

# Love and Compassion Ministries

*In the Name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit*

April 1, 2013 In The Year of Our Lord

NEWSLETTER

## *Spiritual Spring Fever*

### April Showers Bring May Flowers

#### April Showers Bring May Flowers – Origins of the Rhyme

“April showers bring May flowers.” We’ve all heard this rhyme at some point, usually having been taught it at an early age by our parents or teachers. It’s a popular thing to say and hear around the springtime, but one thing you might not know is where the rhyme originated from. It can be traced back to the mid-1500s, although earlier use of “April showers bring May flowers” may have existed. In 1557 a gentleman by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry. In the April Husbandry section he wrote:

“Sweet April showers do spring May flowers” As you can see, the rhyme was originally a short poem. There is meaning behind the words, as well. “April showers bring May flowers” is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed – in this case, an abundance of flowers in May. “April showers bring May flowers” is a lesson in patience, and one that remains valid to this day.

Many of life’s greatest things come only to those who wait, and by patiently and happily enduring the clouds and damp of April you can find yourself more easily able to take in the sights and smells of May. After all, it’s easier to love something if you begin with an optimistic outlook! Here’s some more in-depth information about the meaning of “April showers bring May flowers.”

#### April Showers Bring May Flowers – The Science Behind the Rhyme

“April showers bring May flowers” isn’t just a rhyme. It’s an example of the spring cycle of renewal that many parts of the Earth go through, and can be scientifically analyzed. There are actually several contributing factors to the appearance of flowers in May:

- **Rain** – The trademark of “April showers bring May flowers,” the rain is definitely at the forefront of positive stimuli bringing about floral



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displays in May. Increased levels of moisture in the soil help plants to grow faster and healthier. The water can also help nutrients reach the roots faster as well, which is another side of the coin as far as rain is concerned.

- **Temperature** – Another contributing factor to making “April showers bring May flowers” a reality is the temperature. As the days grow warmer, plants find it easier to grow. They are genetically hard-wired to begin growth as the soil thaws and the frost becomes more distant. This combined with the rain is a perfect signal to the plant that it’s time to return to life (or begin life in the case of a seed or bulb).

- **Wildlife** – The springtime sees the return of many animals, birds and insects. The renewed ecosystem involving things eating and being eaten provides nourishment for new plants in the form of fecal matter and decaying organic compounds. The presence of insects also helps to pollinate the plants, which in turn allows them to reproduce. This combines well with the April showers to bring May flowers we can all enjoy.

### **April Showers Bring May Flowers – Things to Help Pass the Time**

If you’re having a hard time enduring April showers, bring May flowers into your home early by purchasing bouquets and arrangements from your florist. If you’re finding it difficult to wait for the growing season, this is a good way to secure a sneak peek of things to come. You can use the florist’s online shop to browse various pre-made arrangements or to get ideas for customized ones.

You can also make purchases and arrange for delivery this way, saving you from having to go out in the middle of a storm. It works well with gifts as well, since you can send a taste of spring to friends and family without needing to leave your home (perfect if they need a reminder about how “April showers bring May flowers as well”). You may wish to use this time to plan your garden for later months, or to do some basic maintenance on the nicer days. It’s good to get ahead of schedule, because then it lets you do some experimenting.

### **April Showers Bring May Flowers – Sources of Information**

If you’re bummed out and waiting for the April showers to bring May flowers, why not spend some time researching various species of plant, landscaping techniques and general gardening advice? There are plenty of resources at your disposal, including your florist, the internet, and books at the local library. By studying this material you can come up with great ideas to work with after the “April showers bring May flowers.”

As you can see, the benefits of waiting for the April showers to bring May flowers are great. May heralds the beginning of the warmer months and leads into summer, when the highest concentrations of plants can be found blooming about the world.

So next time you’re gloomy about the weather, keep in mind the classic rhyme, “April showers bring May flowers.”



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Thank You!

