

Reach UP

The Magazine to Empower and Enrich Today's Woman

Spring 2014

Lifestyle
Time to Treasure

Family
Encouragement by Example

I love putting together each issue of *Reach UP* magazine. It is my joy. Yes, sometimes I sit in front of the computer and wonder aloud, "How am I going to do this? What articles? Edit? I 'can't want to!!" But then like a puzzle it comes together. I receive one submission for an article, and then another. And before it's all finished, I see a theme that God put together.

To me the theme for this issue is, God CARES about every little thing! He cares, no matter who you are or where you are – a woman in prison or a single mom struggling to keep it together. He cares that you have a few extra dollars to make some improvements around your home. He cares if you're a soldier at war with a desire to do more than fight. God even cares about what goes into this small magazine. He cares about what we care about.

Right now, I'm planning my wedding in between family, holidays, and other responsibilities. Every day I pray about the details and ask for guidance. I don't want to be Bridezilla, if you know what I mean! When I feel overwhelmed (and that's almost every day), I remember how gracious and merciful He's been to me. Sometimes I cry tears of gratitude because I know He's right here beside me -- teaching, putting people in my path I need to talk to, supplying needs, and helping me prepare for a long-awaited celebration.

God is all for lifting us up, not slamming us down. He isn't removed or disinterested. Every detail of our lives is important to Him. The Bible says He knows the numbers of hairs on our head. It's hard for me to even think why He would care when three strands went down the drain and fifteen are in the bristles of a brush. But He does.

The Bible also says He knew our names before time began. That's even more personal. He knew your life story before you took your first breath, and He has been reaching out to you ever since. Reach out to Him. Let Him in on every little thing you are doing.

Together we will be able to look back and know that we accomplished something and that Jesus was right there with us in all the little details.

With love and anticipation,

Crystal Wacker

P.S. I know that "can't want to" isn't proper grammar. But my little sister coined it as a child and we've used it in our family ever since. To me, it honestly describes some feelings. "I can't want to!" But you know what? I have told God about those honest feelings and asked Him to help me "want to." And He does! See, there's another example of how God cares about every little thing.

