

# SOUL SHAPER

The *Soul Shaper* is a convenient tool that takes the subject matter from the Spiritual Talk series and breaks it down even further. This self-study guide is also the source of lively discussions in our weekly Community Groups. You may download the accompanying Spiritual Talks or listen online at [www.threadschurch.org](http://www.threadschurch.org). There's always a place for you in our Community Groups and our Sunday Worship Gatherings at 9:15am or 11:00am. Questions?...Email [connect@threadschurch.org](mailto:connect@threadschurch.org) or call the office at 269.327.0445.

## It's Time Week 1

<sup>14</sup> *Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News.*

<sup>15</sup> *"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"—Mark 1:14-15*

### Ice Breaker:

In our media thick culture, we are surrounded with images that are meant to provoke reactions in our minds. Take a few moments to do some free association together. Take turns throwing out words that may be associated with church in our culture. For example, try the word "church." What is your current association to that word? What was an association you had to that word when you were at a different place in your Journey? What about when you were a child?

How well did the associations you heard around the room represent a God who wants most of all for us to love Him and His people? How do your reactions to the words that were thrown out get in the way of you actively engaging with how Jesus lived and what He taught?

### Questions:

- Can you think of an experiment you have tried in an attempt to honor God with your everyday life? What was it? How did it work out?
- How comfortable are you with the idea that learning to live life with God is an experiment? Why?

*"I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ" —Mahatma Gandhi*

- How would you explain Gandhi's observation that the Christian types he met were so unlike Christ?  
<sup>27</sup> *As he was speaking, a woman in the crowd called out, "God bless your mother—the womb from which you came, and the breasts that nursed you!"*  
<sup>28</sup> *Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."*  
—Luke 11:27-28

*Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, --John 17:7*

- Do you think the disparity between Christ and His followers is inevitable, or could a better way be learned?
- How do you think we can begin to figure out how to relate the message of Jesus to our lives today?

### On the Journey . . .

For every person who is finding faith in the message of Jesus, there is someone who is struggling to keep his or her faith (this may even describe you). Initiate a conversation this week with someone who has exited organized religion and ask them to share how they now see God and view the message of Jesus. How were their questions or doubts similar to yours?

## Revolutionary, Rescuer, and Rabbi Week 2

<sup>23</sup> Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew human nature. <sup>25</sup> No one needed to tell him what mankind is really like. —John 22:23-25

### Ice Breaker:

Think of a time when you were with a big crowd of people, maybe at a concert or a sports event. Was there anything that happened that made you feel like more of a participant instead of just a spectator? Why did you feel that way?

### Questions:

- Is it possible to love someone and yet not trust them? Explain why or why not?

<sup>39</sup> But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. —Matthew 5:39

<sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? —Matthew 6:25

<sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. —Matthew 6:33

<sup>35</sup> “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. —Luke 6:35

<sup>48</sup> Then he said to them, “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.” —Luke 9:48

<sup>33</sup> “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. —Luke 12:33

- What are some of the characteristics of a follower of Jesus listed in these verses?
- Would a “fan” show these same characteristics? Why or why not?

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. —Mark 1:21-22

- What does it mean to surrender to authority?

<sup>7</sup> John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. —Mark 1:7

<sup>33</sup> Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." <sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. —Mark 8:33-35

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." —Luke 5:8

- Why do people choose to become apprentices?
- What should an apprentice's attitude be?

### **On the Journey . . .**

This week, take the time to read the Gospel of Luke. Notice the way Jesus took on disciples and taught them to obey his teachings. Underline all statements Jesus made that you find confusing or disturbing.

# Kingdom – Now and Later

## Week 3

<sup>3</sup> *And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. —John 17:3*

### Icebreaker

When someone mentions heaven (or the Kingdom of God), what do you think of? Do you see it as a “now” thing, or a “future” thing?

### Discussion

<sup>15</sup> *“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!” —Mark 1:15*

<sup>20</sup> *But if I am casting out demons by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. —Luke 11:20*

<sup>21</sup> *You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.” —Luke 17:21*

- Why would Jesus talk about the kingdom as if it existed right now?
- What effect do you think it has that so many people believe the message is mostly or exclusively about the future?
- How would a here-and-now orientation affect your view of the message of Jesus?
- Another translation of Luke 17:21 says that the kingdom of God “is within you.” How would the realization of that truth change our lives in the here and now?
- If heaven or eternity were not the primary concerns of first-century people who heard the message of Jesus, what else was compelling to them about his message?
- Why was his message so controversial?

