

## "Surprises in the Garlic"

I love farmer's markets. I just LOVE them! I love all the fresh produce and talking with the farmers. While I was in New Mexico this month, I relished purchasing beautiful strings of dried peppers, bunches of lavender, and braids of garlic. The back of my truck smelled so good. My daughter Eva unpacked the truck, as I put things away in the house. Suddenly Eva burst into the house yelling, "Mom! There is something ALIVE in the garlic bag!! Come fast!" I dropped everything and ran. In the corner of a bag, was a tiny tarantula who must have ridden in the back of that hot truck for 4 days. We scooped it into a jar and fed it a cricket. Now I have to tell you that this hitchhiker has been eating and thriving at our house for two weeks. We are not quite sure what to do with the thing but somehow we have found ourselves the keeper of a spider and the catcher of crickets.

Have you ever noticed how God surprises us with hitchhikers? We think we are doing one thing and we find ourselves with an unexpected surprise? I was thinking of the scripture "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44) The person THINKS they are buying the treasure hidden in the field but somehow now they are suddenly land owners. They will have to pay taxes, make improvements, and maybe become a farmer. All this makes me wonder if God's purposes are sometimes hidden in the "side issue". How often are we trying to achieve our goals and find ourselves accomplishing something on the side that we did not expect?

---submitted by Jackie Kendall-Gebel