experience with you. I went to Girls Camp last week with 17 girls ages 11-18. The girls had requested a bedtime story every night so I gladly offered to do that! I was able to share some stories from Libraries of Hope every night and the girls LOVED them. The first night I shared a story of the pearl necklace from Margaret Eggleston and the girls were visually moved and even said, "That got me right in the heart." Many of them asked for a copy. I shared a few others and the girls were always so excited to hear them. I'm even more determined to include stories in my lessons and assignments at church and in any other situation when I can share them with young people. It was so fulfilling to me to share something that has meant so much to me and have them receive it into their hearts. They are yearning for heart education!

--I have to share this heart moment with you from yesterday! I was in the middle of making dinner and my daughter came in to tell me she had a surprise to show me in her room. She was so excited to show me this, her reading

(WEH in Action cont.) nest! She was so proud of it and so excited to read in it, especially to read her Stories of Jesus book. Just some back story she has made reading nests before and just nests out of blankets. Maybe it all started with me making a nest out of sticks and pine cones with my kids a couple years ago outside to read in. My daughter is 5 and she doesn't read yet, but more importantly she loves to read with me and loves the idea of it. This heart educating is the best way I promise! Keep on doing the heart work and it will pay more abundantly than you can imagine.

--There are days that are really hard. Days that I'm exhausted being a mom. Days that I wonder if I'm doing enough. Days filled with worry...wondering how to get through the day with the challenges I've had with child number 3 of 5. Days of regret and days where the stress feels like way too much. And then, there are moments when all is ok and there are instances when it all comes together and things feel like we're doing ok. Today, my second youngest went for a bike ride and he came home so excited to show me a picture he had taken. He had been riding his bike and heard a chirping noise from a tree he was passing. He stopped, got off his

> "WHOSO STRIVES FOR The regeneration of Education Strives For the regeneration of the human race."

--Maria Montessori

Art credit: An Italian Mother Teaching Her Child the Tarantella by Thomas Uwins bike, stood on his tiptoes and found a nest of baby birds. He couldn't get a really good picture, but the fact that he paused to look, made my mama heart very happy. There are hard days, but wonderful moments in this journey called parenting.

--I love where the day takes us! Today we listened to the podcast about the pirate Blackbeard. It gave us such great perspective of where pirates fit into history and I'm grateful for that. My younger kids, who were not listening well enough to be put off by pirates the way my older kids were, wanted to dress up and play pirates. They asked what they should do, once they got past the initial thrill of pirate's talk.

I told them pirates take really good care of their ships and spend their days cleaning. They picked their chore to scrub the windows and mirrors! It's already lasted 10 minutes and they are having fun! Had to share in hopes this may help you someday, too.

My favorite moment: the Captain suggested we kneel in prayer to give thanks to Heavenly Father for the ship we have been blessed with to take care of. My heart was so warm.

I'm not a fan of pirates, but I'm

grateful for the sweet lessons that can be learned even through lessthan-ideal people and circumstances.

--I watched a video on the new "Catch the Vision" class (section One) tonight while making cookies. It seriously just revolutionized my relationship with my children. One child in particular used to run away when she got mad. When she had a break-down tonight she told me "I never listen to her." I sat and let her express her pain. I listened and apologized for not listening better in the past. I asked her to let me in more in the future and she said she would. This is really big for this child who has been very closed in the past when she is in pain. Something changed tonight in me that finally helped her feel safe enough to share her pain with me. Thank you for helping me be a better mom!! This is a God-sent in my life!

