



Inspire

Hope for the World

Colorful Leaves of Hope

It is October! The evening air is crisp, pumpkins line front porches (and pumpkin goodies are available to eat) and in most places, the leaves are changing from green to a variety of beautiful reds, oranges and yellows. Okay, here in Southern California, we have to pretend that fall has arrived (not much weather change, and very few colorful leaves).

Seeing the various colors of the leaves bring me hope. Red, orange and yellow are next to each other on the color wheel and are all warm colors. Warm colors evoke feelings of happiness, optimism and energy. It is the last burst of color and beauty before the barrenness of winter sets in. I like what the French philosopher, and a Nobel Prize Winner, wrote: ***“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”***

The changing leaves point to our beautiful, loving and caring God who wants to bless us even in the midst of the harshness of life. The leaves changing colors has to do with their dying process. Those colorful leaves will fall from the tree, and its life will come to an end. What an amazing God we have. Did He need to add the colorful displays of red, orange and yellow? No, but even in that small act He wants us to get a glimpse of Him.

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen... Romans 1:20

We can see hope and that there is a purpose, and what appears to be an end is actually a beginning. Yes, the leaves will fall from the tree, and if left on the ground to decay, will provide nutrients for the new life that will spring forth after the winter has passed. Hope can be found even in the hard, sad, dark, difficult and ugly times of life, because He is the God of hope and the giver of hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

This verse is a word of blessing, a prayer that Paul writes to the believers in Rome. Has life been hard lately? (I think we can all say yes). Is your hope running a little low? Turn to the God of hope, and ask Him to fill you with His joy and peace. Trust in Him, no matter what you are going through.

The promise of this verse is that when we ask to be filled, He will fill, and not just a little. He will fill us so full of hope that we are overflowing, just like the overabundance of leaves that will change to an array of beautiful colors this season.

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS from the Territory

Anchorage, AK held a Physical Fitness and Nutrition Class. The Corps Officer said it “was super fun how we were all on the floor doing weird stretches. There was much laughter.”

Auburn, CA held their 3rd Annual Lady’s Tea and Crumpets to raise money for World Services.

Bell Lighthouse, CA started a fellowship group called “Soul Sista Saturday,” a time of being together, having a meal and encouraging one another.

Denver Citadel, CO held a Hawaiian/beach themed breakfast and program for the women during Sunday School. They played Hawaiian trivia and Pictionary as well as make a jewelry craft, and concluded with a devotion

Estrella Mountain, AZ are coming up with programs of their own based off the fun, random holidays (almost every day is a holiday!)

Hoonah, AK are studying the book “Battle Plan for Prayer” by Alex Kendrick & Stephen Kendrick.

In **Kenai, AK** they started holding their WM meetings in the Thrift Store. During the quarter they rotated between “Coffee & Chat,” “Bob Ross Painting,” and “Thrift Store Upcycling.”

Modesto, CA “Zoomed” in the Corps Officer from **Concord, CA** who did a program about the Hawaiian culture. They learned a hula dance and made leis.

Santa Rosa, CA worked through the book “Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion” by Anne Graham Lotz.

Commissioner Colleen Riley—Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

Colonel Donna Igleheart—Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries

Major Beth Desplancke—Territorial Women’s Ministries Program Secretary

Be sure to check out our website for more resources: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

Fall Leaf Craft Ideas

Incorporate the hopeful colors of red, orange and yellow into your fall decorating. Check out these easy, fall leaf crafts that you can do to decorate your corps, meeting room or home. Share some hope with someone this Fall by giving one of these decorations to someone else as a gift.



Glittery Book Page Fall Leaves: <https://domesticallyblissful.com/glittery-book-page-fall-leaves/>

Fall Leaf Wreath: <https://thecardswedrew.com/fall-leaf-wreath/>

Fall Leaves Bowl: <https://www.happy-mothering.com/diy-fall-leaves-bowls-dollar-tree-craft/>



Monthly Bible Trivia Question—All About Leaves

1. On what day of creation did God create vegetation (Genesis 1:9-13)?
2. After Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, what kind of leaves did they use to make clothes out of (Genesis 3:7)?
3. Before Noah and his family left the ark he sent out a dove who on its second visit out returned with what kind of leaf (Genesis 8:11)?
4. In what feast did the Israelites use branches from leafy trees as part of their celebration (Leviticus 23:33-44)?
5. Psalm 1 talks about the blessed person who delights in and meditates on God's law, and is compared to a tree planted by streams of water. How does Psalm 1:3 describe the leaf?
6. Proverbs 11:28 says those who trust in riches will fall, but who will thrive like a green leaf?
7. As Jonah was waiting for God to destroy Ninevah, God provided a leafy plant to grow up over Jonah to give him shade. What happened to this leafy plant (Jonah 4:7)?
8. When Jesus saw a fig tree and found no fruit but only leaves, what curse did He give (Matthew 21:19, Mark 11:14)?
9. When Jesus speaks of the end times, what lesson does he give from the fig tree (Mark 13:28-29)?
10. In the Book of Revelation, when Eden is restored, the tree of life is there. What does the Bible say the leaves of the tree are for (Revelation 22:2)?