Table of Contents

Lifestyle

Time to Treasure	Page 2
Book Review	Page 7

Family

Encouragement by Example	Page 3
--------------------------------	--------

Homestyle

Hanging Curtains	Page 5
------------------------	--------

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TIME TO TREASURE

by Dr. Ruth Liverpool

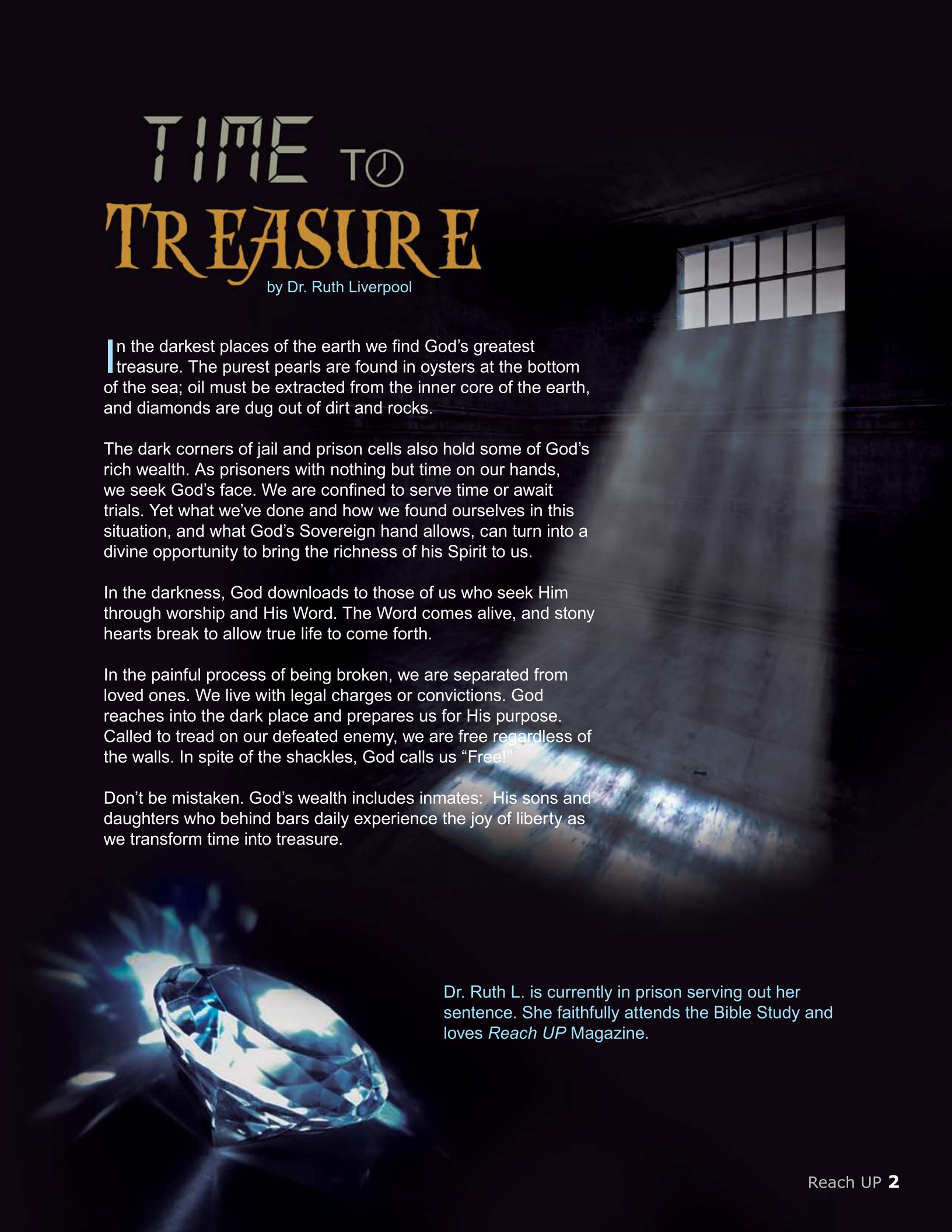
In the darkest places of the earth we find God's greatest treasure. The purest pearls are found in oysters at the bottom of the sea; oil must be extracted from the inner core of the earth, and diamonds are dug out of dirt and rocks.

The dark corners of jail and prison cells also hold some of God's rich wealth. As prisoners with nothing but time on our hands, we seek God's face. We are confined to serve time or await trials. Yet what we've done and how we found ourselves in this situation, and what God's Sovereign hand allows, can turn into a divine opportunity to bring the richness of his Spirit to us.

In the darkness, God downloads to those of us who seek Him through worship and His Word. The Word comes alive, and stony hearts break to allow true life to come forth.

In the painful process of being broken, we are separated from loved ones. We live with legal charges or convictions. God reaches into the dark place and prepares us for His purpose. Called to tread on our defeated enemy, we are free regardless of the walls. In spite of the shackles, God calls us "Free!"

Don't be mistaken. God's wealth includes inmates: His sons and daughters who behind bars daily experience the joy of liberty as we transform time into treasure.



Dr. Ruth L. is currently in prison serving out her sentence. She faithfully attends the Bible Study and loves *Reach UP* Magazine.

When I drove across the United States last year, my first stop was to visit a couple, Bill and Sharon Gent. I first met them when they were new Christians, but I hadn't seen them in years. They could fill a book with stories about how they've grown in their walk with Christ. We talked long into the night about Reach UP magazine. They love and support it.

Before sending me off the next morning they prayed over me, the magazine's future, and the women who read it. I will long cherish that memory of us sitting around the kitchen table

with Bill's hand on the magazine as he prayed. Bill does many things, but one of them is ministering regularly in prisons. He likes to tell the inmates, "I've been where you are, and you can't tell me anything I don't know." Bill sent me this article as an encouragement to you because no matter the era, women have struggled. But the better news is, women have overcome!

Crystal Wacker

by Bill Gent

Nothing new under the sun
Solomon* wrote.

Seventy-seven years ago first
love, first date . . . alcohol.
She said no, he said yes.
She resisted, he insisted
She got pregnant
His family said, "Give it up for adoption."
Her family said, "Abort it!"
She said, "I will keep it!"

