



ROOTED

ENCOURAGING CHRISTIAN GIRLS

Contents

4

The Rooted Story

6

Daring to Hope

11

Poem: The Word of Life

12

You Asked

14

Poem: Like a Child

15

Dig in: Title here

16

Recipes

20

Reviews

22

Spotlight: Charity & Unity

28

God is Faithful



Welcome

Thank you for your patience in awaiting for issue 11! We hope you think it was worth it to hear about Unity's trip to Kosovo.

We take a look back to this magazine's beginnings back in 2019 and how the Lord has grown a simple idea in the mind of three friends to a magazine which has now reached several countries.

Rue challenges us to acknowledge our weakness and to really lean in to God's strength instead while Rachel shares what she has learn about God's goodness in her first year away from home.

As usual, there are delicious recipes and great reviews, encourage poems.

Don't forget to sign up on our website for any blog updates. Not being huge social media fans, we're rarely active on Instagram but do feel free to connect with us there: [@rootedmagig](https://www.instagram.com/rootedmagig)

Remember that **rooted-mag.com** has Subscriber-Only resources including PDFs of all past magazines. It is changing in this issue but, don't worry, the current password is always included on this page in the latest issue of *Rooted*.



We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God; that we are sinners saved by Jesus' death and resurrection; and that salvation, through faith in Jesus, is a free gift offered to all.

Great care is taken in selection of material but we might not agree with all opinions expressed.

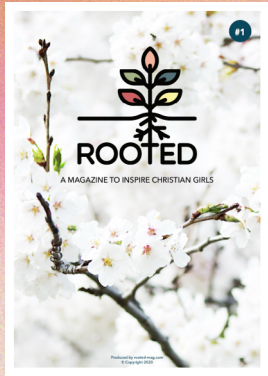
Current Subscriber-Only Password for rooted-mag.com:



(Please use these resources for you and your family only – thank you!)



The Rooted Story



Back in 2019, three friends, Unity, Esther and Eden, were frustrated that they couldn't find a current Christian magazine for girls. They decided the only option was to create what they wanted to read: A relevant, UK-based magazine that would encourage their peers in their walk with Jesus.

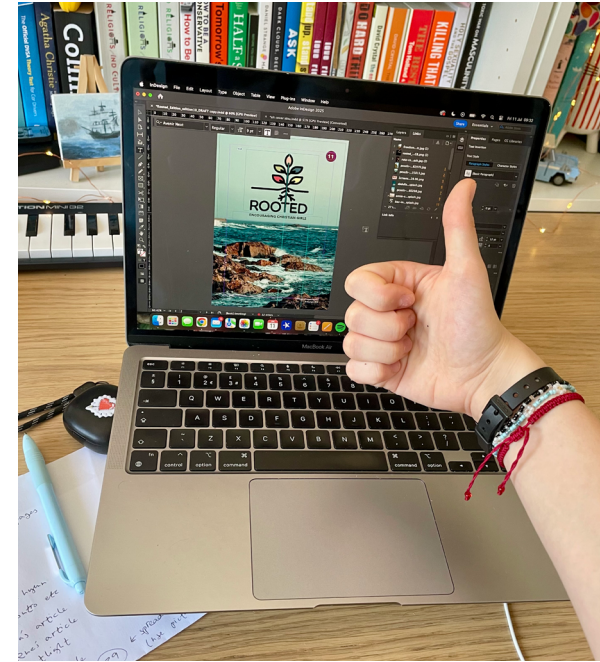
Early on the girls decided that two issues a year was realistic. Unity's parents funded the first print-run just as covid lockdowns started. With so many stuck at home, enough people signed up to continue with a second issue.

As lockdowns ended, life picked up pace with increased studying commitments, illnesses and general life strains leaving far less time for the magazine. Even though

producing the two annual issues can be a challenge to reach, God gives the grace and strength to produce a new issue every six months.

Rooted is amazingly now entering its sixth year! Life for the girls looks hugely different from when they started the magazine; Unity and Esther (18) are heading into the adult world and Eden (15) is in the thick of GCSE study. Yet God's love and faithfulness remains as strong as ever, an anchor in both the storms and joys of life.