--I have fallen in love with the Freedom Series!! I tend to keep reading just one more every day now. I literally tear up while reading. I am learning so much! I was public-schooled and my teachers had no passion, that left me with little historical knowledge. This series has touched my heart deeply. If you



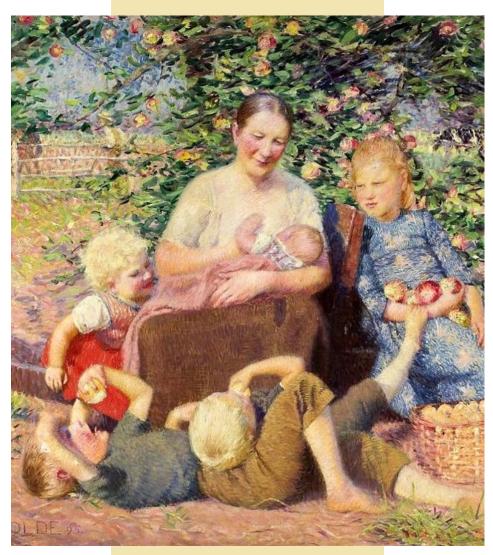
(WEH in Action cont.) ask my kids what their favorites are you will get different answers. (6- and 9-year-olds say My Book of Delights, 12-year-old says the Cousins series, 15-year-old says World's Story and 18-year-old says World History.) But they all sit intently listening during the Freedom and My America Story Book audio stories.

--My first advice is to reread the Catch the Vision a couple of times. My second piece of advice is to be flexible and allow the real learning to happen. Follow rabbit trails and interests! My kids are in love with John Muir Laws and spent over an hour watching his free online videos. Of course now they are ready to find something to draw. That wasn't in my plans but I am definitaly going to join in!! I have stopped looking so much at a "schedule" and allow our day to just flow in rhythms. I had Bach playing in the background over breakfast and it played on during chores, etc. We read World Wars and read another and another until we wanted to stop. I used to watch the clock. We listened to the story of Audubon told by Marlene which sent us on the path to John Muir Laws. Now we are going to finish Fiddler on the Roof which I never thought we would love as much as we do. Thank you, Marlene and all who contribute to Libraries of Hope! You have changed our home, hearts and life.

--I am using a PDF reading to listen to Catch the Vision -- Philosophy. This afternoon while listening this quote struck a chord in my heart.

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult life is... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." (Pope Frances page 424)

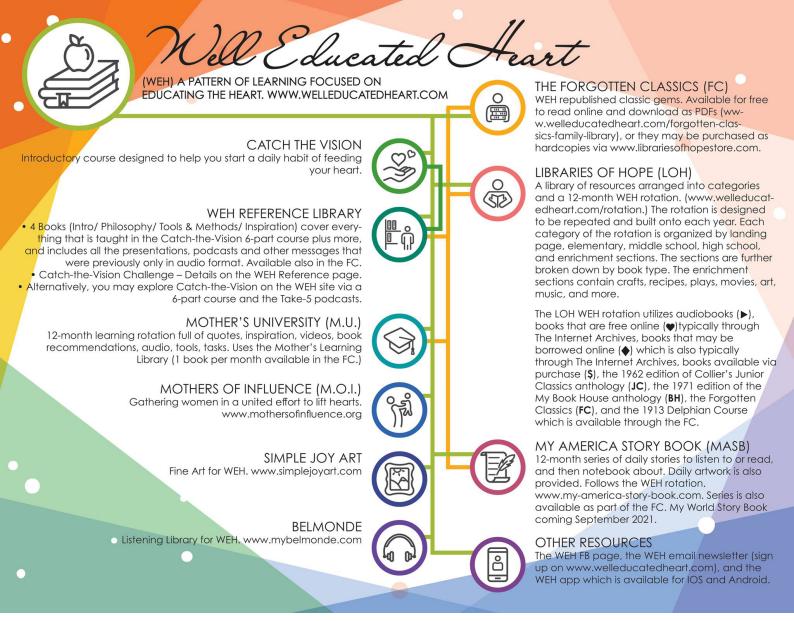
I am learning a lot from my study in Catch the Vision. The spirit is confirming things I have been pondering. New solutions are being brought to my mind. Some of these things are written for me to read and some are whispered to me. Thank you Marlene for being the finder of WEH and the one to share these ideas.