## Money Trees

What do we think of them and how would we take care of them? It's an old saying: "Money doesn't grow on trees." But what if it did? What would that look like? Would everybody be rich and well taken care of due to readily available money? Or would we still end up with rich, middle class and poor people? Here's what I bet would happen if money really grew on trees:

### Some People Would Take Very Good Care of Their Money Trees:

There would be more than a few people who would view their money tree as a blessing and take the best care of it that they could. They would read books about how to best grow their tree, they would water it, fertilize and prune it. They would take care of the bugs that could eat their tree and they would probably cut branches off in order to grow even more trees. These people would devote time, money and energy into their money trees because they know it will pay off. Years down the road, many of these people would have orchards of money trees and more than enough money to meet their needs.

**Some People Would Neglect Their Trees:** Whether it be because they are lazy or simply ignorant, there are people who would just ignore their tree and hope it gets bigger. Unfortunately, with no water or fertilizer or any help at all, their trees would eventually wither up and die. Many of them will blame the tree or the ground or anything but themselves and some of them will go to the orchards of the people who took good care of their trees in order to borrow some crop. These people wouldn't view their money trees as priority and think that they should just grow by themselves.

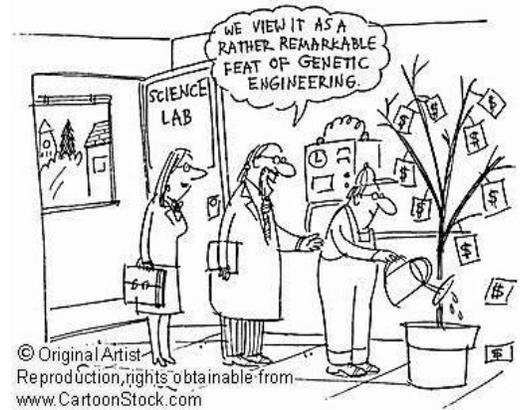
**Some People Would Want to Keep Their Trees Small:** A big tree is a lot to handle and take care of. Some people may not want that responsibility. Maybe they grew up with small trees and that's all they've ever known. So they will do what they can to keep their tree alive, but small and manageable so there's not too much work to do.

**Some People Would Smother Their Trees:** A tree left out in the elements could be in danger, so some might try to shelter their tree and end up smothering it. They wouldn't want bugs to get to it or for it to be impacted by the weather ups and downs, so they would do something like build a shed around their tree to protect it. Unfortunately, this would also keep their tree from getting sunlight and the water that it needs to grow. Instead of protecting their tree, they would end up smothering and killing it.

**Some People Would Use Their Tree Up:** What could you do with a tree besides let it grow? You could cut it down and use it as firewood. You could make a wood sculpture out of it. You could make it into a swing. Basically you can use all of it to make something that will only last a while, leaving you without a tree.

**Some People Would Store Fruit for the Winter:** Trees are abundant during the summer, but not so much in the winter time. There are people who would save their tree's fruit from the summer to eat during the winter when their tree is bare. Others will eat all their fruit during the summer and be very hungry during the winter. The people who store their fruit could do so in many different ways: freezing, canning, preserving, drying, etc. There are many ways to get you through a winter season.

Obviously money will never grow on trees. But if it did, many people would treat their money trees just like they currently treat their money. Your habits and actions determine how much money you end up having and how big your "money tree" would be. If you had a money tree, how would you treat it?



## John 1:14 Exclamation

Everyone has their favorite Bible verse, that one text that has exerted on them the greatest and most life-changing influence. Let me briefly share with you what I regard as the most amazing verse in Scripture. By “amazing” I mean incomprehensible, stunning, bewildering, beyond the capacity of the human mind to fully grasp. For me, it is John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh”! I can think of nothing more appropriate at this time of year than to meditate on this truly amazing assertion.

John’s statement is made all the more amazing when it is seen in the light of John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Note the contrasts. In John 1:1 the Word “was”. In John 1:14 the Word “became”. In 1:1 the Word was “with God” whereas in 1:14 the Word dwelt “among us”. In 1:1 the Word was “God” but in 1:14 the Word became “flesh”. Eternal, unchanging God “became” “flesh” and dwelt among “us”. Amazing!