As *Rooted* continues to grow, the desire the pre-teen Unity, Esther and Eden had to encourage other girls in their walk with Jesus remains at the heart of our content. It is exciting to see the magazine is reaching a wide range of ages with more contributors joining us along the way. Its goal is to continue inspiring all readers to seek Jesus and His incredible gift of saving grace more deeply. ~



Please send all *submissions* for Issue 12 to us by 30th September 2025.



Daring to Hope

Of Stars that Glisten in Broken Nights

*"But Thou art making me, I thank Thee, sire,
What Though hast done and doest Thou
knows't well.*

*And I will help Thee; gently in Thy Fire,
I will lie burning; on Thy potter's wheel.*

*I will whirl patient, though my brain
should reel.*

*Thy grace shall be enough the grief to quell,
And growing strength perfect through
weakness dire."*

E. George MacDonald
Diary of an Old Soul

**We live in a world of broken nights. We
live in a land of shattered hearts. Our
lives are endless poems without rhymes;
tapestries unraveling in a tangled storm.**

And as we run against the deepening,
grey skies, breathlessly trying to reel in
the chaotic melody...we start to break.
Because the waves are too big, and the
sky is too far, and the field is too vast.
And as we break, we ask questions. We
doubt.

We lose hope.

You see...I think we forget that we
weren't created to mend the world. In
fact, we cannot even mend *ourselves*.
This chaotic storm of life is not ours to
control. It is merely ours to embrace.

And we embrace it with the grace of
Heaven's heart and mercies of eternity's
morn'. So, we move forward, one step at
a time. Knowing we can never achieve
perfection or embody an exact reflection
of His love, we learn, instead, to abide, to
learn in humility, to praise...to hope.

And it is in this re-learning process, this
imperfect pursuit of His heart, that we
hear His gentle, patient whisper of love
to our souls...

"Dare to hope again yet?"

**It's Not About Me -
All the Praise Goes
to Jesus**

*"It is good for us to look at self and know
how loathsome it is, but with one look at
self we must take ten looks at Christ."*

- E.G. Langston

The grip of pride has lain heavy on my
heart in recent weeks. It is a burden
I seem to bear with great familiarity.
Before I am aware of its sly entrance in
the deepest crevices of my thoughts, it
boldly grows into a prison I find myself
trapped in. With time it grows heavier,
like a bag of bricks I carry around,
dragging with me everywhere I go.

I cannot rest, for the bricks lie
uncomfortably. I cannot run from them

**This chaotic storm
of life is not ours to
control.**

**It is merely ours to
embrace.**



for they pull me back, clinging to the ground with the gravity of shame. And with all my efforts, I have yet to find a way to be rid of this dreadful burden.

But wait. Mind my words carefully. I said with all *my* efforts.

For, you see, *my* efforts are made quite in vain. I am without hope if I am on my own. But praise be to Jesus! Because it's not about *me*.

I deeply relate to Paul's heart-thoughts in Romans 7:18-19, ***"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."***

But then, like the dawning of sun after a sleepless night, bursting with the joys of a new day and the gracious light of new morning mercies, he writes on.

"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I

serve the law of sin."

- Romans 7:24-25

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For we are no longer slaves to this deep burden of sin. We need not carry this bag, filled with an unwanted weight. Our Lord and Saviour is standing with open arms, inviting us towards His heart – gentle and lowly. His song is patient and kind, bidding us to breathe in His mercies and grace.

Dare to hope again, yet?

Glimmers of Hope in Raging Seas

My family recently went to the beach and on one of our days away, my grandma and I ventured towards the ocean and watched the waves from the warming sand.

While we admired the constant ebbing and flowing of the crashing waters, we discussed our heart's "Gethsemanes" – the places deep within our souls that feel the darkest, the heaviest. The places where beauty and pain somehow

coincide to create some unforeseen reflection of Glory.

I mentioned perfectionism and pride, expressing my struggle with humbly seeking His praise and forfeiting my own. After we talked about these burdens, we prayed. And as my dear grandma talked to her Heavenly Father, she said...

Abba, I wonder, if the waves are like Your grace. Reaching towards us...asking for the weight we carry, gathering it in Your arms, and pulling it back. And as the waves resurface it is like Your blessings of peace washing over the fear and shame that remains.

I feel I could rightly end this post right there. What beautiful imagery. There are glimpses of Heaven in so many earthly places...glimmers of hope in raging seas. Because, you see, the world is broken...but its Creator is not.

