

## Explore the Theme — Don't Take Seeds for Granted!

Brief reflections from different corners of the world on the value and wonder of seeds  
**for other "Explore the Theme" postings visit EXPLORE THE THEME**



Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

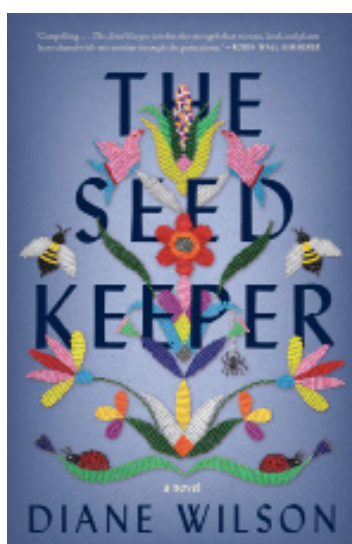
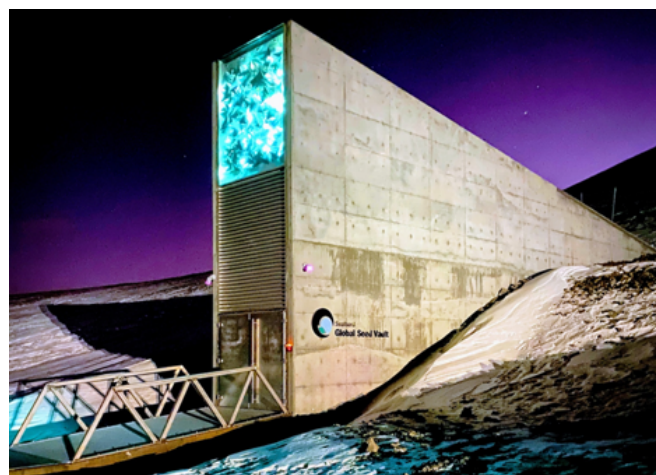
John 12: 20-26

### Don't take seeds for granted —

Adapted from **BIOWATCH, SOUTH AFRICA** for the **National Seed Event, 2016: SEED**: "a living organism that thinks, has knowledge and has incredible intelligence in itself, knowing exactly under what conditions to grow in order to **pass on life** through its fruits and new seeds. It passes on life to the **next generation**, just as we humans and other animals give birth to and nurture our own offspring. The **seed is living**, has both a body and a spirit, and derives **life** from the same source that we humans derive our **life** ... from the Great Spirit which in our various languages we call Mwari, God, Allah, Umvelinqangi etc. **It follows the very same life cycle as all other living things ... to be born, grow, die and give up life for the next generation to take over.**

What precious seeds do we SHCJ hold in our hands?

What sort of seeds is our world calling for?



The **GLOBAL SEED VAULT** in **Svalbard, NORWAY** provides a back-up to the network of **SEED BANKS** around the world which store, grow and replenish thousands of varieties of crops which can be threatened by war, accidents and natural disasters. There are more than a million samples stored there.

If a good yield is completely guaranteed, what new seeds would we sow boldly?

**THE SEED KEEPER**, recently published by Diane Wilson, is a novel about the importance of **seed keeping across 4 generations** of Native American women who have experienced austerity and discrimination through war and American Indian residential schools.