

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

FEBRUARY 3: How does your need for control inhibit the movement of the Spirit in your life? How might you relax and trust God?

FEBRUARY 6: How have you experienced "the deep joy in setting yourself aside?"

FEBRUARY 9: How do you praise God through your actions?

FEBRUARY 14: Have you ever struggled to forgive someone else or to forgive yourself? How did it feel when you were finally able to do so?

FEBRUARY 18: Does your giving cost you as it did the widow?

FEBRUARY 23: Have you experienced God as Mother? How is this different from your experience of God as Father?

FEBRUARY 27: What does it feel like for you to be fully alive? How often do you experience this?

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



Minda Cox is an artist, author, international missionary, and lifelong Episcopalian. A graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Minda is also an ally and advocate for other disabled people. Raised by her mother, an Episcopal priest, Minda and her four sisters understand that what makes them different is also what makes them beautiful.

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 Diocese of Los Angeles, the Diocese of Northern California, the Diocese of El Camino Real, and the Diocese of San Joaquin.

[In August 2016, several intense wildfires ravaged homes, churches, and businesses in several California locations. While the fires have been contained and the smoke has cleared, rebuilding the lives of those touched by this disaster will take many months and years.]

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the disaster response efforts of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, where crews have recently contained the Blue Cut fire in the hills north of San Bernardino. Over the past week, the blaze burned nearly 57 square miles of land and destroyed over 100 homes. More than 82,000 people had been evacuated.



Photo Credit: episcopalrelief.org

According to The Very Rev. Canon Michael Bamberger, Disaster Co-Coordinator for the Diocese of Los Angeles, the diocese is partnering with Episcopal Relief & Development to provide gift cards for immediate needs to two groups of affected people: those who are displaced either as short-term evacuees or longer-term due to the loss of their homes, and those who are newly unemployed due to businesses being lost or damaged in the fire.

Local churches are responding as well, including St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Apple Valley and St. Hilary's Episcopal Church in Hesperia, closest to north side of the burn area. St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rialto is also responding to needs of those evacuated from the Lytle Creek area of the fire. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Upland, outside the burn area, hosted a training for disaster responders that covered "Disaster 101" and the emotional life-cycle of a disaster, preparing them to minister to those impacted. "We always encourage churches to look to their most vulnerable neighbors in this time of need," Bamberger said. "The recovery process will be long, and our churches will continue to serve their neighbors." Bamberger stated that four of the six dioceses across the state of California were currently experiencing fires, and that this is just the beginning of what looks to be a "very grim" fire season. "There's a direct connection between this enhanced fire season and the long-term drought in California," Bamberger said. "We're under water conservation measures and hoping for better weather."

Other fires include the Clayton fire in Lake County (Diocese of Northern California), the Chimney fire near San Luis Obispo (Diocese of El Camino Real) and the Erskine fire near Lake Isabella (Diocese of San Joaquin). Please support Episcopal Relief & Development's response to the devastating wildfires across California by donating to the US Disaster Response Fund, and pray for all those impacted.



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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