This prayer reminded me of John 8 with the woman caught in adultery. After Jesus tells the sinless man to cast the first stone, and all the men – being sinful – walk away, he stands and speaks such powerful words to this hurting heart. He says, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, ***"Neither do I condemn you"*** – John 8:10-11.

The only One worthy to judge, in this moment, chose not to. What makes it even more breathtaking is when one considers the later verses where He tells the Pharisees, "I have much to say about you and much to judge" (vs 26). Those who judged and dishonored Him, He responded to mercifully. And still does today.

His love reaches through the waves, grasping our "Gethsemanes" and carrying them away.

I so easily lose track of what matters, storing up regrets and sorrows and burdens when He stands with open arms, beckoning, *"come...just come."*

His love reaches through the waves, grasping our "Gethsemanes" and carrying them away, washing away fear with blessing and hope in the next wave to touch our fingertips.

Dare to hope again, yet?

Dare to Hope, for His is a Hope of Promise

"I will not glory because I am righteous, but I will glory because I am redeemed."
– St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, as quoted in A History of the Christian Church

The Bible speaks of a hope that reflects a promise. For Christians, hope is not a fanciful desire, an untouchable aspiration that only soars in our dreams. Certainly

not! Our hope is an eager expectation, a steadfast yearning...a patient waiting for something better than this current world.

"For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

- Romans 8:24-25

So let us dare to hope. Because as Judy Squier said, "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Creator calls a butterfly. As humanity we see only the imperfect underside of God's tapestry of our lives."

This is our hope that one day He will return...and make all things new. One day we will no longer feel this daily weight of sin, but we will be dancing in the freedom of His presence and the awe of His glory.

And on that day, all the praise will go to Jesus.

All the praise to Him alone.

That, dear heart, is the promise of stars that glisten on broken nights.

Dare to hope again, yet? ☞

Rue Arrow

Rue Arrow is a sojourning poet who loves plucking out tunes and rainy afternoons with Jesus. Her formal blog, This Messy Thing Called Life, is full of thoughtful, soul-stirring writings and can be found at ruearrow.com. If you prefer random reflections and sporadic scribbles, check out her informal blog, Rue's Ramblings, at ruearrow.substack.com.

The Word of Life

We have heard loud his voice with his accent and tone,

Calming the storm and making God known.

We have seen with our eyes his face and his walk

Eating with sinners and making mute talk.

We have gazed at the cross with his body and blood

And felt in the earth the full anger of God.

We have touched with our fingers the holes and the scars

And realised the burden he suffered was ours.

The word is alive; he has taken on flesh.

All the stories are true; he stepped into our mess.

Jemimah Gowers philippianspoetry48.blogspot.com



Where Am I?

Within my first few weeks of university, I found myself playing sardines in a building I had barely ventured into. As I circled the hallways, each door looking increasingly identical, I realised I truly had no idea where I was.

But getting lost in a building didn't compare to the fear I carried with me to university – the fear of getting lost emotionally and spiritually. I heard countless ways this new chapter could turn

the story of God in my life away from Him and was in a haze of hesitation and second-guessing.

But what I couldn't fully comprehend was how God could use something typically (and understandably) associated with drifting to actually nurture my relationship with Him. Like Job said, ***"I have uttered what I did not understand things too wonderful for me, which I did not know"*** (Job 42:3b). Job is talking to God after

going through great suffering and realising that ***"[God] can do all things, and that no purposes of yours [God's] can be thwarted"***. (Job 42:2)

In a similar way that God worked through such a difficult period of Job's life, He slowly and steadily used this year to grow me in Him, despite my worries that being away could dampen my faith.

In fact, being at university and away from home gave me the opportunity to surround myself with Christians in a way that I couldn't before – ways that have been really encouraging, but also challenging in the best of ways. Seeing the repeated action of the verse, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour," through thoughtful actions, have compelled me to love because people are images of God and not because I should be loving.

It has also shown me the blessing God gives in uniting His people as family, which meant I never felt as isolated or lonely as I often saw people struggle with.

Perhaps the way it has stood out to me the most, though, is in how it's reflected God's love back to me, like providing a map that didn't require me to go somewhere else but instead rooted me right where I was. No matter how afraid I was of getting lost from God, His encompassing love was too large for me to wander out of.

