

October 2013

THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Tuning in to Nature: God's Broadcasting Station

"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

The author of this quote, George Washington Carver, is probably best known for devising hundreds of innovative uses for the peanut. (Yes, hundreds!) Born into slavery in the 1800's, he went on to become a celebrated scientist and teacher...and man of faith. He believed that every created thing spoke of the proof of God's existence, if only people would listen.

Long before broadcasts from radio, TV, Facebook, Twitter, and text messaging monopolized our time and attention, Carver knew people needed to stay tuned in to nature. Nature—where God speaks and teaches through the beauty, wonder, and mystery of his creation on the *real* Nature and Discovery channel. Nature—where tweets come from birds and no devices, apps, or Wi-Fi connections are necessary to hear from God.

When we tune in to this unlimited broadcasting station, we find it's well worth the time and effort. If we listen closely as we walk through a field or forest, up a mountain or along a shore (cell phone off, of course), can we hear the mountains singing and the trees clapping their hands as they testify to the power, glory, and love of our God? See the colorful flowers that remind us of God's love and the promise that sown tears are the seeds of future joy? Behold in awe the mighty oak trees that demonstrate to us the importance and value of establishing deep roots of faith to endure the storms of life?

Nature—God's unlimited broadcasting system. Why not change your remote control settings this autumn, take a walk with God, and experience the beauty of this home he gave you—complete with *his* discovery channel!



 **HILLCREST**
MINISTERING GOD'S LOVE TO A HURTING WORLD



THE WORD

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known."

— Psalm 19:1-2

Prayer for Today

"I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."

— E. E. Cummings

Harvest Time Pumpkin Soup

It's harvest time, and pumpkins are plentiful. Use them for festive autumn décor during the day, and warm up on cool nights with this yummy autumn soup!

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ginger
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Sauté the onion in the butter until soft. Add 1 can of chicken broth, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 15 minutes. Use a hand blender or food processor to blend until smooth. Add the second can of broth and remaining ingredients, except cream. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in whipping cream and serve. Top each bowl of soup with cinnamon croutons or roasted sunflower seeds. Serves 6.



The Nature of Faith

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.”

— George Washington Carver

“Just living is not enough...one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.”

— Hans Christian Andersen

“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly.”

— Richard Bach

“Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers.”

— Robert Green Ingersoll

Tweets Worth Listening To?

Tweets are being broadcast all around us, but it's not the birds we're listening to anymore. According to recent statistics, there are about 177 million tweets broadcast through Twitter each day. Seventy-one percent of those get no reaction—none at all—from Twitter users. *That's more than 125 million tweets a day* deemed by listeners as not worth listening to!

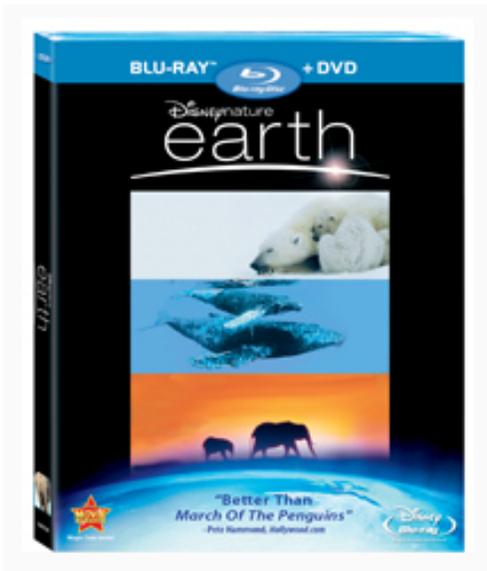
Thankfully, there are a few tweeters broadcasting that we should consider listening to. A recent study by the Barna Group revealed that over the last two years, pastors and churches have taken a big leap from the traditional communication nest and are increasingly using social media outlets to broadcast their messages of faith. In fact, from 2011 to 2013, the use of Twitter by pastors has increased 77 percent!

What tweets will you listen to today? The birds or a short string of words? ☺



Media Morsels

Movie Review



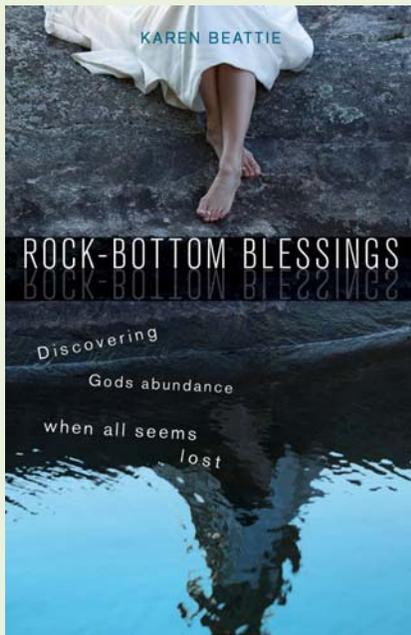
Earth

Genre: Documentary

Rating: G

This DisneyNature production uses footage from the marvelous “Planet Earth” TV series. The “Planet Earth” project mobilized dozens of camera operators in more than 200 locations around the globe to capture a glimpse of life beyond the human world. Get an impressive view of places you’ll probably never go, and follow wild animal families on their quest for survival: polar bears, elephants, and humpback whales.

With both awe-inspiring and heart-warming footage, it inspires wonder at our marvelous Creator and alarm over the ways human choices can harm our fragile neighbors. Often delightful and sometimes disturbing, this is a view of nature you’ll never get in the suburbs. Let it inspire you to worship and to better care for the world God has made.



Book Review

Rock-Bottom Blessings

Author: Karen Beattie

Publisher: Loyola Press

“I was unemployed. We were thousands of dollars in debt, and my job prospects were bleak, with the economy tanking. And besides all that, our adoption was starting to look like a pipe dream.” In fear and disappointment, Karen Beattie began questioning the goodness of God and his blessings. If God was so good, why did he seem to withhold those blessings when his people were desperate for them?

In an inviting and relatable read, Beattie describes her journey through unemployment, infertility, and a difficult quest to adopt. She details a spiritual journey that took her to a new understanding of what it means to be blessed by God.

As you read, consider how your own suffering and disappointment when life doesn’t go as planned can lead you to a deeper relationship with God.

October

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Breaking Free Rm 104 @ 7pm	Coffee House @ 930 am Lifetree Cafe Coffee House @ 7 pm	Rm 200 @ 1 pm David / Philippians		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Discovery Playgroup @ 10 am in Gym	Breaking Free Rm 104 @ 7pm	Coffee House @ 930 am Lifetree Cafe Coffee House @ 7 pm	Rm 200 @ 1 pm David / Philippians		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Thanksgiving Day PLAYGROUP CANCELLED	Breaking Free Rm 104 @ 7pm	Coffee House @ 930 am Lifetree Cafe Coffee House @ 7 pm	Rm 200 @ 1 pm David / Philippians		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Discovery Playgroup @ 10 am in Gym	Breaking Free Rm 104 @ 7pm	Coffee House @ 930 am Lifetree Cafe Coffee House @ 7 pm	Rm 200 @ 1 pm David / Philippians		
27	28	29	30	31		
	Discovery Playgroup @ 10 am in Gym	Breaking Free Rm 104 @ 7pm	Coffee House @ 930 am Lifetree Cafe Coffee House @ 7 pm	Rm 200 @ 1 pm David / Philippians		

Contact for more information

Name: Robin Schatz

NOTE: Women of Worth Events

Phone: 403-526-4010 ext 256

Lifetree Cafe (open to all)

Email: robins@hillcrestchurch.net

Discovery Playgroup