

Lent starts Feb. 22**Linda Olin's Lenten Study Is Available For Download**

NINEVEH – Is the Christian tradition of Lenten sacrifice irrelevant in today's self-indulgent world? Has giving something up for Lent become so routine as to be meaningless?

ChristianBibleStudies.com, whose parent organization is Christianity Today, is offering a fresh view of this old discipline in "Give It Up for Lent," a newly released Bible study by writer/artist Linda Bonney Olin of Nineveh.

Though not related to the currently popular Chicken Soup for the Soul publications, this study actually had its start during a Lenten Soup Supper Series presented in 2010 by an interdenominational cluster of churches in Nineveh, Harpursville, North Fenton and Sanitaria Springs.

For the program theme, the group decided to challenge participants to consider Lenten sacrifices that would go beyond personal self-denial, would glorify God and would do good in the world.

Acting in her capacity as a certified Lay Speaker at the

Harpursville United Methodist Church, Linda wrote and presented mini-lectures, discussion questions and humorous drama sketches for the series. Because this series was so well received, she subsequently wrote a more formal Bible study on the topic, so that it could be shared with other church groups.

"Through a providential sequence of events" Olin explains, "I had the opportunity to discuss the manuscript with a representative of Christianity Today International (the parent organization of ChristianBibleStudies.com) at the Montrose Christian Writers Conference in Montrose, Pa. Our resulting collaboration produced "Give It Up for Lent," a three-session study adapted to CIT's format, which does not include drama. They are publishing it as a downloadable file, rather than as hard copy booklets. This allows study groups to download the package from ChristianBibleStudies.com for one modest fee and simply print the number of copies needed

for leaders and participants."

Linda Bonney Olin's plays have been done in local churches including her home church and Circle Drive Alliance Church in Sidney. Her artwork has been shown locally and she continues to expand her writing horizons with songs as well as skits, dramas and studies.