Whilst university might come with different fears for everyone, and I definitely don't have the answers, a constant in the change is God, who is always the same. I found that no matter how I perceive a situation, God's love is the door key leading straight to Him. All I had to do was trust it would turn the lock. So maybe, looking back, instead of

asking, "Where am I?" I should've asked, "Where is God?" and I would've seen his steadfastness easing my uncertainty and keeping me with Him. ***"That they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us."*** (Acts 17:27) ✨

Rachel Stainer

Rachel is currently a university student who has spent the last year mildly tangled in the cell cycle. She spends her time playing piano, tending her cacti, and stumbling upon random pathways during walks. Mostly though, she likes finding the small, unexpected day-brightening moments with her family and friends.

No matter how afraid I was of getting lost from God, His encompassing love was too large for me to wander out of.

Like a Child

**Have you heard the way the farmer
Tells the story of his life?
"Born 'n raised on this 'ere farm
That I now run with my wife."**

**Have you seen the way the country gent
Will tell you what he's done?
He'll show you all the season's game
And let you try his gun.**

**Have you noticed how the townsfolk
Hustle-bustle everywhere?
In such a rush to everything
With little room to care.**

**But have you seen a child
Show his mother what he drew
He holds his favourite crayon
The same colour as his shoes**

**Jesus calls to us as children
And tells us to gather near
He gives us hope, and grace, and light
And strength to make it through the night
He gives us love to conquer fright
He gives life to all who hear.**

Instagram: @liarose-poetry
Jessica Whyte

GRACE

**for by grace
you have been**

SAVED.

& this is not your own doing;

it is the gift of God.

ephesians

two: eight

'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.'

Ephesians 2:8-10

These short verses sum up the gospel so perfectly. It explains the relationship between justification and sanctification.

Justification is being reunited with God and made as if we had never sinned. Sanctification is the continual process of being made holy - set apart for God. We

chose His ways over our natural desire to serve ourselves first.

We were saved not by works, but for works - God's works.

The only part we play in our salvation is realising that we will never be good enough - realising that we've fallen short of the glory of God and that by repenting we can take hold of the gift which is salvation, bought by Christ's precious blood.

When we are Christ's we can finally live as we were made to: To bring glory to God and know Him as our Father. ✨

Unity Nicholson

Recipes

Food, glorious food! Send in your favourite recipes, just as long as they're delicious. (It's a hard life being a recipe-taster, trust me.)

Pavlova

This is seriously delicious, 100% recommend! - Unity

4 egg whites
1 cup castor sugar
1 tbsp cornflour
1 tsp white vinegar
300ml carton double cream
2 tsp vanilla essence
1 tbsp icing sugar

Cover oven tray with baking paper and mark an 18cm circle on paper.

Beat the egg whites in small bowl with electric mixer until soft peaks form; gradually add castor sugar, beat until dissolved between additions.

Fold in cornflour and vinegar. Spread meringue inside circle on prepared tray. For best results do not squash or flatten mixture but shape side up and in toward the centre, like a mound. Make furrows up side of pavlova using small spatula, level top.

Bake slow in very low oven for about 1½ hours or until dry. Then turn the oven off, and leave to cool in oven with door ajar.

An hour before serving, beat cream,

vanilla essence and sifted icing sugar until soft peaks form.

Fill pavlova with cream mixture, decorate with fruit of your choice and serve!

Annabelle Gray





Meat Sauce

Unity and Elisabeth made this for dinner one evening in Kosovo. It's simple and and a great way to feed a crowd!

1kg Mish viçi (beef mince)

1 onion

2 garlic cloves

3 carrots

1 spring onion

A bay leaf

Basil

1 tsp oregano

1 tin tomatoes

2 tbsp tomato purée

Salt and pepper to taste

Brown the beef mince, onion and garlic in a thick bottomed pan.

Grate the carrots and slice the spring onions, add to the pan.

Mix in your seasoning of basil, oregano and some salt and pepper.

Stir in the tinned tomatoes and tomato puree, add a bay leaf and let the sauce simmer for 20 minutes or so.

Don't forget to take the bay leaf out before serving.

This goes well with pasta and a green salad.

Elisabeth, Kosovo

**Name changed to protect her identity*

Paprika sweet potato crisps

These yummy crisps are perfect for a quick snack and will disappear quickly!

