

## Sherry's Garden Stories

June 2016

### Dry Places

*"I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope"*

Psalm 130: 5

Sometimes we want to hear from God so bad it hurts. And nothing comes. It feels like we're in a dry place.

We get so frustrated and it seems that we will never hear from Him again. And then, the clouds open and we're flooded with revelation and insight and we sense His presence. It's like a summer shower. We are able to come out of the dry places.

Dry places are sometimes hard. But in these times this doesn't mean that God isn't working for us. And, it doesn't mean that God has left us. It doesn't mean that we have failed or messed up.

The dry places come to show us how much Jesus really cares and loves us.

He is always working on our behalf. He is always interceding for us.

He does however let these hard places come to show us his love and compassion. These dry places usually show us that all this time has been about "ourselves." Our eyes have been totally focused on us. We can't seem to get beyond ourselves.

This is how self-focused we can be. "Not everything in this life is about us."

The Lord may be calling us to pray for others or a certain situation. He may be trying to just get us to slow down so we can actually hear and recognize his voice.

When this dry season is over the rain of heaven falls and we become like new men. We feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in all that we think, all that we do, and are conscience of the words He brings forth. This is such a refreshing, almost like a re-birth. Our heart becomes on track again.

We focus on God's agenda and not ours. We become one on one with the Holy Spirit. We actually are like a garden. Our soil of the heart is tilled and ready for God to plant His heart and His agenda in our garden.

The fruit of that dry place gives us a message of hope and love and compassion. So when we find ourselves in a dry place be encouraged that God and Jesus are working. Even when we don't feel it, see it or expect it.

God will never let us down. The rain and refreshing will come.

### **Lantana (Lantana or Verbenacear)**

These plants survive in full sun and moderate water.

Flowers are in tight clusters and give off a pungent odor when brushed against or crushed.

They thrive in the hot dry weather and tolerate just about any well drained soil.

They grow well even near the beach. Butterflies are drawn to them.

Plant them in masses to cascade over a wall or a window box or hanging baskets.

Deer do not care for these plants.

The most common is the L. Camara. They are coarse and have dark green leaves with orange, yellow or red flowers in clusters.

I use them in planters. There are many hybrids but I chose to feature this one because it is the most common and popular.

To me this represents the best illustration of blooming in a dry place. God uses the dry places to create a real beauty. And he does the same with us when we are in a dry place.