

We're all in need of summer. We will ditch the early-morning scramble to gather Spider Man lunch bags and homework, and spend that hour walking barefoot over a dewy blanket of fresh-mown grass. Of course we will. In the afternoons, instead of heading back to the carpool lane, we'll ramble down park paths on no one's schedule, plunge with abandon into cool waters, pick strawberries, poke holes in the lids of firefly jars, read storybooks aloud beneath shading oaks. And after a few weeks, we'll wish the kids were back in school.



Sue Duffy

Still, summer is the promise of all things light and carefree. Isn't it? Should we have filled this summer issue with craft projects to keep the kids busy, photos of someone's beach house, tips on packing light, and the latest advisories on sunscreens? All good, but summer is more than that. It's the tremulous pause after our prescribed September-to-May lives when we anxiously await something different; we're not sure what, but we want it to change us forever. The summer love, the summer job, the summer vacation – didn't some of those alter the course of our lives? Shuttle us down unexpected roads we're still traveling? I thought so.

This summer issue of ROC isn't so light and carefree. It can't be and do its job. There's too much happening around us, too many people "anxiously awaiting

something." Truth. Hope. Guidance. The "soft sound of sandaled feet," as pastor-broadcaster Steve Brown would say. In that vein, this issue takes you to Haiti, to a people long oppressed, to what missionaries there see as a revival in the midst of ruin. Through a collection of articles, we introduce you to some for whom the ruin of cancer has ushered in new life, full of purpose and certainty of God's hand upon them. Heavy stuff, yes; but bright with the light of hope. Just like summer.

But there's more. Mark Ross and Roy King conclude their respective series on the Israelites' path to the Promised Land and the preferred path to the second half of our own present-day lives. You'll find that Jenny Weber's stunning rune on the ethereal charms of June will make you close your eyes and conjure all your Junes past. Read Kevin Boozer's poignant Father's Day tribute and, once again, remember.

Messages of God's truths, love, forgiveness, and guidance in our everyday lives – this is the ministry of *Reach Out, Columbia* magazine. **Would you help us continue it?** On page 15, you'll find notice of a barbecue and skeet shoot planned for July to gather support for this publication. If you're reading this after the event, you may still join others in their sponsorship of ROC. You'll find contact information on this page.

ROC is published nine times a year and is distributed free – by volunteers – to over 300 venues throughout the Midlands. Thank you for reading us and for considering how you might help us sustain this ministry and reach all your neighbors with the life-changing power of God's love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue".

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what we're all about

Reach Out Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.