2 sweet potatoes

~2tsp paprika (to taste)

A grind of pepper

A grind of salt

Olive oil

Preheat the oven to 160°C fan/180°C.

Wash and dry the sweet potatoes—important otherwise they will not crisp in the oven. Slice the potatoes very thinly, but not so thin that you do not get a full circle.

In a bowl, drizzle olive oil over the sliced potatoes. Add salt, pepper, and paprika. Mix so that each potato has a good covering of seasoning.

On a tray with baking paper, arrange the potatoes so that they do not overlap. I typically find that I can fit one whole potato's worth of slices onto one tray, so you may need two.

Set oven at 150°C and bake the slice for up to 1.5 hours on the top shelf (you need to judge for yourself when they are

done)! Mine always need longer baking than I think, but keep in mind they crisp slightly as they cool. Every 20 minutes or so, flip each slice over. Remove from oven when crisp and no longer wet.

Alternative seasoning ideas:

Garlic Parmesan: garlic powder, onion powder, parmesan, salt and pepper

Salt and Vinegar: soak in vinegar for 20 mins, add salt and oil, bake

Chilli lime: chilli powder, paprika, zest of lime, salt, cayenne pepper

Mimi Sanford



Reviews



Fielder

Addison Agen & Skye Peterson

**Like the laughter after tears fall
An unexpected phone call
Green lights on the way home
I wasn't looking**

-Good Things Come, Fielder

Formed by friends Skye Peterson and Addison Agen, Fielder is a brand new, Nashville-based duo which started earlier in 2025. As of writing this, they've released four songs. Honest lyrics blend with thoughtfully-crafted guitar parts (always a win for me!) and catchy choruses.

Listening to them is like watching the beginning of spring - something new and precious and beautiful. They have a

gently comforting song called 'Overthink It Baby' which has definitely been my anthem for the summer, it's lightened many hard moments.

Their music feels like having an old friend share wonderful truths with you, seeing the value of moments which are so easily overlooked as mundane. They make you step back and see the delights of God's creation and plans, no matter the twists and turns along the way.

I'm so grateful to have discovered Fielder's music and I can't wait to hear what the future holds for them!

Their debut album releases on August 22nd. (I bet you can guess what I'll be doing that day!) ~

Unity Nicholson

Genuine

by C.B. Martin

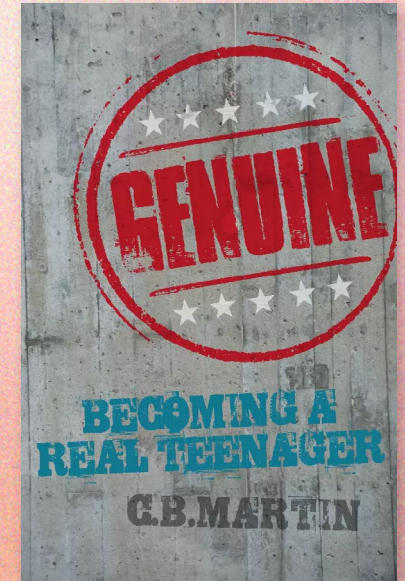
Considering I already think a lot about how to live as a Christian teen, I underestimated how helpful this book would be at diving into real struggles faced and how to combat them.

Genuine: Becoming a Real Teenager looks at six young adults from the Bible, and how God grew them as Christians so that He could use them for His will, and so how we can use our experiences as teens to grow and mature as Christ's servants, so we can fulfil God's purposes. It covers basic Bible principles, which can help set you up for living life as a Christian and orient you so that you're trying to live out God's will-and not your own.

Rather than feeling like a teenager, you're just waiting for your Christian life to get going, it was really meaningful to be struck that these well-known and inspirational Bible characters are actually teenagers at the point when God begins using them for His glory and the Holy Spirit is working in them!

Personally, I've found it's best to read this with the Bible open, although it's not a guided Bible study, it references areas of the Bible and directs you to read certain passages to gain context and shows where these Christian principles come from. I recommend you read a chapter at a time, pray, read the bits of the Bible it mentions, and answer the questions at the end of each chapter to gain the most out of this book - you might even want to discuss it with other Christian teenagers, read it with a friend or at your church youth group.

It emphasises that setting up good habits now (in your prayer life, your volunteering, your Bible reading...) can equip you for living as a Christian both now and in the future.



