NEWSLETTER FROM SHIRLEY

"I'm here to be a messenger of hope, God's love,

The sky has turned its heart away,
The earth its sorrow found;
The daisies turn from childhood's play,
And creep into the ground.

cold and hard;
Thin films of dry white
ice,
Across the rugged
wheel-tracks barred,
The children's feet
entice.

The earth is black and

Dark flows the stream, as if it mourned
The winter in the land;
With idle icicles
adorned,
That mill-wheel soon
will stand.

But, friends, to say 'tis cold, and part,
Is to let in the cold;
We'll make a summer of the heart,
And laugh at winter old.
George MacDonald
(1824-1905)



Late winter storm. February. 2023



Easter is coming one month after my newsletter arrives in your mailbox. I highly recommend a forty day tour after the resurrection with Dr. Del Tackett. We like reading it now through Easter and then again after Resurrection Sunday. Dr. Tackett shows how important the resurrection of Jesus Christ is to live from a Biblical worldview.

Here's the link to get started: https://www.deltackett.com/resources/19242/if-jesus-rose-from-the-dead-then-1-the-seal-was-broken





I've been hard at work on a new book of meditations. I include short stories coupled with Scripture to encourage any reader. The next page contains one of the meditations.

The book should be out late this year just in time for Christmas. Below is one of the meditations included in the book.



Who Was He?

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone (Psalm 91:11-12 NLT).

"I don't know if I can make it!" I moaned. I'd fallen multiple times and I was getting tired. It was a bright sunny day in February, in the White River Canyon on Mt. Hood. Cross country skiing was a new hobby for us. We loved the winter wonderland. No ski lifts and lines of people. Just the reached a flatter portion of the canyon and the trail was easier to navigate. Just the beauty of the wilderness.

The snow-covered trail had a crust of ice, but it didn't matter because we were skiing uphill—easier to navigate for a cross country skier. When we reached the end of the canyon and turned around, we had to descend. I kept falling down as we skied along the sloping ice-crusted snow. Each time I struggled to get up, my recently injured knee began to throb. *Am I going to make it*?

There was no other way but to keep moving down the trail. Soon, a single skier came alongside of us. We hadn't noticed him before, but we chatted about skiing and how much we enjoyed the outdoors. He casually gave us some technics that helped us navigate the slope, and I became more confident and didn't fall as much. Finally, we reached a flatter portion of the canyon and the trail was easier to navigate.

Just like that, the man was gone. He didn't say good-bye. He wasn't in front or behind us. There was no where to go but back to the highway.

Where was he?

On our way home, we discussed the solo skier. "That was weird. That guy just appeared out of nowhere," my husband, Bill, said. "I didn't see him on the trail up the canyon, did you?" I shook my head. "All of a sudden, he wasn't with us. He just disappeared. Do you think he was an angel?"

God's word says he will order his angels to protect you.

Even better, God gave his only Son to offer us eternal life. For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:16-17 NLT).

Was he an angel? We think he was!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING? I AM!

HERE ARE SOME GARDEN TIPS TO GET READY FOR SPRING.

Garden tips-February

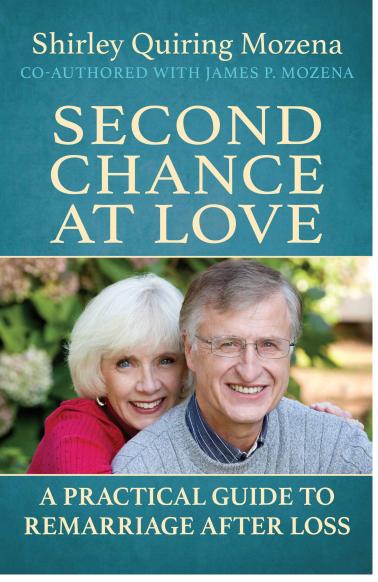
Brad Fowler

- Many plants can benefit from being pruned in late winter, but it is very important to check specific pruning requirements for each plant. Additionally, use correct pruning practices so that plants are not damaged during the pruning process.
- Cooler temperatures may reduce the amount of outdoor work that can be done, so use this time wisely by organizing the garden shed, cleaning equipment, and sharpening blades.
- Late February can be a good time to get a head start on planning the spring vegetable garden. Purchasing essential materials early and starting seeds indoors helps ensure that planting the garden can begin on time.
- Some warm-season weeds can be managed by using a pre-emergent herbicide in mid-February. It is essential to read and follow all label instructions when applying chemicals.
- Managing cool-season weeds in turfgrass may require the use of a post-emergent herbicide. Spot treating individual weeds is a great way to save time and money and reduce the amount of chemical needed.
- Be wary of warmer temperatures in late winter that may cause turfgrass to green up too early. Trying to encourage growth through **fertilization** or irrigation this time of year may cause damage to the turf and encourage weeds to grow.

In my last newsletter, I promised a link to the podcast interview, "Getting Remarried?" With Ron Deal on Family Life Today/Blended. Below is the link. Please enjoy and share with anyone you think might benefit. Thank you!

Getting Remarried?

https://www.familylife.com/podcast/familylife-blended-podcast/127-



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https://bit.ly/48wJHB1