

**Fw: Pamela, Do you believe this?** 📌

2 messages

**Pamela Tom** <pftom54@yahoo.com>  
 To: John Randy Heffner <rustaqrandy@gmail.com>

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Clayton & Christina <clayton.sternberg@gmail.com>  
**To:** Pamela Tom <pftom54@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 09:44:21 AM MST  
**Subject:** Pamela, Do you believe this? 📌



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## The Resurrection and the Life.

### The Resurrection and the Life.

*"...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

*John 11: 25-26*



I love it when Jesus does the work for me...Uhh...which is...all the time. However, one particular lunch meeting at the garden table comes to mind. I sat with our new garden apprentice Jack.

Because this very intelligent young man is a muslim, I try to share one Jesus story with him a day. This particular afternoon Jack began our lunchtime conversation by saying,

"Hey Clayton, I just read in the quran the story of how Jesus has power to raise the dead!"

"Oh yeah...!?" I responded. "That's interesting. Just this morning I read the story in John when Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead. Would you like to read it together?"

"Sure." He answered.

**Side note:** Jesus is respectfully mentioned many times in the quran, but the all-important point of his Deity, being the Son of God, and his power to save are missed. These stories can be a good place to start, but I always try to

bring it back to Jesus as described in the scriptures.

Ok...back to the story.

I read the account directly from John 11 and emphasized Christ's words when he said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"What did you think of the story?" I asked Jack.

"I liked it." He said. "How cool that this prophet had the power to raise the dead!"

"And what did you think when he said, "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies...?" I continued.

...

We left the story there for the day. For just as a drop of water over time can grind away granite, Christ's direct words will do their work. I just read the story...Jesus did the work.



Please pray for Jack as I work with him day to day in the garden. Pray for him to gain work skills that will help him in this life. But above all, please pray that he will respond to Jesus' question to Martha, "*Do you believe this?*" in the same way she did.

"*Yes, Lord,*" she told him, "*I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.*" John 11: 27



### Prayer Praise and Updates:

· Please pray for Jack, our new garden apprentice. Please pray that he, by the power of the Holy Spirit, would come to believe who Jesus really is and then trust him for his salvation. Please also pray for wisdom for me, that I would give an appropriate response for the hope we have in Jesus.

· Please pray for the women's group that meets on Friday mornings. Pray that they would take the evangelism and discipleship tools they are learning and share them with others.



· Please pray for our master Gardener Philip. Pray for God to bless his efforts as he starts a new garden site for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus.



Please pray for our family as COVID restrictions here in Italy are once again becoming intense. Pray for wisdom and joy in the middle of trial.

## The Fun Stuff: Developing Place

*"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."* John 14:2

As a gardener, you think a lot about place. You have to. If the grower does not consider local variables such as zone, elevation, climate and aspect, failure is sure. It gets more specific than that. They must consider soil pH, texture, salinity levels, and nutrients.

"What micro-climate considerations must I keep in mind? How much sunlight does this specific spot receive, and at what times of the year? What pests and natural predators can I work with...?" are all questions the horticulturist asks himself. Truly, one of the things I love about agriculture most, is it forces you to live in your place.



.....  
I am going to let you in on a little secret. Please don't tell anyone!

...Ok...here it is...

I keep a scientific journal... (wheew...! I already feel lighter).

That's it...that's the secret. I know it's not much, and if you end up forwarding this e-mail I release you from your oath. However, it's more the *name* of the journal that's a secret.

I'm going to share that with you too. It's titled, "Clayton's Hard Scientific Facts!...with some poetic ramblings."

I think it's the poetic ramblings part that I'm most embarrassed about. Maybe that's why it's a secret? As if one could mingle fact with soul. Bah! How preposterous! But at times...I do. I can't help myself.

It's within these mostly scientific pages that my mind meanders between actuality and anima; considering, as one writes, the "spatial needs of people.(1)" In these same pages I remember that when fact meets design our "basic human need for beauty and nature, (2)" as manifested in place, is met.

Our savior understands this well and has gone to prepare a place for us. We get a glimpse of it in the book of Revelation, *"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city..."* vs. 1-2. I look forward to this perfect place.



But...we're not there yet.

No. We live in this "garden between the gardens(3)."

The good news is however, that each time we consider our garden with excellence and forethought, we bring a piece of His Kingdom come to this fallen earth. No matter how seemingly small or insignificant the space, every time we develop it, keeping beauty and the needs of people in mind, we can bring Him glory.

Excellence can be a powerful evangelistic tool.

Certainly, I think of garden planning when considering space, but this principle applies to all spaces; our homes, living rooms and back yards not excepted. Each space is meant to give God glory. When we give proper attention to them, they become not just spaces, but places; places of meeting and fun, places of quiet, places of worship (4).

While this place is fallen and imperfect, we still can tend the earth. And if we develop our spaces well, we have great opportunity for evangelism, Christian growth and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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1 Christie Dustman, 50/50 Design, Fine Gardening. July/August, 2021.

2 Andrew Peterson, The God of the Garden. p. 160, 2021.

3 Not my thought, I found this phrase written on the back of an NIV paperback Bible which I no longer have. *I wish I could find it! Seriously!*

4 Thought once again taken from Peterson's, The God of the Garden.



### Get a Glimpse:







Get in touch!

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