So I started as an It!

The young girl chooses to have the baby.
Baby and mother rejected by the father. She is
cast out of the house homeless and friendless.
I can tell you this, no man ever had the courage
and determination it took to raise this child.

That was my mother. I have never understood one
thing. In all those years she never stopped being in
love with him.

There were no daycare centers and there were
no food stamps. Just one mother and her love for
her child. I tell you the truth, there is no power in
heaven or hell that can overcome a mother like
that. She passed away at age 94. I learned a lot
about courage and trusting in God from her. I
learned how to appreciate and respect women. I
will always be grateful for her decision to keep me.
It was not without pain and suffering, but in it all
God kept her and me.

*Solomon, the wisest man of all time wrote the book of
Ecclesiastes in the Bible. It's in the Old Testament.
You may recognize the most famous quote as
"For everything there is a season, A time to"

I wrote this poem
after reading, "*In my
Father's house are
many mansions, if it
were not so, I would
have told you. I go to
prepare a place for
you.*" John 14:2, 3

I couldn't help but
think about Mom
when she walked
into heaven.

It!

It is a gift from God

It is your baby

It will have a name

It will become what you make of it

It will give you both joy and heartache

It is the greatest challenge you will ever face

It with a mother's love

Becomes a Son or a Daughter

Because of you, It is loved

Because of its mother


It lives!

**Stand firm and trust God.
Take it one day at a time
and never lose hope.**

**Put your faith and trust in
Jesus and one day you will
overcome ... just like I did.**

*In honor of my mother, I
can hear her give these
words of encouragement
to those of you who are
raising your child with
seeming overwhelming
odds against you....*

Thanks Mom for keeping me. I appreciate
all you did for me to helped me become a
man that loves and serves Jesus Christ.



Hanging Curtains in 5 Simple Steps

I recently helped my daughter Alyssa move into her first place – a shared apartment, with her bedroom in the front. Three long windows facing the street meant that we needed to get curtains up right away. The French doors leading to the shared living room also needed covering right away.

Well, the curtains made it up quickly, but not without some undue stress. You can benefit from our mistakes! Here's what we learned.

What You'll Need –

- Someone to help you hang the curtains straight and steady you so you're safe while climbing
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Curtains
- Curtain rods (The holders and screws will come with the rods.)
- Ladder (optional -- we stood on a desk)
- Phillips head screwdriver or power drill
- Hammer and short nails (optional)
- Iron or steamer (optional)

#1 Decide the Purpose of the Curtains.

Before you go shopping, think about what you need. Are the curtains needed for privacy or are they simply for decoration? Do they need to open and close, or will they stay put?

In Alyssa's case she needed privacy, but she also wanted light to come in the front windows. For the French doors connecting to the living room she wanted total privacy. And, of course, everything had to be fashionable – and within a budget.



#2 Measure the windows.

Curtains come in panels in standard lengths of 45", 54", 63", 84" and more. Two panels, which cover one window, usually come in one package. To avoid extra trips, you'll want to measure your windows before you go shopping.



#3 Buy the Curtains and Rods.

If possible allow yourself time to shop around to get the price, color, fabric and design that's best for you. These vary greatly from store to store.

For Alyssa's front windows, which were 72" long and 28" wide, we chose decorative rods and 84" panels. The extra length allowed us to hang the curtains above the top of the window, and they hung well past the bottom too. We also bought spring tension rods and shears to fit inside the window to let in light but still provide privacy when the panels were open.

