

“Sense of Wonder”

Many years ago I used to travel to public events, libraries and schools to put on art shows titled “A Sense of Wonder”. The first half of this slide show features a few of the pieces from those shows. I only wish I had taken pictures of all the works.

The second half of this slide show is craft projects done by children and friends. Each of them truly has eyes to see God’s world as he meant it to be seen...**“fresh each morning”**.



Personally I pursued the joy of “Nature Art” for about five years. I hope that somewhere out there is a child who will take up where I left off and be the world’s first dedicated Creation Artist. My greater hope is that millions of children who may not become professional artists develop a love of God’s world and through it make a first step toward loving God. (See next slide).

This piece is probably my favorite. It is a 20 inch wide slice of Cedar my grandfather planted nearly 100 years ago. I hope it reminds parents and grandparents alike that a big part of outdoor games is supposed to be the joy of being outdoors. Family sports may be better for the soul than the more organized kind.

The girls straw hat is a thistle seed pod, her head a hickory nut, her arms and legs the cores from sycamore balls, the grass is parrot feather (It is a federal law that the feathers of migratory and other wild birds cannot be used for art or crafting). The leaves on the bush are the teeth from a Gar (large fish in major U.S. Rivers). The Sun is Parrot feathers with a straw flower in the center. The Boys head is an acorn, his ball glove a dried fungus.



Children raised in today's world, flooded with media hype, video games and political correctness need a regular daily dunk into the slow harmonious world God made for them. **Without a parent's help they won't get it.**

I hope that people who look at these very simple art works take a moment to look at the wood. This particular piece is also from my grandfathers farm but is black walnut. I thought the cracks etc. looked like lightening and storm clouds.

The man who sliced the trees for me was 86 years old and had lost his right arm at age 14...an accident in his father's saw mill. When he started up his 40" chain saw I asked if he was sure about the whole thing: His answer: I'm fine, it just bothers me a little when the wire to my pace maker cuts into my shoulder.



If an 86 year old one armed man with a pacemaker could cut this piece of wood for me you could teach your child to fly a kit.

Next time your children are watching tv or playing a video game look at their faces? Do they look happy...OR...do they have some other expression...vacant, perhaps intense?

There is something about being outdoors that makes children happy...even when it's too hot, too cold or too buggy. There is something about moving your arms and legs that makes you feel alive and wards off depression.

There is something about sunshine that is good for you.

If you can't afford a sand box how about filling up an old tire with sand?



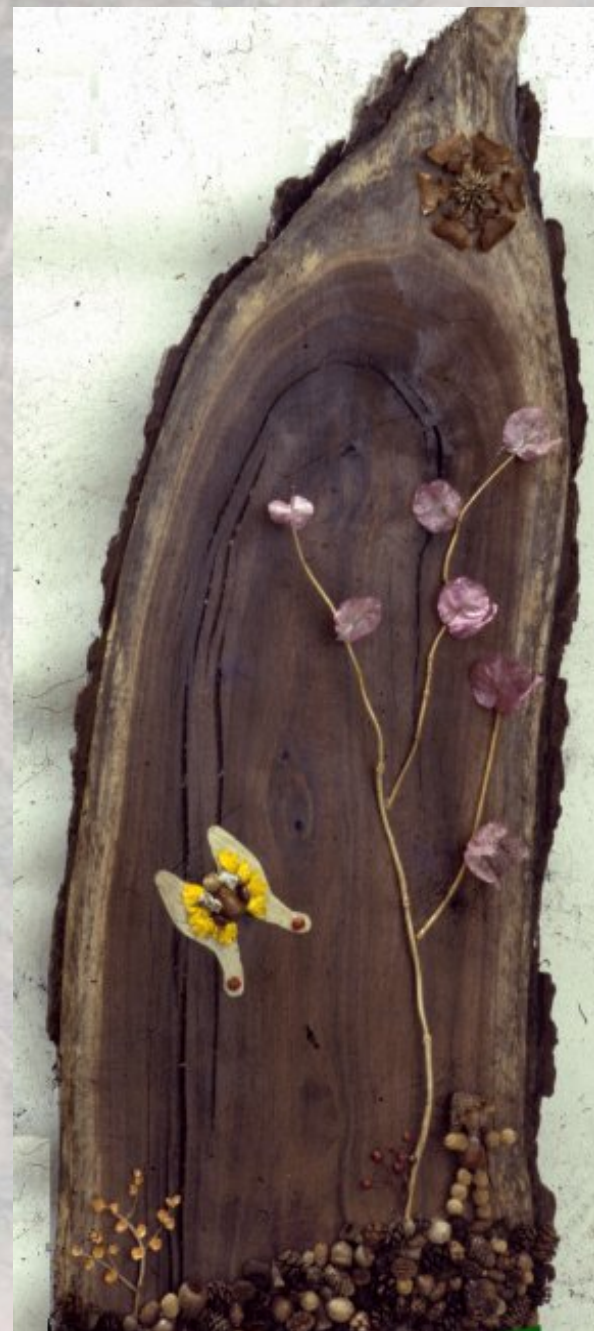
The greatest single danger to our environment is probably a generation of children with no **PERSONAL** daily interaction with it. Hope you get outdoors and make God's creation a personal thing...a happy thing.