"Education extends to all life. In fact, an educational system that says, one bright summer's day in the dawn of my youth, 'There. Now you are educated. This piece of paper says so,' is doing me a gross disfavor. The truly educated person has only had many doors of interest opened. He knows that life will not be long enough to follow everything through fully."

--Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

Art credit: A Woman With Children Under an Apple Tree by Hans Olde



WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

--A member of our group (Nicole Huebler) was kind enough to put together this beautiful infographic (see above) about the Well-Educated Heart pattern of learning and the Libraries of Hope resources. She says, "Since I know it can sometimes be confusing to navigate all the many and wonderful resources offered by the Well Educated Heart, I made this infographic chart to share. I hope it helps new WEH users to dive in and discover all that is being offered." She has graciously made it available to download in the Facebook WEH Group files.

--[Another group member] had a couple requests for the My America Story Book binder cover and spines that I shared to be edited to not have any years/dates on them. I've now done that and added the links to them in this PDF (see <u>WEH Group files</u>). Enjoy and have a great time notebooking!

--<u>Trailblazer Books</u>. These are back in print and I find them very wonderful in building character! "The award-winning Trailblazer Books are action-packed historical fiction introducting great Christian heroes. Each page-turner portrays a significant period in a hero or heroine's life and ministry as seen through the eyes of a young protagonist. A page in the front explains exactly what is fiction and which events and characters are historical, and a "More About" chapter at the end provides a brief biographical overview of the hero's life. We want kids to learn about pioneer missionaries and other important Christians...and have fun doing it."

--Great articles:

6 Homeschooling Misconceptions Erased (<u>https://simplehomeschool.net/homeschooling-misconceptions/</u>) Could Home Education be More Than Just a Backup Plan? (<u>https://neufeldinstitute.org/could-home-education</u>-be-more-than-just-a-backup-plan/?fbclid=IwAR1nXUD2vnVsPDJEIICwx6lt5Y9EPafWcaJi4yW7iQmoEIcbyB mL650mB5Q)

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--For the record:

1. I do believe teaching a child to read and to do math and to write are important. There are many programs out there to help you do that. My focus is on helping you raise children who find joy in reading, writing and the language of numbers. The Arts play a huge role in doing that. WEH is about re-learning the lost art of using the Arts to cultivate our hearts.

2. I do not provide a booklist from which I believe you should choose all the books for your children. Rather, I have compiled an additional library for you to draw from that has many rare and hard to find books that happen to be wonderful and loaded with gems and ideas for living. It is A library, not *THE library*. There is no WEH-approved list.

3. The Forgotten Classics Family Library has a design to it. It is not just a random bunch of books and collections of stories we decided to reprint. It follows the 'building blocks for the soul' pattern, using classic literature, that was used in popular series like My Book House, Junior Classics, Children's Hour, etc. It starts with rhymes, familiar stories, pictures, nature stories, adds in Imaginative stories of folk and fairy tales and myths, then epic and legend-ary heroes, intro to classic lit, real life heroes and stories of history. The Story Hour Series has a sampling of all these stories. I have arranged them by the rotation so that you get to take in the whole world. I have a few more series and that particular library will be complete....I think. :) Which books should your children read? All of them have a place and a purpose. Can you do the same thing by doing your own search and building your own library? Absolutely. And remember--ALL the books are offered as free digital reads.

4. The books are not all 'good and beautiful.' I do not offer completely sanitized books or movie recommendations. I believe we learn by contrasts. There has been much evil in history. Kids need to be appalled by it so that they won't repeat it. But they also need to be inspired so I assure you they will encounter much goodness. They will see the contrast. I believe we are here to learn by our experience to choose the good over the evil. Literature is a safe place to experience it--and learn how to combat it out in the real world.

Having said that, you are the gatekeeper for your own children and what may be appropriate to share with your 12-year-old is not appropriate for your 4-year-old. I leave those choices to you.

5. WEH is actually not a homeschooling group, although there are many homeschoolers here and what you learn can certainly be applied. But it can also be applied if your kids go to public school. So you will find a lot of help aimed in that direction. However, my primary focus is on nurturing mother-hearts because I believe their power as nurturers of humanity has never been fully tapped. And I do believe they have the power to change the world for good. The women in this group do not have to have children of their own to benefit from what is being taught.

