

## Are There Lilacs in Beulah?...

One afternoon in mid-May my spirit was downcast and I had no heart for my work, so I went into the garden to re-pot some geraniums, tomatoes, and lavenders I'd purchased earlier in the month but which I hadn't yet planted due to the rain we'd had.

Very soon the pleasure of gardening absorbed me, and then in the warmth of the sun I caught the fragrance from my two lilac bushes. I bought them last year for a fraction of their price as they were quite frail, and though I had tended them and placed them where I thought they might be happy I truly didn't think they would survive.

But this year they are flourishing! They are flowering prolifically and are so beautiful!



We too are frail at times – maybe most of the time - but the Lord tends us so compassionately and prunes us so gently in order that we may flourish in the work He gives us to do and, like my lilacs, in turn bless others who may also be low or frail, or weary or hurting.

As their delicate beauty and exquisite perfume ministered softly to my spirit, I remembered a poem I had read about lilacs some years ago, written by a lady named Lydia Haga:

**The garden is a sea of purple, the lilacs are glorious to behold;  
The aroma is exhilarating and healing to body and soul.**

**The lilac season is short; it's here and then it's gone.  
For the splendor of the lilacs we'd sit and wait and yearn.**

**The shortness of its season reminds us our day is as grass;  
We flourish like the flowers, then blow away at last.**

**The lilac's heart-shaped leaves remind us of God's love,  
Not only to the human family, but to the angelic host above.**

**Soon He's coming back to take us to the blessed land of light  
Where the river of life is flowing, and the sun is always bright.**

**Oh, blessed land of Beulah, where no sorrow, pain, or gloom  
Are found within thy borders and where lilacs eternal bloom.**

I don't know if there are lilacs in Beulah; the Bible doesn't say there are... but everything in Beulah is beautiful and blessed, and the two lilacs in my garden are beautiful and they blessed my heart that May afternoon, so I hope perhaps there might be lilacs in Beulah...

*May God bless your heart too this month,  
Elizabeth McDonald  
May 2019*

(A slightly different version of this item first appeared in the July 2019 edition of the Frindsbury Baptist Church newsletter)