

Gardens Enclosed in Glass Are Fun to Make, Easy to Maintain

Terrariums--gardens enclosed in glass--are fun to make and easy to care for.

Any glass container that transmits light may be used--a globe, fish tank or large snifter.

Also, almost any house plant is suitable, especially those that like a high humidity. Plants most commonly used are African violet, maranta, begonia, coleus, croton, dracaena, ivy, peperomia, philodendron, pothos, and wandering Jew. But you can let your imagination be your guide and select any variety that will help make an interesting display.

As for actual construction, the U.S. Department of Agriculture gives the following step-

by-step instructions in its booklet:

Place a 1-inch layer of gravel, pebbles, broken flower pots, or charcoal in the bottom of the container. Dig moss from the woods and line the sides of the terrarium below the intended soil level, placing the mossy side against the glass.

Prepare a soil mixture of equal parts of garden soil, sand, and peat moss--enough for a layer 1-1/2 to 2 inches deep. Mound the soil to one side of the container to make a slope.

Use a long pair of tweezers--or sticks tied to tweezers--to put the plants in place. Try to avoid getting soil on the leaves. After the plants are in, clean the leaves with a dry brush. Then spray the plants and soil lightly with water.

Cover the container with a sheet of glass or piece of plastic film. Place the terrarium in a location where it has bright light but never any direct sunlight. Turn terrarium occasionally so plants will be straight.

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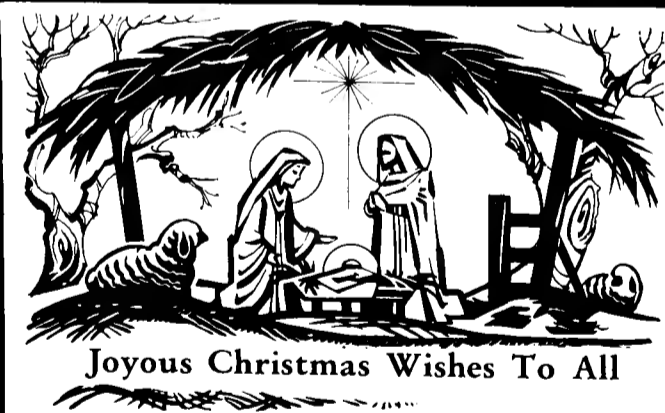
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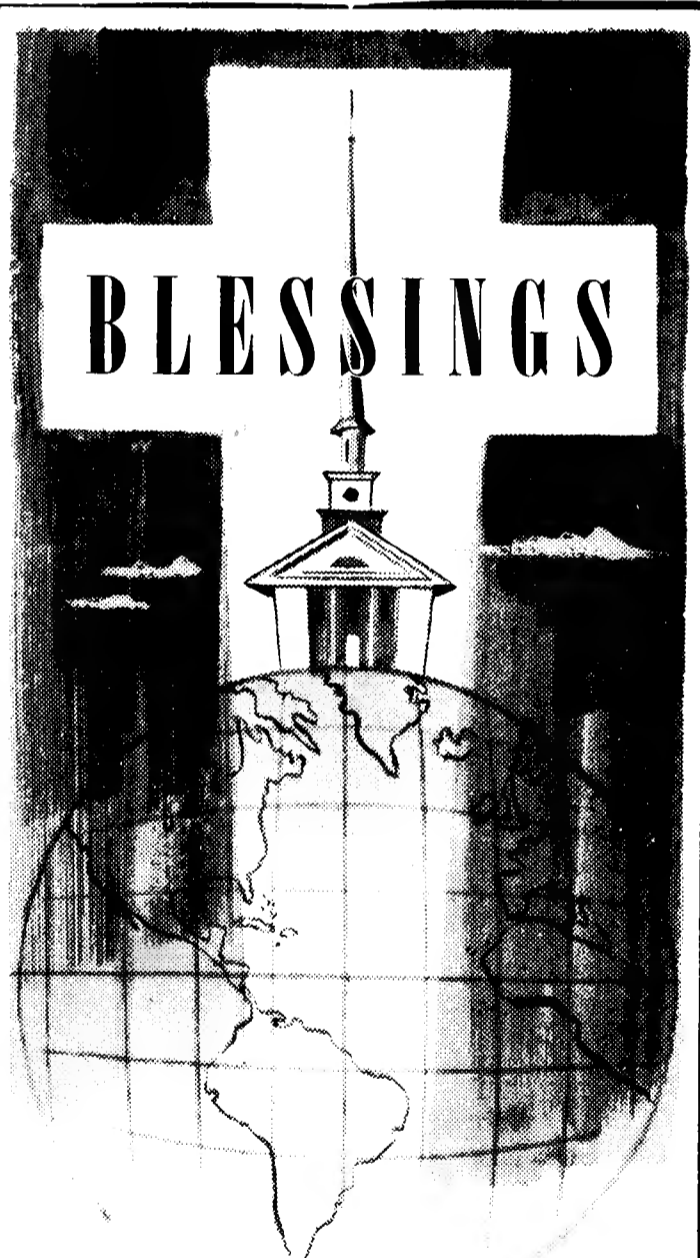
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