God's world is slow, orderly,
harmonious, and filled with
GROWING things.

Children who spend a little time
outdoors
Each day will absorb many of the
same characteristics.

If you don't have a garden get an old
tire fill it with dirt and then visit
www.creationforparents.com.

The little man in this piece has a place to stand.
In a changeable world. What better gift can we
give our children. The butterfly is gentleness.



Oooopps. The little man hiker is too close to the top, the second rock should overlap more and the wood part is too empty. *Nobody likes this piece.*

Well at least I was DOING something. It is one of the rules of parenting. “Good parents tell their children what not to do. **Great parents** help them find something to do...even if it is not perfect it will be fun.”

If you don't like what your children are DOING help them find something better. Try some of the ideas to the right.



Can't go hiking how about:
Blowing bubbles in the back yard, a cheap magnifying glass, a bug bottle, a little wooden or paper airplane , water balloons , turn on the hose, or even my favorite sport BOCCE BALL (read up on it!)

Do you remember swinging?

Memories are precious things...
Among the most precious a parent
can give a child.

For some really good ideas visit
www.creationforparents.com and
click on activities.

Other great outdoor memories:
Hide and Go Seek, Blind Man's
Bluff, Tag, Chain tag, Flashlight tag,
Follow the Leader, Leap Frog, Simon
Says, Red Light Green Light,
Marbles, shadow tag, Marco Polo
etc. Playing with your children can
be better without the computer.



Swinging is fun. Hope
you try some of the other
games to the left.

This little slide show was made because twenty some years ago God went out of his way to be real to me. He made it so I had no choice but to believe in him. The problem for me was that almost every faith in the world has a creator and I had been exposed to most of them.

I wanted very much to know if Jesus and God were one and the same but it seemed impossible to really know. I prayed about that quite a bit and one day I was praying as I sliced wood for a project and just at the instant I prayed this slice came out of the saw.

The point is that all of Creation points to God. The next step however is up to us...to take our deepest concerns to him and trust that he will answer. Sometimes I still do not hear as well as I should but I keep on asking and in the end he answers just as he did with this little piece of wood.



The nature of God is made clear in the things he has made. Romans 1:20

**The art show is over, those interested in
some unique craft projects are however
WELCOME to continue.**

We welcome visitors to our other websites.

www.teachustoprayer.com

www.bibleparent.com

Cockleburs used to be a farmers worst weed. They were prickly, stuck to almost anything and are nearly impossible to get rid of because each year there were more and more of them.

My Father however looked at them differently. He thought that if all you had was cockleburs (weeds) you should learn to make the most of them so he made this tree out of them. I believe the tree makes a good case that life is 99% attitude.

His relationship with cockleburs began when he was a child in the depression years. An Uncle showed him a field of cockleburs and said if you get rid of them you can use the ground and sell what you grow. Dad did. He was a gardener for the rest of his life and ended up going to college and becoming a geologist all because the cockleburs made his uncle give up.