<sup>1</sup> *Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.*

<sup>2</sup> *Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.*

<sup>5</sup> *Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”*

<sup>8</sup> *The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. <sup>9</sup> And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”*

### The Report of the Guard

<sup>11</sup> *As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened. <sup>12</sup> A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. <sup>13</sup> They told the soldiers, “You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.’ <sup>14</sup> If the*

governor hears about it, we'll stand up for you so you won't get in trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.

### **The Great Commission**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! <sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."—Matthew 28:1-20

<sup>3</sup> And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.—John 17:3

- If eternal life is something we access now and in the future, this implies that we are continually choosing whether or not to walk in the light of God's presence. What would tangible trust in God mean for you tomorrow?

### **On the Journey . . .**

Try spending at least one day in the coming week in conscious awareness of the Maker's presence. Some people find it helpful to use a method called a "breath prayer" as a help in doing this. As you go about the day, whisper a phrase (such as "God, your forgiveness is enough," or "You will provide for me"). Repeat the phrase under your breath as you go about your daily tasks. See if this helps you stay more aware of God's care and presence.

## Beyond Us Week 4

### What Have We Seen?

<sup>34</sup> Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>35</sup> Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. <sup>36</sup> Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

<sup>38</sup> "How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out."

They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

<sup>41</sup> Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. <sup>42</sup> They all ate as much as they wanted, <sup>43</sup> and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. —Mark 6:34-43

- The disciples react in doubt when Jesus asks them to feed the crowds. What have been your doubts or reservations about trusting God to take you beyond yourself? What effect does this passage from Mark have on those reservations?
- You can imagine the delight and joy the disciples experienced when Jesus carried them beyond themselves and cared for even the most basic human need of the crowd around them.
- Is the joy of seeing a need fulfilled worth the feelings of risk and fear we may have? In what very real way can we support one another in this experience?

<sup>3</sup> four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. <sup>4</sup> They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." —Mark 2:3-5

- In Mark, the friends described here were personally involved with meeting the needs of their paralyzed friend. In what ways has this Beyond Us encounter moved you to become more personally involved with those around you, and reflect Christ's love? What about becoming more involved in their spiritual needs? Is this a different challenge for you than helping to meet material needs?
- What changes could you continue to pray for God to make in your heart in order to make you more like the friends who stopped at nothing to get their brother to Christ?

- What risks have you taken in your life to help those you love reach Christ? What about those who you do not yet know? What sacrifices will you make for them? Which is the more difficult sacrifice to make for you? Why do you think that is?

*<sup>1</sup>Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.*

*<sup>3</sup>For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. <sup>4</sup>They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. —II Corinthians 8:1-5*

*<sup>9</sup>You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich. —II Corinthians 8:9*

- Take some time to reflect on your reaction to the one year anniversary of our Beyond US celebration gathering. What is your response to what collectively we have been willing to sacrifice to reach beyond the walls of our gatherings to those we may not yet know?
- What are some examples of God taking you or others around you beyond what you would have imagined during this encounter?
- Look closely at II Corinthians 8:9. In what way did Christ become poor? How has this encounter asking God to take you “beyond yourself” made you “richer?”
- Anniversary events mark the journey of our life experiences. In marking this anniversary, how would you pray to see God continue to take you beyond yourself? How would you pray to see God continue to take the Threads community beyond itself?

## Kingdom – New Windows

### Week 5

<sup>19</sup> For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. <sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. —Romans 8:19-23

#### Icebreaker

Think back to when you were a child. Were there routines that you had as a child? Was there any particular routine that you refused to shorten or skip? Was there something that you played with friends or siblings that always had to go the same way or you wouldn't even consider playing? What happened if your routine was broken? What was the fallout?

#### Discussion

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

<sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

<sup>6</sup> God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

<sup>15</sup> John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

<sup>16</sup> From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. —John 1:1-18

- What is it about light that makes it such a good illustration of who Jesus is?
- What are some other descriptions of Jesus in this passage?

- When the passage talks about Jesus as creator, what does that tell us about creation?

Read Romans 8:19-23 (found at the beginning of this study)

- Do you find it easier to believe we live in a good world gone bad or a good world that is getting better (even if it's frustrated and incomplete)?
- What were your ideas about God's identity when you were a child? How has your view changed as you've gotten older?
- In regard to your own identity, were you raised to embrace or fear your humanity and the experiential aspects of life?
- Our spiritual paths have a lot to do with how we handle paradox. If we see everything as either/or, some part of reality or truth may lose out in the end. How does walking with Christ help us in overcoming our either/or thinking – learning to see the world through multiple window panes?