6. If you are using WEH for homeschooling, I don't provide a curriculum. I provide a philosophy of learning and a lot of resources. While I know it would make it a lot easier if I provided a WEH curriculum, it would go against everything I am trying to teach you. Having said that, there is no guilt or shame if you are using a curriculum while you begin to apply WEH principles. It may be exactly what you need to gain confidence in the process. You aren't going to 'ruin' your children.

7. This is a faith-based group. I love Jesus Christ and don't hide that, but people of all faiths are welcome here!

8. And just one last reminder--the objective here is to learn to live lives of maximum JOY. Like Orison Swett Marden said, the world is filled with un-worked joy mines and we are here to learn how to mine them. We do a lot of learning by exploration and discovery around here. At first it may feel overwhelming, but there are no deadlines -- take all the time you need. It's not a destination--it's a journey.

--Last week there was a thread about Notebooking and some of the obstacles you are facing. I planned on doing a Workshop, but as I thought about it more, I realized it was more important to help you catch the spirit of it than

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) to try and teach you specifics. Because the truth is, once you catch the "why," you will figure out the "how" and "when."

To be honest, when I read your comments, I was a little discouraged because I thought I had been teaching you something that was very straightforward and simple. What had I missed? As I usually do when I'm perplexed, I took it to prayer and this is somewhat the conversation that took place in my heart:

"Marlene, I really understand. I thought telling people to just love their neighbor and be nice to each other was such a simple concept. But they wanted to know, 'Who exactly is my neighbor?' I told them to forgive each other and they said, 'How many times?' I had a rich young man come to me with his checklist of good deeds and asked what else he needed to add. Really, it was his heart I was after. He went away sorrowing. And that dear Nicodemus, brilliant mind that he is, when I told him he would have to be born again, he asked Me if I really expected him to climb back into his mother's womb! Oh, the literal mind has such a hard time entering into the spirit of things."

So when I presented to you something that was so simple in my mind, "Take the time to capture things that are meaningful to you, things you care about," I heard, "On plain white paper or lined? In a 3 ring notebook or bound? In one volume or many? How many? How many minutes should we do it a day? How many times a day? How many days a week? Show me what it looks like. I don't have time. My boys don't like to write. I don't like busy work. I have no idea what needs to go on the page."

Answering those questions won't make notebooking the blessing in your life it is meant to be.

I started creating a podcast, but I have a lot of things I'm trying to put together for you right now, so it may take a little longer to get to this one. But someone in the group shared a fantastic podcast on notebooking that I think captures the spirit of what we're doing far better than I can and it is well worth your listen. I'll link 20 minutes. It may be a game changer for you. (<u>Podcast link</u>)

Also, if you go to Volume 2 of the Catch the Vision reference bundle, read pp. 141-173. I include several examples from my notebooking--which doesn't mean you have to do it just like me, but may offer a springboard of ideas for you to try. I use lots of pictures and images because a picture is worth a thousand words. They 'illuminate' my pages. But you don't have to use them.

Let go of the idea of 'doing it right' and let yourself begin. Accept the fact that you will probably refine and change your methods as you move along.

I do have some other thoughts that I've been mulling over and will share those, but these two resources, I hope,

"THE CHILD WHO HAS NEVER LEARNED TO ACT ALONE, TO DIRECT HIS OWN ACTIONS, TO GOVERN HIS OWN WILL, GROWS INTO AN ADULT WHO IS EASILY LED AND MUST ALWAYS LEAN UPON OTHERS."

--Maria Montessori

Art credit: Happy Family by Andre-Henri Dargelas





Art credit: Barred Out by Ralph Hedley

(*Marlene's Musings cont.*) will begin to move you in the right 'spirit' of this. This is not journaling, although journaling is wonderful. This is gem collecting. If you have yet to find something worth holding on to, then notebooking isn't something to add to your 'to do' list right now.