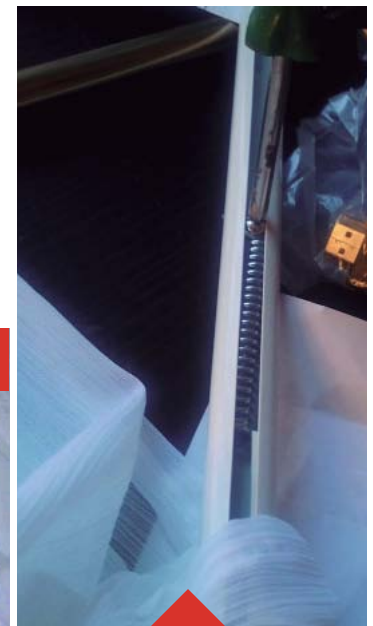
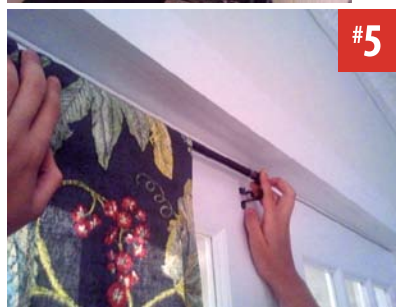
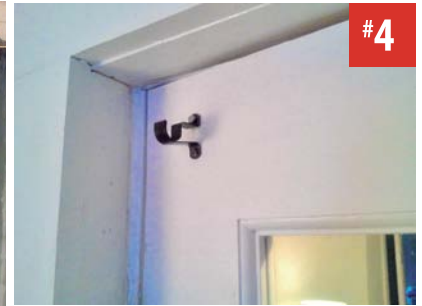
For the French doors, which measured 68" x 24", we also chose 84" panels and let them pile on the floor for a dramatic look. Of course we needed to buy two short rods, one for each door, so the doors could still open! (Glad we thought of that one ahead of time!)

OOPS? By mistake we bought two sets of 84" panels and one set of 63" panels. The 63" panels fit perfectly above the air conditioner! Who says God is not involved in every area of our lives?

Hang the Rod Holders. #4

Here's where we had to get creative. The trim of the window was right next to the wall, so the rod holder had to attach to the trim. But when I tried to screw the holder in place, the trim started to split. Not a good way to start a lease! So we used short nails instead and nailed the holder into place.

Getting the rod holders level with each other can be challenging, especially in older buildings where the walls and ceilings are crooked. Have one person hold up the rod with curtains while another stands back and checks when it's level. Mark the spot with a pencil and attach the holder.



Adjust the spring tension rod to the width of your window, then tighten it with a screwdriver. The rod will pop into place and stay.

#5 Hang the curtains.

This is the fun part! Place the curtains on the rods and the rods on the holders. You may want to iron the curtains first or steam them once their hung.

#6 Order some Chinese food and sit back, relax, and enjoy your handiwork!

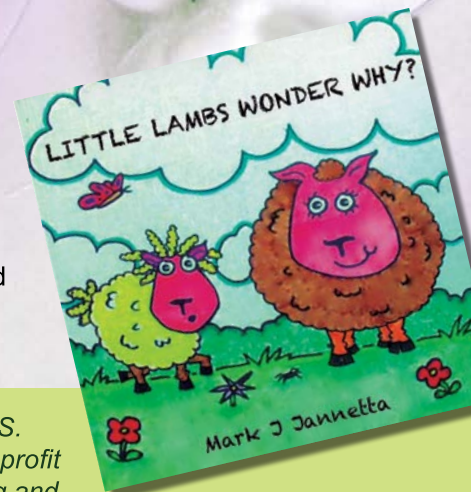


Elliza & Milkio

by Mark J. Janetta is an exciting new book for teens and older. Don't approach this book thinking you're getting the usual Disney story of princesses and princes. This story is about young adults learning to be leaders in the face of prejudice and deep-seated national rivalry.

The setting is in the mystical Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Janetta's experience with gangs and kids comes through without being preachy. The fight scenes are just as believable and riveting as are the character's inner emotions. Readers aren't forced to choose sides, but they are shown how understanding and forgiveness can bring about real change for a person and ultimately a nation.

Mark J. Janetta, a devoted husband and father, wrote another book, **Little Lambs Wonder Why?** for his two young daughters. He wanted to explain why he and other mommies and daddies deploy to foreign soil to fight for our country. This sweet story helps little ones know that they will never be alone because their Heavenly Father, the Good Shepherd, always watches out for them.



Originally from England, Mark and his wife became U. S. citizens in 2011. Previous to enlisting, Mark built a non-profit skate ministry park combining his love of skateboarding and inner-city ministry. Janetta is currently part of the prestigious 1st Infantry Division and 1-26 battalion serving in Afghanistan.

Both books are available at Amazon.com

ReachUP

Given to you by: