

The Carver Legacy

George Washington Carver died on this date in 1943. The former slave had become a renowned scientist, internationally recognized for his agricultural research, and was honored with numerous awards. Carver spent much of his career at what is now Tuskegee University, where he focused on helping farmers improve crop production and taught more efficient agricultural practices through conferences, demonstrations, lectures and traveling exhibits.

Carver is especially noted for creating more than 300 products from peanuts, such as a milk substitute, printer's ink and soap. He also developed more than 75 products from pecans, and more than 100 products from sweet potatoes, including flour, shoe polish and candy. Carver's work convinced many Southern farmers to grow these crops instead of cotton, providing them with new sources of income.

Maybe you have the same reaction as I have to Carver's achievements. It's amazing to think that someone could create 300 useful products from the lowly peanut. It's also impossible for our finite minds to grasp the fact that God created everything we see from nothing. The book of Genesis tells us how He started from scratch and created the infinite variety in our world and beyond simply with spoken commands. Revelation gives us a glimpse of heavenly creatures praising God and declaring that He is worthy to receive honor because He created all things.

Since we are created in God's image, as the Bible instructs, we have an inherent creative drive – just as did Carver. We find fulfillment in expressing our creativity, whether it's in our job, our hobbies, the arts or ingenious solutions to problems. Every day, in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, imagination and innovation are at work to make the service we provide to our residents better and better. Such accomplishments bring great personal satisfaction.

Any creative act we perform is an act of worship for the One Who placed that spark in us. Such a Creator can, and will, make something amazing out of our lives.

--Beecher Hunter