If you haven't considered how you're proactively living life for Jesus, and you want to know how God grows Christians in their approach to His will—read this book!! It is an amazing reminder that God can and does use teenagers to achieve His purposes, and so how we live matters!!

So, who is this book for? This book is for Christians who want to live for Christ. Maybe you've thought about how, or maybe you've never really considered it. It is great to help prevent the trap that particularly befalls Christian teenagers—the temptation to conform to the world around you Monday to Saturday and just be a 'Sunday' Christian—trust me, I know the reality of this temptation! I wholeheartedly would recommend this book: I think it is a great read, the chapters are short and concise, with practical applications and questions to kickstart discussion and self-reflection (although admittedly the front cover needs some work lol).

From a fellow Christian girlie xx ~

Bells Trinder

Spotlight

Unity & Charity*

Hi, and welcome to *Rooted's* first-ever double spotlight! Charity and I are writing this together from Kosovo; I suffering from sunburn (the summers are rather hot here) and Charity from spider bites (don't worry, they're not radioactive). I'm currently visiting Charity and her family for a few weeks. :)

Kosovo is a country in the Balkans, Europe, which is surrounded by Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia and Montenegro. Unless you are a top geography student, it's probably best to look it up on Google Maps. The language spoken here is Albanian, and the majority of the population identifies as Muslim, although Kosovo has no official religion.

U: You first wrote an article for *Rooted* in 2022 when you were only 9, that's crazy! **Can you give yourself a quick introduction and catch us up on your life over the past few years?**

C: Hi *Rooted* readers! My name is Charity*, I'm 12 years old, my favourite colour is orange, and I like crafting and I'm the oldest in my family (apart from my parents, of course!).

My family and I have now lived in Kosovo as missionaries from England for over two years! In that time, my dad has become really good at the language, my mum has had a baby boy (which now means I have six siblings! :)), and I've been baptised. That's a lot of information, but hopefully you kept up.

U: How are you settling in? Tell us about the clubs you attend!

C: As you already mentioned, the summers are really hot here, so each summer we change our routine a bit.



This year, the water pressure has been extremely bad due to the lack of rainfall - please pray that the water situation gets better and that no one gets sick from the water when it does come.

The winters have not been too cold, and we've always managed to get enough wood for the fire.

The clubs we have started are football (for two of my brothers), ballet (for one of my sisters) and judo, which I and one of my brothers attend. Judo has been a great opportunity for me to make friends, and when my parents held a spring Christian camp for some local children, some of my friends from judo came to it and learnt a lot.

What are some of the differences between here and the UK which you've noticed?

U: A big difference I've found is the multigenerational living and the





traditions regarding how to show respect to others.

Even compared to the UK, I was surprised to learn about the real lack of long-term thinking, especially in the way money is spent so quickly, both by the citizens and the government.

Also, it's sad seeing so many stray dogs, I'm not used to that at all in England.

What about you, what are some of the cultural differences you've noticed?

C: The way that people here do their funerals, even if it's a woman's funeral, only the men attend. But the weddings can take days with several different

parties, either to say goodbye to the bride from her family or to say hello to the groom. And then there are just general parties where everyone gets together and makes a lot of noise.

U: What is some of the outreach you do here?

C: Part of the outreach here is simply living for Jesus, and Daddy goes round to quite a few of our neighbours to talk to them, have coffee and tell them about Jesus; he's also been having some good conversations with my brother's guitar teacher.

My mum has made friends with some of our neighbours, especially one lady who

lives down our street. She was recently able to go over there and encourage her as the neighbour's mother-in-law had just died.

We also help to run a kids' club every Saturday, where we do games, tell a Bible story and try to get to know the children who come.

What do you think of the outreach we do?

U: You explained in your first article for *Rooted* a while ago that you've come here to be a light for the people in Kosovo, and I can see that in the way you live your daily lives as Christians in a place where there are few, and where the sentiment towards them is largely sceptical.

I'm in awe of the dedication your parents (and you!) show in consistently supporting the various Christian ministries here and striving to show

God's love and truth to those who live in great darkness.