The message of the cocklebur tree is don't give up.

**Children are no less
imaginative today
than 100 years ago.**

There are two problems

1. Turning on the tv equals
turning off most of your
brain. It is called passivity.

2. Imagination must be fed.
Garbage in, garbage out.
God's world is a great place
to feed a mind but more
importantly it feeds a soul.
A public library is another
good place.



A sculptor friend visited while I
was putting together this little art
show. A week or so later he
brought me this little airplane. For
me it *is a perfect example of
imagination... putting together
two ideas in a way they had never
been put together before.*

**What could children make
With materials like these?**

Christmas ornaments,
Vases, hair clips, ear rings,
Anything their imaginations
Will allow.

The following slides show
just a few of their efforts.



We should have taken a picture of the children's faces instead of their Artwork.

Then you would be seeing Joy, wonder and delight instead of just a few bits of wood with some stuff glued on them.

The woods used were cedar, maple, hackberry, bois d'arc, walnut and Hackberry.



Having done craft workshops scores of times it comes to me that children in towns of 100,000 or more have little sense of wonder beyond age 7. In smaller towns the children were still stopping to look at age 14. In home school groups even the parents and grandparents got involved.

In craft fairs across Kansas thousands Of children made little vases like this one. They actually hold water. The “Flowers” are grass from along the roadside. The base is the lid from frozen orange juice. The vase is 2 ½ inches of pvc water pipe. If the Pipe is sawed on a slant the vase becomes a pencil holder for Fathers Day. If the pvc is laid sideways on a slice of wood it becomes a neckslide for Scouts.

It is not a good indoor craft because we used a caulking gun with silicone Caulk to anchor the pvc and shells etc. at the bottom of the vase. Silicone gives off vapors that make your eyes red.



This is a nice craft but takes 5-24 hours to dry well enough To be handled.

The garland is made from rolled
One inch squares of cloth and nuts,
Pine cones etc.

The milkweed ornament
Contains two toothpicks painted
like candles, a tiny pine cone,
a few sumac berries and dried
moss. The COLORS inside some
milkweed pods is so vibrant they
do not need decoration.

I do not remember the age of
the child who made this but I was
impressed.

The Garland was one of my own
efforts.



If you have children you will recognize instantly that this is Mary, Joseph, and the infant Christ.

Mary is a milkweed pod, sycamore heart, and shell. The crib is half of a burr oak acorn. Joseph is a pine cone with a red oak acorn for a head. Christ's body is a pipe cleaner.



This angel was made by
A thirteen year old girl
Scout. She found her
own fungus, milkweed
pods and hickory nut for
the head.



This is a collection of Christmas ornaments featuring Deodar Cedar Pod, Eucalyptys bells, sequoia pine cones, Redwood cones, hickory nuts, alder catkins, Alaskan cotton grass, Scotch Pine Cones, wheat, dried moss, toothpick candles, dried flowers, corn husks, acorns and sweet gum pods.



These mini wreaths are made from the hearts of sycamore balls, Alder Catkins, Sweet gum pods and acorns. Many other pods, types of acorns etc. could be used. The little toothpicks painted like candles add a nice touch.

