

CASTING of the FLOWERS



written by
MALLORY ALLEN

illustrated by ABBY DEARING

THIS STORY WAS INSPIRED BY PASTOR ADRIAN AND JOYCE ROGERS

On their 45th wedding anniversary, Pastor Adrian and Mrs. Joyce Rogers took a special trip to Switzerland, Mrs. Rogers' favorite place to visit. It was on this trip that Pastor Rogers came up with the "casting of the flowers."

They rode a little red cog railroad to the top of Mt. Rigi, which was covered in wildflowers. (In this story we made the wildflowers yellow because that is Mrs. Rogers' favorite.) Pastor Rogers picked a big bouquet of wildflowers for her, and she picked a big bouquet for him. Starting with the letter "A,"



he named a character quality he loved about Mrs. Rogers for every letter of the alphabet, and then tossed the flower into the wind over the mountainside.

She then did the same for him.

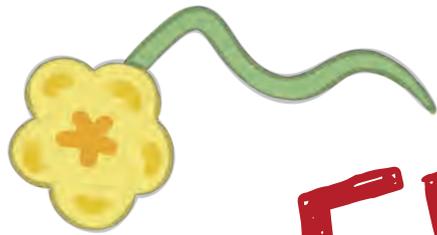
They returned to Switzerland to do this two more times before Pastor Rogers passed away in 2005.

As a testament to the love they had for one another in their Christ-centered marriage, we want to honor their story which has inspired this book to teach children about the names and characteristics of God through the "casting of the flowers."

CASTING

of the

FLOWERS



written by
MALLORY ALLEN

illustrated by ABBY DEARING

inspired by ADRIAN & JOYCE ROGERS



LITTLE ADRIAN hopped off the red mountain train with his mother and looked out over the beautiful mountainside covered in yellow wildflowers. He was so excited that he started to run up the mountain, and his mother quickly followed him!

When they reached the top and looked out over all the mountains and the big blue sky, Adrian felt very small. He wondered how big God must be to create not only this mountain, but the whole world?

He asked his mom, “If God created you and me and this whole world, but we can’t see God, how do we know He is there?”

Adrian’s mother looked out over the mountains, and she smiled as a hair blew across her face.





“Well,” she said, “just like the wind blows across your face and makes the wildflowers dance, you can’t see God, but you can feel His presence and you can see Him in His creation.”

Adrian thought about this, and as the wind blew across his face, too, it was like a quiet reminder the Lord was right there with him, and he knew what his mother was saying must be true.





He asked his mother, “How can we know what God is like?”

She answered him and said, “You can know what God is like by the words He gives us in the Bible. He has many great names and characteristics, enough to outnumber all the wildflowers on this mountainside!”

She thought for a moment and asked little Adrian, “Would you like to play a game to learn more about who God is?”

“Yes!” He said. “Okay,” mother explained, “we will pick a wildflower for each letter of the alphabet, and for each letter, throw the flower into the air and name a characteristic of God.”

“That sounds like fun!” said Adrian, “and we can call it the *Casting of the Flowers*.” “Great idea!” said mother.

“I’ll start!” Adrian said, jumping up and down happily!
He picked the first two wildflowers, threw them into the
air and said,

A IS FOR ALPHA.

*God was here in the beginning,
before the sky and Earth had form.
He was here first before all people
and before you were born.*

B IS FOR BOUNDLESS.

*God has no out of bounds
or place He cannot be.
He can be everywhere at once,
including here with me.*





Mother picked two more flowers, held them up and watched as they blew in the wind toward the bright blue sky and said,



C IS FOR CREATOR.

*God is the great artist who makes
every shape and color in the world.
He forms the mountains, paints the sunsets
and makes every boy and girl.*

D IS FOR DAILY BREAD.

*Just as your body needs food
to grow each and every day,
even more, your heart needs spiritual food
from the Bible and time to pray.*

