

# *Carolyn Roth Ministry*

*Volume 4, Issue 3*

## *Newsletter*



### **God's Plan for Gardeners**

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 1:11-12, 29-30; Genesis 2:5

On Day 3 of creation, God caused the dry land to appear on earth and spoke plants into existence. God said, "Let the land produce ... seed bearing plants and trees" (Ge 1:11 NIV). Plants include trees, shrubs, herbs, bushes, grasses, vines, ferns, mosses and flowers. God gave plants to mankind for food and beauty.

Initially, there were no plants on the dry land because there was no man to work the ground. God's earliest plan was for man and plants to interact, i.e., man to tend plants and plants to give food to man.

God intended mankind to have a different relationship with animals than with plants. God gave Adam dominion, supreme authority, or absolute ownership over animals. In contrast God told Adam to tend, guard, and keep plants. Tending occurs when we apply ourselves to the care of, i.e., caretaker. Guarding is defending. The old archaic meaning of keep is to protect.

God entrusted plants to mankind. What an awesome responsibility then and now!

**Meditation:** How do you feel when you view your garden, a garden that God gave to you? Have you pondered your responsibility for the garden or your plants? How can you tend, guard, and keep the plants in your world?

### **Death in the Family**

Aunt Shirley passed away the middle of February. I was happy for her because now she is in heaven with her husband, parents, and siblings.

There is a poem with lines that go something like:

*"Death be ye not proud,*

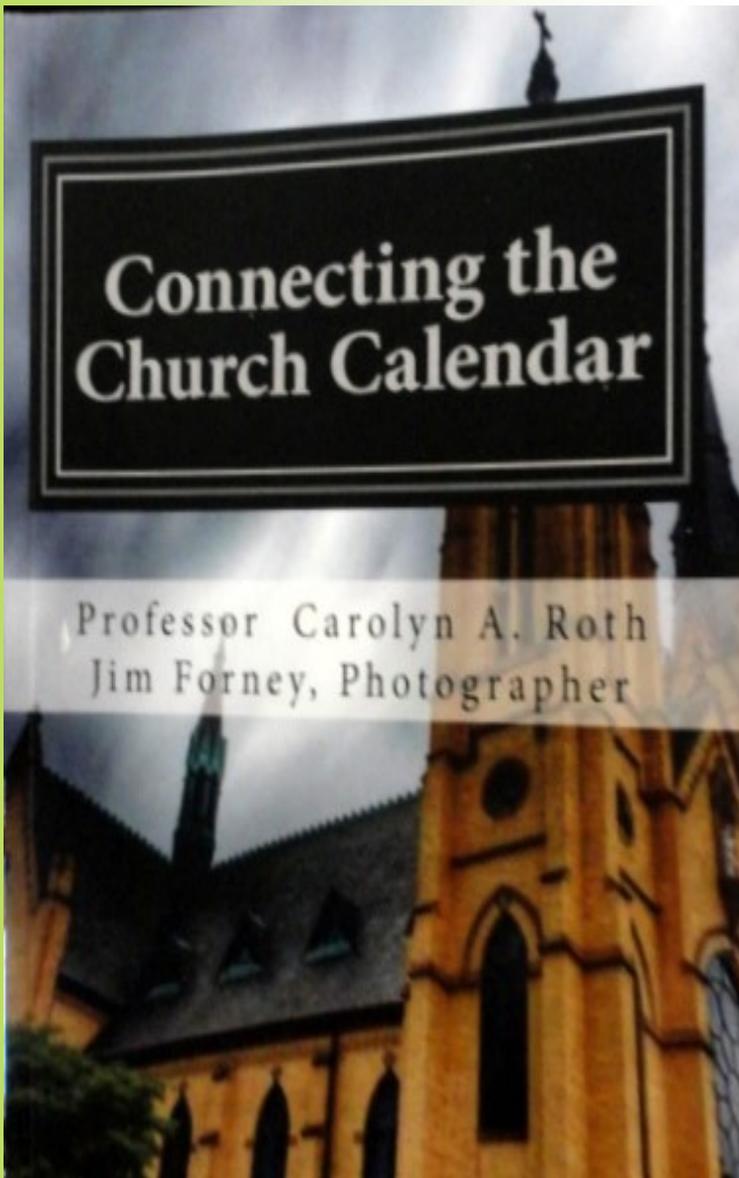
*Although some have called you mighty  
that is not so."*

For Christians, death is a step, a transition, into eternal life with Christ..

If Bruce dies before me, I will be very sad because I will miss him. At the same time, I am looking forward to my own death.

### **My Next Undertaking**

Writing, writing, writing. Seems like that is how I express my creativity. My current venture is writing a book of meditations from plants in the Torah AKA Pentateuch. Bruce contends that most people will not know what those two words mean so I have to think about a catchy title. If you have any ideas, email me.



## A Murderous Heroine

The Kenites were a non-Israelite loosely knit people. Some of their members aligned themselves with Israel while others actively opposed them.

About 200 years after the Israelites entered the Promised Land, the Kenite Heber left the Arad area where he lived. Heber moved to the hill country of Naphtali. The Kenites were metal workers. Heber worked for King Jabin of Hazor and helped build the 900 chariots in Jabin's army. With the assistance of these chariots, Sisera, Jabin war commander, oppressed the Israelites for 20 years.

God raised the judge Deborah from among the Israelites to throw off King Jabin's cruelty. When the Israelite army routed Sisera's army, he fled to Heber's camp. Heber wasn't home; however, his wife Jael went out to meet Sisera. She invited Commander Sisera to rest in her tent where Sisera drank milk and fell into an exhausted sleep. Jael killed Sisera by driving a tent peg through his temple.

Conclusion: Just as the tribe of Kenite had disparate members – those who supported and those who opposed God's people—so extended families today are composed of individuals who follow and those who are indifferent to God. The story of the Kenite Heber and his wife Jael demonstrate that even in immediate families, one member may worship God and another actively oppose him.

Reflection: Being from a Christian family or clan does not ensure a right relationship with God. Each individual must make a personal decision to follow God.

### Recommendation for Connecting the Church Calendar:

“The church seasons with their beauty, depth of meaning, discipline, and hope are God's gift to all of us. And, at just the right time, the *kairos* moment, God gives us Carolyn Roth and her 101 meditations to renew and revitalize our understanding and practice of these seasons. In Connecting the Church Calendar, Dr. Roth and collaborators provide an exceptional and timely gift, a unique vehicle for rediscovering the power and beauty of liturgical worship using the church calendar.” — Dr. Charles Ross

**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

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