Once you do catch the vision, I have a feeling a lot of burdens are going to be lifted from you.

--I was reading about Helen Keller again yesterday and had to hold on to this gem. Anne Sullivan, Helen's teacher, was visiting a school for the deaf:

"In one room some little tots were standing before the blackboard, painfully constructing 'simple sentences.' Teacher asked the woman in charge of the class why she wrote sentences on the board instead of talking about things that interested the children. 'The teacher said something about getting the correct instruction' — and Anne Sullivan was full of pity for the children. 'Nothing,' she wrote afterwards, 'crushes the child's impulse to talk naturally more effectually than these blackboard exercises. Language should not be associated with endless hours in school, with puzzling questions in grammar, or with anything that is an enemy to joy."

I think it was Andrew Lang who said almost those exact same words---"should not be associated with endless hours in school" and "anything that is an enemy to joy" -- in the intro to his book of fairy tales.

This will be in the MASB 11 story on Helen Keller. Anne definitely approached learning the WEH way.

--I just finished going through the final book of My America Story Book that offers a look at America's story in review. It will tie together a lot of the pieces you've picked up through the year. As I read, I thought, How on earth did anything good come from all this mess? The bickerings and the opposition and the wranglings and the cruelty and the intolerance and the ignorance and the selfishness.

The miracle is, something wonderful did come out of it.

So if you feel like your homeschool experience is less than ideal--it feels messy--take heart that apparently God's specialty is turning our messes into something pretty amazing.

Don't give up!

MOI MINUTE

This is a picture of my friend Holly's beautiful garden last summer. I've kept is as my screensaver since then to inspire me. This kind of garden is something I only dream about - my hopes are always high, but my reality leaves a lot to be desired.

I know I could try to copy Holly exactly. I could ask her to write out her planting and fertilizing schedules. I could build the same garden boxes and use the same irrigation system. I could get the same seeds from the same company and try to make my garden look just like hers - and truthfully, that's what I want to do.

But when it comes right down to it:

Holly and I are working with very individual factors.

The soil is different, the PH is different, the climate is different.

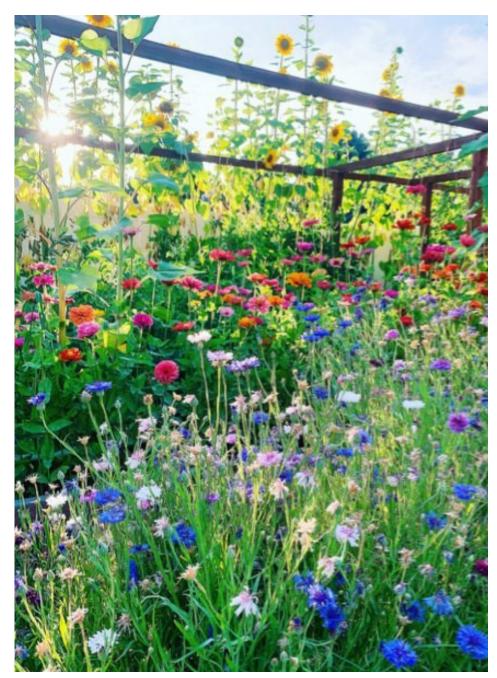
The planters and growers and weeders are all different.

Even my willingness to get outside and work as hard is different.

In the end I'm going to have to glean what I can from Holly, but then buckle down and do my own experimenting and work to figure out how things grow best at my house.

One of the things I love about the WEH and what Marlene has shown me is that there is a different way. MOIers are constantly trying to deepen our roots, increase inspired growth, and cultivate an encircling reach. We can open the way to Inspired growth by remembering that there is a Master Gardener who knows every single nuance of our personal garden. It can be scary to step back from our own plans and ask him for help, but simply trusting him enough to take His advice is like Miracle Grow for our hearts.

Love, Marley



"A BOOK IS LIKE A GARDEN, CARRIED IN THE POCKET." --CHINESE PROVERB