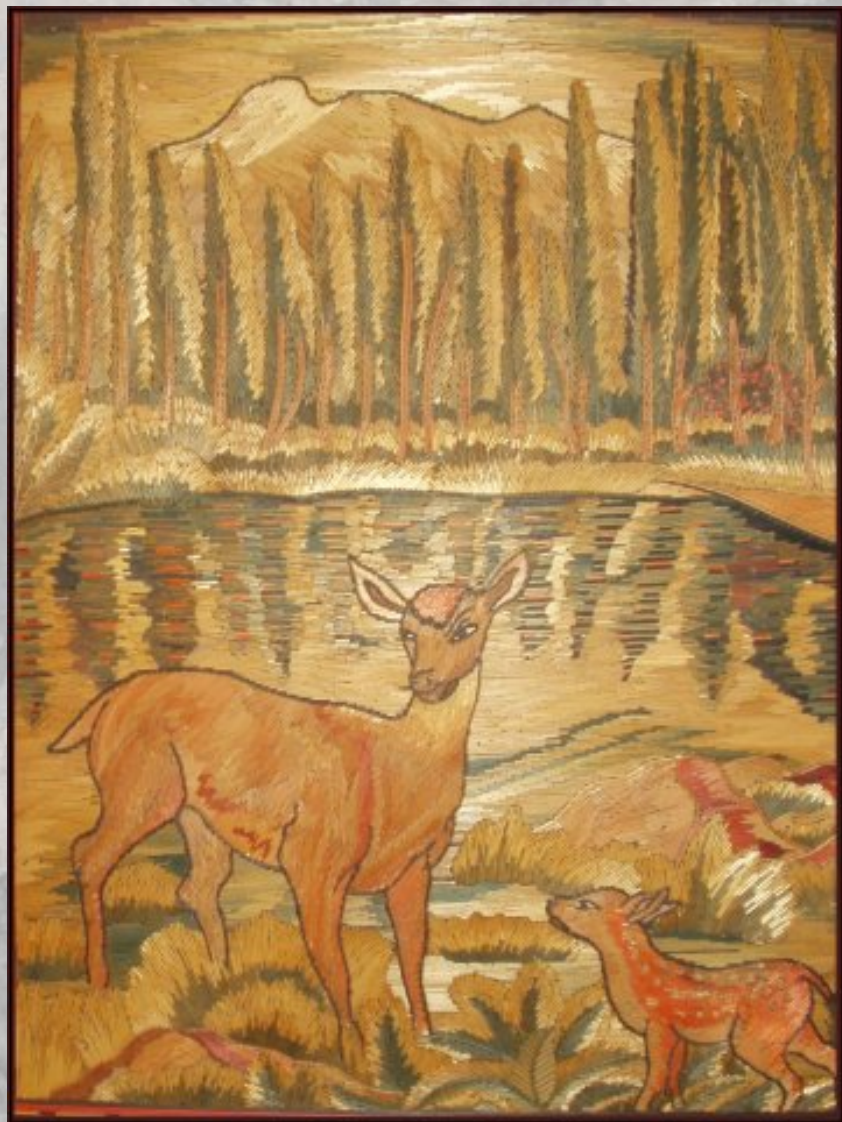
These are BC ornaments... Before Christ. See the next slide for the type of ornament that came next.



The ornament below is
Made from bois d'arc one of
two woods with a jewelery
grade. It is a very beautiful
Wood.



The point with this picture is
The little stands made from
Drapery hooks bent to serve
As tripods. The star of Bethlehem
Is a baby starfish.



Over 10,000 tiny pieces of straw set in wax by a 13 year old girl living in South America.

It took her about 3 months.

I hope millions of parents share this picture with their children,. It shows what a 13 year old girl with a vision can accomplish.

Hopes and dreams are important, especially those given us by God. To have such a dream is to be blessed beyond measure. God has such a dream for each of us if we will but ask what it is and pursue it in His strength and under His guidance. Aiming at nothing ... fitting in...group think, may be the code of today's child but God want's more for them. He wants them to live For him, to follow his dream for their Lives. That dream may be being a Parent. It could be being an artist Or a Pastor but it is one of the things That makes life better. This picture reminds me what a dream can become.

Seeds are important...to God and to parents. Without seeds there Would be no future.

Some of the things we should be planting in the lives of our children are patience, faith, love, kindness etc.

Our second job is to look for and nurture the seeds that God has put in our child, the interests, talents etc. that will allow them to have the future God intended. It is called “encouraging”. It requires listening to them and investing ourselves in the things they say. viewing them as fellow travelers not just luggage that we tow through life.



This christmas ornament is made from one pine cone, five peach seeds and quite a few seeds from the American Linden tree.

**Hope you might help this next generation of
parents by forwarding this email?**

[Click Here to view all 40 coloring books on
ONE DRIVE](#)

**Or [HERE](#) to see them on Slideshare
Over 1,000 Free Printable Coloring Pages**

Or visit <https://www.bibleparent.com/>