

## March

### Springtime

What a long cold winter season it can be. I woke up early one morning to the voice of the radio's all-night newscaster delivering the update on the conditions outside: "It is currently eight below with a high for today of four degrees and sunny." I had spent the previous evening shoveling snow and doing volunteer well-being checks—folks of limited means living without heat during the coldest part of the winter is a reality—and my morning thoughts and prayers once again turned to those enduring the worst of winter. Still, I was motivated to crawl out from beneath the covers by the thought of the sun shining and spring being not too far away.

The seasons are not just the focus of those who work the land. No, all of us pay attention to the seasons. We find all kinds of ways to hope for spring no matter how long the winter. The harshest days of winter would crush our spirits if there were no hope of spring. But our hope, our real hope, comes from the One who came to dwell among us. Spring is a season of restoration and seemingly endless possibilities, like an artist bringing new and vibrant colors to her canvas. Spring brings us signs that we will once again feel full of life, and spring gives us renewed confidence that we can be nourished and full. And though the transition into spring brings a few storms, they are soon forgotten.

As we move toward springtime, we take care to reflect on what needs to be recovered and uncovered. It's a time of preparation and anticipation, for the good news of Christ's resurrection—like the day you realize you can shed the heaviness of your winter coat for this new season—is approaching. Our thoughts of winter become but a distant memory. We rejoice in springtime and Easter, and in all their hopes and promises, today.

**Offering Focus:** Your gifts support events and resources for the Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls Initiative.

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