

April 2013

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

“B” All You Can Be!

Is growing in faith an inside-out process or an outside-in one? Or both? Think about the flower gardens being planted this spring. How do they grow to be their very best? It's the outside environment—the sun, soil, and water—that has the greatest influence on flowers becoming their brightest and most beautiful. Can your outside environment affect the growth of your faith too?

Yes! In fact, how we live on the outside has a great deal of influence on our inside growth. And one thing is sure, God did not intend for us to grow alone. He desires for us to live in close fellowship with other Christians, like flowers in a garden, because it's there where we befriend others who believe in Jesus, find a place to belong, share what we believe, and *together* become all God designed us to be—at our brightest and most beautiful.

The outside life we live is where we are part of the garden—and part of God's planting for the display of his glory. So how do we grow more from the outside in? There are four basic principles, the “4 B's,” of outside-in living, that will help you to be all you can be:

Befriend. There are different types of flowers planted all around you. Be intentional about being part of God's garden—make friends, be a friend, share faith and fun with friends.

Belong. Well-designed flower gardens have borders and are planted with flowers that have similar needs for sun, soil, and water. Find, join, or create groups where you feel a sense of belonging and share common interests. Don't try to bloom on your own; stay in close connection with your friends in faith.

Believe. Food, water, and light are necessary for flowers to grow. Study, worship, share, and pray regularly together with other Christians.

Become. Show off your brightness and beauty! Be *your* part of God's garden as you put love on display and become all God created you to be!

HILL COUNTRY CHURCH

IGNITING A PASSION IN PEOPLE FOR GENUINE LIFE IN CHRIST



THE WORD

“In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.”

— Isaiah 61:3

Think About It

Who are the people—the “flowers”—in your life that God has planted in the garden around you?

New Every Morning

“Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” Lamentations 3:23

Just like the mercies of God, morning glories bloom anew each day, making it a favorite faith-inspiring flower that is easily grown in gardens or containers. Follow these simple steps this spring, and you will be rewarded with vibrant blooms every morning through the first frost of fall.

1. Lightly file the morning glory seeds, and soak them in water for 24 hours before planting.
2. Sow seeds indoors in pots six weeks before the last frost in cold climates or outdoors in the garden when the temperature is above 60 degrees.
3. Cover seeds with ¼ inch of soil; as seedlings grow, thin to 6 inches apart.
4. Grow morning glories in full sun, and provide a trellis, fence, or other support for climbing vines.
5. Water when dry, and do not over fertilize.
6. Enjoy! Butterflies and hummingbirds will love the big blooms and fragrance of your morning glories, too!



Original illustration by Becky Schultea, beckyschultea.com

The Original Morning Glory Muffin

These cinnamon-scented muffins, filled with delicious fruit, nuts, carrots, and coconut, are an irresistible morning treat! Created by chef Pam McKinstry in 1978 for her Morning Glory Café on the island of Nantucket, this recipe has been chosen by *Gourmet* magazine as one of its top 25 from the past 50 years. Yum!

Morning Glory Muffins (makes 16 muffins)

1¼ cups sugar	1 large apple (peeled and grated)
2¼ cups flour	1 cup crushed pineapple (drained)
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon	2 cups grated carrots
2 teaspoons baking soda	½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
½ teaspoon salt	3 large eggs
½ cup shredded, sweetened coconut	1 cup vegetable oil
¾ cup raisins	1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix sugar, flour, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Stir in coconut, raisins, apple, pineapple, carrots, and nuts. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs with oil and vanilla. Add to the dry ingredients, and mix well. Fill greased muffin tins, and bake for 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out dry. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing muffins and placing on rack to complete cooling.

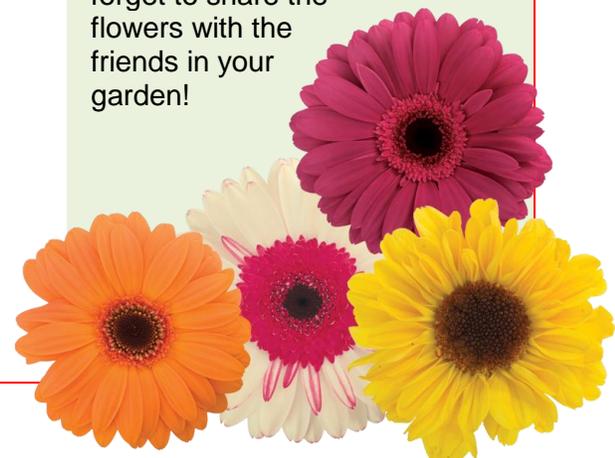
These muffins taste even better the day after baking—but you may have trouble waiting that long!

4 Friends and 4 Flowers

Try this fun way to apply the 4 B's of growing in faith with your friends this month:

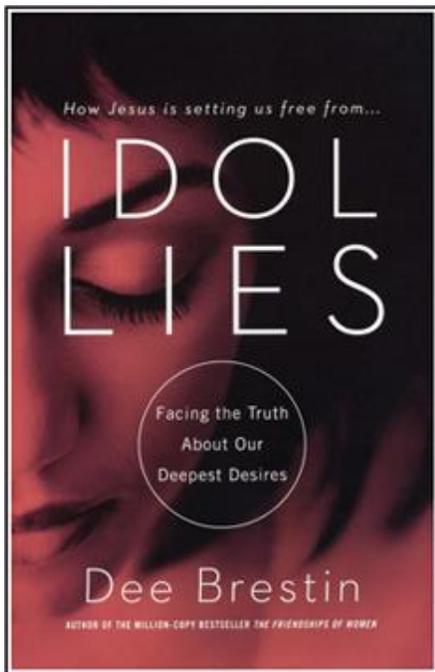
Pick a different flower to represent each of the 4 B's: **B**efriend, **B**elong, **B**elieve, **B**ecome, and make a bouquet with one or more of each kind.

Use the bouquet to remind you to plan 4 faith-growing activities with 4 friends this month that fit each “B” category. And don't forget to share the flowers with the friends in your garden!



Media Morsels

Book Review



Idol Lies: Facing the Truth about Our Deepest Desires

Author: Dee Brestin

Publisher: Worthy Publishing

When you open this book, be ready to find yourself staring back from its pages. Dee Brestin has written a book that all women can relate to—whether we want to believe it or not. She identifies various forms of idolatry in our hearts and some of the objects to which they attach themselves.

Brestin calls us to stop lying to ourselves, admit to our idolatry, and “open our hearts to God and let him replace our idols with himself.” Her tone and purpose are not cruel or condemning, but reflect her desire to help us find freedom.

The book includes a Bible study and discussion guide in the back, so it makes an ideal resource for small groups.





April

A Taste of What's
Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Family Game Night 6:30 PM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Women's Retreat 2013	Women's Retreat 2013
28	29	30				
Women's Retreat 2013						

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