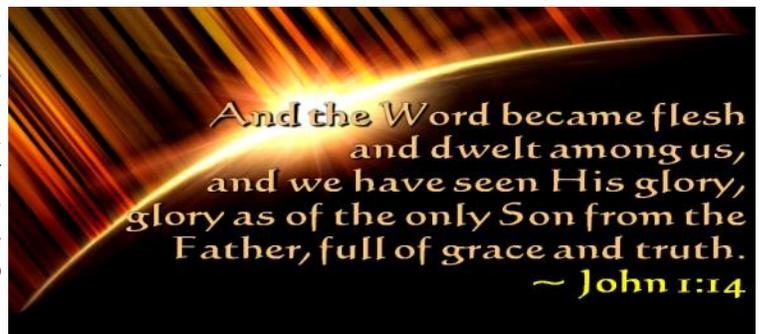
John doesn’t say that the Word became a “man” although that’s true. Nor does he say he became a “human”, or even that he took to himself a “body” although both are again true. Rather, the Word became “flesh”, a strong, almost crude way of referring to human nature in its totality: true body, soul, spirit, will, and emotions.

We also note that the Word didn’t pretend to be a man or play at being human. The Word “became” flesh. The Word did not “beam down” in full bodily form. The Word did not enter into flesh, as if to suggest that there was a man, a human being into which the Word made entrance. He doesn’t say the Word “dwelled” or “abided in” human flesh. What John means is that the eternal Word, God the Son, entered into this world by being born as a human being.

Whatever else Christmas may mean to you, it is first and fundamentally about the doctrine of the Incarnation of the Word. The Incarnation means that two distinct natures, divine and human, are united in one person, Jesus. Jesus is not two people (God and man). He is one person: the God-man. Jesus is not schizophrenic. When the Word became flesh he did not cease to be the Word. The Word veiled, hid, and voluntarily restricted the use of certain divine powers and prerogatives. God cannot cease to be God. In other words, when the Word became flesh he did not commit divine suicide.

When the Word became flesh he became flesh forever. After his earthly life, death and resurrection, Jesus did not divest himself of the flesh or cease to be a man. He is a man even now at the right hand of God the Father. He is also God. He will always be the God-man. Thus, we might envision Jesus saying: “I am now what I always was, God or the Word. I am now what I once was not, man or flesh. I am now and forever will be both, the God-man.”

Take a deep breath and ponder what this means. Don’t dismiss it as theological speculation. This is a truth on which your eternal destiny hangs suspended. This is a truth the beauty and majesty of which will captivate your attention and cause sin to sink in your estimation. Wherein lies the power to turn from iniquity and say no to sin. It lies in the power and irresistible appeal of an uncreated God who would dare to become a man!



The Word became flesh, God became human, the invisible became visible, the untouchable became touchable, eternal life experienced temporal death, the transcendent one descended and drew near, the unlimited became limited, the infinite became finite, the immutable became mutable, the unbreakable became fragile, spirit became matter, eternity entered time, the independent became dependent, the almighty became weak, the loved became the hated, the exalted was humbled, Glory was subjected to shame, and Fame turned into obscurity, from inexpressible joy to tears of unimaginable grief, from a throne to a cross, from ruler to being ruled, from power to weakness.

~Tiffany Fox, Office Manager

## Amazing Facts about Jesus

### The Name Jesus

Jesus is the English transliteration of the Greek name, Jesus. Joshua is the English transliteration of the Hebrew name Yeshuah. Both Jesus and Joshua mean Yahweh saves or Jehovah is salvation. The name Jesus appears in the Bible more than 900 times.