I've really enjoyed fellowshiping with your church, and it's been a good reminder that following Jesus transcends language and culture. I especially liked trying to muddle along in Albanian to *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus!*

Overall, it seems to be a tricky place to navigate in an evangelistic way since the ties between ethnic identity and Islam are so strong. Being Albanian is the majority of the population's identity, and since Islam is the traditional Albanian religion, Islam here is very important to many people, no matter the sincerity of their faith.

What's something you enjoy here that you can't do in England and vice versa?

C: I definitely enjoy seeing the mountains every day, and I do like some



of the food. It is nice to see friends and family from home again when they come to visit; it makes it more of a treat. But then I do miss some of the food from England, for instance, Weetabix, cheddar, and salty butter!

Speaking of food, what are some of your favourites which you've tried here?

U: I have so many, but my absolute favourite has to be the freshly fried petulla (*pe-too-la*) we had in the city centre - I love everything about them. They're a sort of tiny doughnut which is both delightfully crispy and slightly gooey in the middle, with chocolate

sauce and icing sugar.

Another favourite has to be the burek (*boor-rek*), a kind of pastry roll with various fillings.

Also, I loved trying mantia, a small pastry ball with either a meat or cheese filling - imagine that a Cornish pastie had a baby and that's what it tastes like!

You've definitely tried a wider variety of food here in Kosovo, so what would you recommend?

C: I like a type of bread we have here called samun, also the petulla is pretty good, basically all the things you already said!



Turn to page 18 to find a recipe which Charity's sister, Elisabeth*, has sent in.

***Names changed to protect their identity**



Where have you enjoyed going in Kosovo the most?

U: The waterfall we went to! I found it such a beautiful place and I'm so grateful to have been there, I'm sure others would say there are far more lovely places, but it really made me stop and appreciate God's creation in a way which I hadn't experienced for a long while. Standing under the waterfall was super fun too, and made me feel very alive.

Also, I don't think I could ever get used to the mountains, they're glorious in the truest sense of the word, and I can't quite believe I get to see them every time I leave the house or even look out of the window!

Faleminderit (*fah-le-men-dere-rit*), which is Albanian for thank you! 🐾

Charity interviewed by Unity Nicholson and Unity interviewed by Charity! :)



Unity is currently an apprentice librarian, a job which would make her younger self very proud. When not catching up with her friends & family, she can most often be found with her nose in a book or newspaper, playing her guitars, and occasionally dancing when she thinks no one is looking.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

to Those of Little Faith

Some of my favourite stories in the Bible are stories of heroes with little faith. For example, the story of Moses.

When God called Moses to serve Him, Moses had been living in the land of Midian as a shepherd for many years.

God spoke to Moses through a burning bush!

'God said to Moses, "Go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

'But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"'
—Exodus 3:10-11

Another example is the story of Gideon.

Gideon lived during a time when the Lord's people were under relentless attack from the Midianites (who at this point in Bible history had become rather more unfriendly than they were in Moses' day). Gideon's family had very little to eat, and Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to avoid having it stolen when

God called him. God sent an angel to Gideon!

The angel sent this message from the Lord, **"Go with the strength you have and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"**

"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"
—Judges 6: 14-15

Moses and Gideon, the heroes of little faith, felt they needed to rely on their own strength to perform the roles that God had planned for them. They couldn't bring themselves to believe in a God whose strength would sustain them. To both these heroes of little faith, God said the same thing: **"I will be with you."**
—Exodus 3:12/ Judges 6:16

Surely those words should have been enough to bolster the confidence of these would-be heroes who were filled with fear. Surely, hearing God speak through a bush that was covered in

flames but didn't burn up, or being visited by an angel, would be enough to show Moses and Gideon God's incredible power. Surely, knowing that such a powerful God was with them would fill them with confidence.

But Moses and Gideon still couldn't believe that God could really use them for His plans. They weren't able to fully rely on the promise God had made to them – "I will be with you."

In the Bible, God is often described as a rock. **"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection,"** Psalm 18:2 declares. 2 Samuel 22:32 asks, **"Who but our God is a solid rock?"** The Bible describes God as our rock – something solid and real that we can lean back on and know will fully support us. God being described as a rock tells us we can rely on His strength.

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel like I trust in and "lean back on" God as if He is a strong wind rather than a rock. When the wind is very strong, you feel you can lean back into it and it will hold you up. Leaning back, you marvel that you can lean so far and stay on your feet, but you don't fully trust that you can put your whole weight into the thin air without falling.