### **On the Journey . . .**

This week, try to take some time to slow down and really see and experience God's creation, remembering that creation is one of the windows through which we see God.

## Stories Week 6

<sup>23</sup> Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Get up! Do not reject us forever. <sup>24</sup> Why do you look the other way? Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression? —Psalms 44:23-24

### Icebreaker:

Think about all the “favorite” things you’ve held over time. Is there one favorite about which you could say you can’t get enough or there is no such thing as “too much?” Finish this sentence “I could never have too much . . .”

### Questions:

<sup>26</sup> From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. <sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ — Acts 17:26-28  
...[God] determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek [God] and perhaps reach out for [God] and find [God], though [God] is not far from each one of us. ‘For in [God] we live and move and have our being.’ Acts 17:26-28 (paraphrased)

- What was God’s purpose in creating the nations, according to this passage?
- What does it look like to “live and move and exist” in God?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to embrace the beauty and significance of your life? Why is that?

<sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. <sup>11</sup> Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. --Ecclesiastes 3:10-12

- How does not knowing the whole scope of God’s plan for you make you feel?
- Do you feel comfortable sharing these feelings with God? Why or why not?

<sup>23</sup> Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep?  
Get up! Do not reject us forever.

<sup>24</sup> Why do you look the other way?

Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression? —Psalms 44:23-24

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far away when I groan for help? --Psalm 22:1

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

<sup>2</sup> How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,  
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand? —Psalm 13:1-2a

- How do the difficulties and disappointment you have faced shape your ability to trust in the goodness of God? Explain.
- How do we reconcile God's goodness with our own, or other people's, suffering?
- Does it help to know that Jesus suffered as well?
- How have the difficulties and disappointments you've faced during your own life affected your ability to trust in the goodness of God?

### **On the Journey . . .**

We are invited to "negotiate" with God for how we are being loved every moment of your lives. Read Psalm 13 or 27 or 44 and write your own song or poem of complaint.

We all have different individuals in our lives who have parented us playing a guiding or supportive role. Take the time this week to write a letter to one person who fulfilled a parenting role, thanking them for the way they were used to meet a love need in your life.

## Jesus and the Third Way of Shalom

### Week 7

<sup>21</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. <sup>22</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. <sup>23</sup> The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

#### **Parable of the Wheat and Weeds**

<sup>24</sup> Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. <sup>26</sup> When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

<sup>27</sup> "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?'

<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed.

"'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked.

<sup>29</sup> "'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'"

#### **Parable of the Mustard Seed**

<sup>31</sup> Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. <sup>32</sup> It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches." —Matthew 13:21-32

#### **Icebreaker:**

Share with one another a time when you were impatient, waiting for something you were expecting. What happened when you no longer had to wait for "it?"

#### **Questions:**

<sup>21</sup> You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you." —Luke 17:21

- How do you see a polarization between the path of pursuing a king and the path of pursuing solely the kingdom being played out in our culture? Where do you see the third way—example where loving God and caring about the needs of our time are deeply integrated?

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." —Matthew 22:34-40

- Which character do you relate more to—the girl named Tristan in the coffeehouse or the businessman in the coffeehouse?
- Are you more naturally drawn to a vertical or horizontal orientation in life?
- What is the first thing that pops up in your mind when you consider what it might mean to become more centered? In what areas of your life would you like to become more whole and complete?
- In the Maker’s vision, everything is important and everything matters—our spirituality, our relationships, the environment, our social ethics. How do you think we can learn to live awake to God in a world where all of our choices matter?

### **On the Journey . . .**

Practice centering your mind and heart around the third way of Jesus. Say a version of the Shema prayer in the morning and evening each day for the next week. Better yet, say it together with the people you live with (if they spiritually can at this point in their journey).

*Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Jesus invites His followers to pray, “God, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Make the prayer “Your kingdom come, your will be done” your mantra this week as you travel about.

Mark Scandrette, director for the REImagine Project, does this as he looks out his window and sees his neighbor Deanna talking with a group of men. She has been selling her body for drugs as long as Mark can remember. He quietly prays: “God, may your kingdom come to her—she is a little princess child, and I long to see everything you imagined for her life before you created the world to be restored here and now.”

There are places where the earth is scarred by pollution, toxic waste, feces and urine, dirty needles on beaches or broken glass in parks. When we walk in those places, cleaning up what we can, why not pray: “Your kingdom come. Bring healing to the Earth scarred by selfishness or neglect. Make these places clean and fresh, that children may walk here without fear.”