### The Word Christ

Christ is not actually a name, but a title. When the Bible talks about the Messiah in the Old Testament, it is referring to the same title as the New Testament calls Christ. Both Messiah and Christ mean anointed one. Jesus was anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38) and was the promised redeemer. The first promise of a redeemer in the Bible was in Genesis 3:15. The word Christ appears in the Bible more than 500 times.

### Foods Jesus Ate

Jesus ate bread (Matthew 26:26), which has been a common food throughout history. He ate clean meats such as lamb (Luke 22:15) and fish (Matthew 14:19). He may have eaten eggs because of His statement that eggs are a good gift (Luke 11:12, 13). The Old Testament says that Jesus would eat butter and honey (Isaiah 7:15). Luke 24:42 and 43 says that Jesus ate broiled fish and honeycomb after His resurrection.

### Jesus and Simon

There was a man conscripted to help Jesus carry the cross up to Golgotha. This man's name was Simon (Matthew 27:32). This man was from Cyrene which was also called Niger in Acts 13:1. This is not in the country known as Niger today. Rather he was from the country of Libya. Simon had two sons who were apparently known to the early church. Mark 15:21 says that Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus as if the readers of the Gospel would know those two men.

### Jesus' Titles For Himself

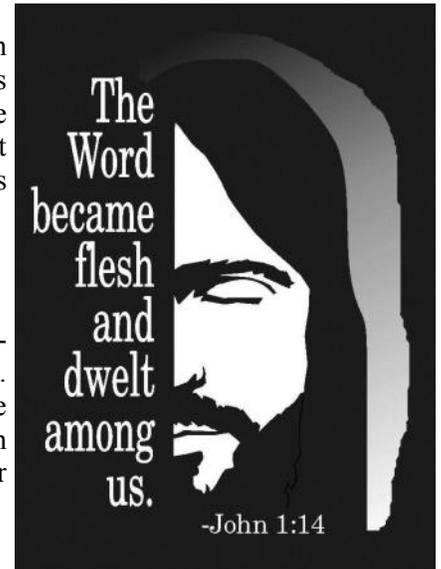
Jesus said He was the bread of life and the living bread (John 6:35, 48, 51). He was the light of the world (John 8:12). Jesus was the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14). Jesus outright claimed to be the Son of God (John 10:36). He also liked to call himself the Son of man (Matthew 20:28). He said He was the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

### Jesus Was a Carpenter

Jesus was known to be a carpenter (Mark 6:3). This indicates that He not only grew up in the house of a carpenter (Matthew 13:55), but He worked in the trade at least long enough that people knew Him to be a carpenter too. There is a question of exactly what the word translated as carpenter really means. The Greek word is tekton, which is a generic word for anyone who makes things. This was applied to craftsmen of various objects. Early writings, tradition and culture indicate that Jesus probably worked with wood in some form. Therefore carpenter is a fine translation of this word.

### Jesus' Birthday

Jesus' birthday is generally celebrated on December 25 each year. However, the Bible does not tell us exactly when His birthday was. Various scholars have put the Birth of Christ sometime in winter or early spring. We celebrate His birth at Christmas, but there is no record in the Bible of the early Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus.



## Poems for the Lord

### *God in Whom we Breathe*

Make us, O God! in whom we breathe, and move,  
Worthy to love Thee, and to win thy love!  
Thy word informs us how thy love is won,

By grateful trust in thy beloved Son!  
Through every season may such trust encrease!  
We know it duty, and we feel it peace.

- William Hayley



### *Yes, The Weary Earth Shall Brighten*

Yes, the weary earth shall brighten--  
Brighten in the perfect day,  
And the fields that now but whiten,  
Golden glow beneath the ray!  
Slowly swelling in her bosom,  
Long the precious seed has lain,--  
Soon shall come the perfect blossom,  
Soon, the rich, abundant grain!

Long has been the night of weeping,  
But the morning dawns at length,  
And, the misty heights o'ersweeping,  
Lo, the sun comes forth in strength!  
Down the slopes of ancient mountains,  
Over plain, and vale, and stream,  
Flood, and field, and sparkling fountains,  
Speeds the warm rejoicing beam!