We live in a world where "seeing is believing" and even seeing isn't always believing anymore! We've gone from a world which says, "Pics or it didn't happen!" to a world in which photographic evidence can be faked, and we can't always trust what we see anymore.

In this kind of world it can be hard to trust an invisible God. We don't fully trust

Who but our God is a solid rock?

Samuel 22:32

the wind's ability to hold us up because we can't see it – maybe that's why it is easier to "lean back on" God in the way we'd lean back on the wind than in the way we'd lean back on a rock.

The stories of heroes with little faith in the Bible are some of my favourites because I myself have little faith – I feel I can relate to Moses and Gideon more than I can relate to someone like Paul, who seemed to have boundless faith. But the stories of heroes with little faith are also my favourites because they show how kind God is to us when we find it hard to believe in Him as the rock.

When God told Moses, "I will be with you," Moses didn't trust in God the rock. He was afraid to speak to Pharaoh, and although God promised Moses, **"I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say,"** (Exodus 4:12), Moses

But God was patient and kind to His heroes of little faith.

didn't want the assurance of God. Moses wanted human assurance of success – another person to rely on for help, not God.

Similarly, when God asked Gideon to fight the Midianites, Gideon couldn't immediately trust that God would go with him and help him in this battle. So, he asked God for two signs – one morning he wanted the fleece he laid on the ground to be wet while the ground remained dry, another morning he wanted the fleece to remain dry while the ground was wet.

If God had become angry at these foolish requests, we might have understood. God had proved His greatness by speaking to Moses through a burning bush and to Gideon through an angel, but they still didn't trust Him. But God was patient and kind to His

heroes of little faith. He wanted to use them in these plans, and He wanted to grow their faith in the process. So He gave Moses a helper, his brother Aaron, to speak to Pharaoh for him, and He granted Gideon's requests for miraculous signs.

When we find it hard to have faith and lean on God as our rock, God is gracious. And through His grace, Moses and Gideon grew in their faith. Though at first Aaron and Moses spoke to Pharaoh together, when Moses saw how God always gave him the words to say when he needed them, his faith grew, and he was able to speak to Pharaoh without Aaron's help. (In the Bible story, the language changes from Moses and Aaron speaking together in Exodus 5 to Moses speaking to Pharaoh on his own in Exodus 10 and 11.) When God performed the signs Gideon had requested, Gideon grew in faith enough to be able to raise an army and trust God when He told him that, of all things, his army was too big!

Like He was kind to Moses and Gideon when they found it hard to have faith in His promise to be with them, so God is kind to us when we find it hard to have faith in the promise God has made to give us freedom through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 6:17-18 says, ***"God also bound Himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be sure that He would never change his mind. So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us."***

In this verse, we are told that the God who never breaks His promises made an oath as well as a promise. That oath was not for His own benefit, to keep Himself accountable to the promises He had made. The oath was made to prove to us, of little faith, how serious God's promises to us are. The oath and the promise together show those of little faith that, "we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us."

God made so many promises in the Bible, but one of the promises which is most important to cling to when we have little faith is the promise He made to Moses and Gideon:
"I will be with you." 🌿

Talia Aldous

Thank you to all our contributors!

Your subscription includes the bi-annually printed magazines and access to the Subscriber-Only website content. We suggest a donation of £10* for the UK or £12.50 for overseas. You can pay via the PayPal option on our website or by sending a cheque by post payable to *Unity Nicholson*.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions!

Email: info.rooted.mag@gmail.com

Website: www.rooted-mag.com

**A £10 donation will cover our production costs with any remainder going to the Christian charity, Barnabas Aid. For more information about the important work they do for persecuted Christians please visit: www.barnabasaidth.org*

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language.

Have comments, ideas, or submissions for publication?

We love your feedback and would be delighted to receive submissions for the magazine. If you're sending in an article for publication, don't forget to introduce yourself to the team! All submissions will be used at the editorial team's discretion.

Produced and designed by Unity Nicholson

Photograph Credits to

Andy Nicholson (pages 5, 19, 27), Unity Nicholson (pages 5, 18, 23–27), Noah Gray (page 16)
Other photos uncredited or from Envato Elements, Pexels, or Unsplash

Please don't reproduce any content of this magazine without express permission from Rooted.

©Copyright 2025. All rights reserved.