

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

You can use the *Forward Day by Day* Readers' Guide in many ways: on your own to enhance your experience of the month's meditations; gather a group from your parish to explore these questions together; or join in the discussion with Forward Movement's online community by visiting us at www.ForwardMovement.org or by following us on Facebook.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

APRIL 1: Are you holding on too tightly to something in your life? How might you let it go?

APRIL 6: Do you know someone who, like the woman in this meditation, lives their faith through actions of justice, charity, and mercy?

APRIL 12: Who are the saints of God you know or admire, living or dead?

APRIL 15: What risks have you taken in the service of loving Jesus?

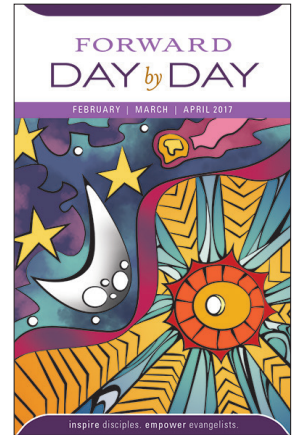
APRIL 17: What stories can you share about the power of resurrection in your life?

APRIL 21: How does physical nourishment also nourish your relationship with God and with others?

APRIL 27: Can you think of a recent time when you experienced the joy of sharing?

ABOUT THE COVER

The artwork for this issue presents the splendor of the moment of Creation. Sun, moon, stars, meteors, and the vast expanse of interstellar space are reflected in this beautiful piece of color and wonder.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

The 2017 covers of *Forward Day by Day* have been created by artist **Roger Speer** exclusively for Forward Movement. These pieces, and over 20 more, are featured in *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*; an adult coloring book, *Pathways of Faith*; and *The Path: A Family Storybook*, available from Forward Movement. Examples of Roger's artwork can be found at www.speerpoint.etsy.com. He and his wife Fran live in Georgia with their son Fynn.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Elizabeth Marie Melchionna is the rector of Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She has also served as canon for discipleship and parish Life at Saint John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado, as well as congregations in Virginia and Thailand. Elizabeth Marie and her husband are the proud parents of two beautiful children.

THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

At the end of every meditation in Forward Day by Day is the day's entry for the Anglican Cycle of Prayer (ACP). Maintained by the Anglican Communion Office in England, the ACP is a way to pray for every diocese and province in the Anglican Communion over a period of two years. The Anglican Communion has eighty million members in more than 160 countries—reflecting an astounding array of languages, cultures, and ministries.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer Spotlight: Forward Movement and Episcopal Relief & Development invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world and with special intention for the Church of North India and the Diocese of Mumbai.

Although India has 27 cities with more than a million people, nearly 70% of the country lives in rural areas. Life in these communities mainly revolves around agriculture, but increased health and education services are needed to support the growing population. Episcopal Relief & Development's primary partner in India is CASA, The Church's Auxiliary for Social Action. CASA works nationally as the outreach arm of 25 Protestant and Orthodox churches in India to engage marginalized groups in sustainable development activities, overcoming poverty while fostering social justice and self-sufficiency throughout the country.



Episcopal Relief & Development is working with CASA to address the challenges faced by farmers, women, the landless, sharecroppers and other vulnerable people in the Yavatmal area of Maharashtra, India. The program introduces low-cost sustainable agricultural practices, offers training on financial literacy and savings and assists with production and marketing of agricultural and other products. Episcopal Relief & Development is also partnering with the Samadi Community Development Program of the Diocese of Durgapur, part of the Church of North India, on several projects in remote areas of West Bengal. This program works with small-scale farmers to increase their crop production through rainwater harvesting and helps people improve the health of their livestock.

Our micro-finance program provides loans to low-income families, women, seniors and young people so they can start small businesses, and women's self-help groups provide encouragement and savings opportunities. Additionally, children's literacy coaching centers in 35 villages are helping boys and girls graduate from primary school, with a particular focus on improving student performance and attendance.

The Church also trains women community health volunteers to conduct home visits, share information about disease prevention, monitor child health and nutrition, and encourage people to seek treatment for illnesses. Our program runs three rural clinics and regular health camps to provide basic health education, services and medicine.

See more at: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/where-we-work/country/india#sthash.t59ocnsg.dpuf>



Forward
Movement

We're eager to hear what you and your readers' group discover in your discussions.

Share your thoughts and insights:

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