Think not God can fail His promise!  
Think not Christ can be denied!  
He shall see His spirit's travail--  
He shall yet be satisfied!  
Soon the "Harvest home" of angels  
Shall resound from shore to shore,  
And amid Earth's glad evangel,  
Christ shall reign for evermore!

- Mrs. J. C. Yule

### *Begin the Day*

Begin each morning with a talk to God,  
And ask for your divine inheritance  
Of usefulness, contentment, and success.  
Resign all fear, all doubt, and all despair.  
The stars doubt not, and they are undismayed,  
Though whirled through space for countless centuries,  
And told not why or wherefore: and the sea  
With everlasting ebb and flow obeys,  
And leaves the purpose with the unseen Cause.  
The star sheds radiance on a million worlds,  
The sea is prodigal with waves, and yet  
No lustre from the star is lost, and not  
One drop is missing from the ocean tides.  
Oh! brother to the star and sea, know all  
God's opulence is held in trust for those  
Who wait serenely and who work in faith.

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox



### *For Thine Own Sake, O My God*

Wearied of sinning, wearied of repentance,  
Wearied of self, I turn, my God, to Thee;  
To Thee, my Judge, on Whose all-righteous sentence  
Hangs mine eternity:  
I turn to Thee, I plead Thyself with Thee,--  
Be pitiful to me.

Wearied I loathe myself, I loathe my sinning,  
My stains, my festering sores, my misery:  
Thou the Beginning, Thou ere my beginning  
Didst see and didst foresee  
Me miserable, me sinful, ruined me,--  
I plead Thyself with Thee.

I plead Thyself with Thee Who art my Maker,  
Regard Thy handiwork that cries to Thee;  
I plead Thyself with Thee Who wast partaker  
Of mine infirmity,  
Love made Thee what Thou art, the love of me,--  
I plead Thyself with Thee.

- Christina G. Rossetti



Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Three-twenty this morning I was up praying and reflecting on what God wants to do through Love And Compassion Ministries in order to help so many people that are in need today. My heart is heavy with the pressures of ministry, the desperate spiritual needs of our homeless, imprisoned, troubled youth and addicts of this area and the world.

As we know, prayer moves the heart that moves the world. I am constantly praying that my personal devotion to my Lord would increase, become more intimate and help me become more like Jesus. I pray that my love for the people we minister to would be evident by my loving deeds and Godly example, even in the midst of hardships and troubles.

Please pray for Love And Compassion Ministries and its impact for Christ here in Lee County and around the world. The problems we face daily are so large, the needs so overwhelming and the enemy powerful and relentless.

Paul wrote in Romans 1:1-9 (KJV) <sup>1</sup> *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,* <sup>2</sup> *(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)* <sup>3</sup> *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;* <sup>4</sup> *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:* <sup>5</sup> *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:* <sup>6</sup> *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:* <sup>7</sup> *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.* <sup>8</sup> *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.* <sup>9</sup> *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;*

Every time someone donates to Love And Compassion Ministries I thank God for their support and ask God to bless them, for they are the life blood of this ministry. Without their financial support we could not do what we do. For more than fifteen years now, serving more than 20,000 people, we have seen this area being impacted by our Lord through this ministry. Love And Compassion Ministries reaches out to the lost and hurting no matter what faith, race or gender they may be. We are made up of all kinds of Christian people from all walks of faiths. With our volunteer staff of more than thirty-five caring people, we serve this community through our Street Outreach Ministry, Prison Ministry, Youth Ministry, Homeless Ministry and Drug Program Ministry.

We have seen so many miracles and so many people come to the Lord through these ministries. We have made such a difference in so many lives because we were there for them in their time of need and because people like you gave in our time of need.

Thanks!

In the Presence of our Lord,

*Ron Willis*

Ron Willis, President  
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

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Ministries**

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thoughtful deed  
is a  
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spirit*  
inspired by the  
*heart of*  
*God.***