

## **A Memorial** By Christina Dickson

*"So Joshua...said to them, 'Go...into the middle of the Jordan [and] take up a stone on[your] shoulder... to serve as a sign among you...' (Joshua 4:4-7 NIV)*

A memorial is something intended to honor or celebrate the memory of a person or an event. God ordained many memorials throughout the Old Testament; one took place at the Jordan River. God held the rushing waters of the flooded Jordan back, allowing the Israelites to safely cross over into the Promised Land. To commemorate this event, God ordered that the 12 tribes pull 12 stones out of the river as a memorial to future generations.

Do you remember a time when God allowed you to experience great difficulty? Did you allow that to draw you closer to Him? Through trials, God longs to teach us something about not only His character, but our own.

There was a time when my husband was without employment for seven months, and we were forced to rely on God to provide for our needs. Through friends and strangers, He provided the money we needed to pay our bills and buy groceries. Every act of generosity was shared with our teenage children, thereby teaching them that even through seemingly impossible circumstances God always takes care of us. Each one of these gifts became a "stone of remembrance" in our family.

Just as the Israelites did at the banks of the Jordan River, we too should erect "stones of remembrances" to remind ourselves and our children of God's faithfulness and love. Spend some time reflecting on what your stones of remembrances are, and thank God that He loves you enough to bring you through the wilderness and across the Jordan.

*Heavenly Father, forgive me for the many times You displayed Your goodness to me, yet I failed to recall those moments during times of great difficulty. Your Word says that You will always be faithful. Help me to draw strength from this truth when I am feeling worried about my future. I will rest in knowing that You hold my life in Your hands.*