

## Water

*By Marilyn Reeves*

We are all creatures of the water. Life had its beginnings in water. Our bodies are more than eighty percent water. When astronomers search for life on distant planets, they search for evidence of water. There can be no life without water.

Mankind has an endless fascination with water. We play by it, boat on it, fish in it, swim in it, and – when it blankets the earth in the form of ice and snow – we ski and skate on it.

Whether it be the awesome magnificence of the ocean, the quiet serenity of a peaceful lake, or the energy of a playful, babbling brook, we are drawn to it. Artists attempt to capture its beauty. There is nothing more soul restoring than to sit on the mossy bank of a clear mountain stream, watching the water swirl over rocks and eddy around little hillocks, as it rushes in its downhill course to the sea.

We depend upon water for food. Crops cannot grow without it. We can't survive more than a few days without drinking it. We luxuriate in bathing in it.

But as much as it is life-giving, water can also be life-taking. Oceans of water can fill the sky in the form of massive thunderclouds. And when those clouds release all that pent up energy in the form of rain, the results can be devastating. Too much water can bring about massive flooding. Too little can result in drought and deprivation.

The source of life and sometimes death. A source of beauty and destruction. A source of endless fascination. Water.