**Nails**... solid and strong; rugged, yet reliable. Whether we can actually see them around us or not, they're everywhere! From the rafters above us – to the walls which surround us – to the floorboards beneath our feet. They hold things together, provide for stronger shelter, and allow us a more peaceful rest.

When you think about it, their size contradicts their strength. Like many things we tend to overlook in our world, they're small, yet undeniably powerful. And despite their size or visibility, they hold what matters most together.

Nails have held many important things in place over the centuries. Perhaps none are etched more deeply into our collective memories (and Spirits) than those which held Jesus to the cross. They are a very small part of a very big story, but they DID hold what mattered most together.

Those nails

... held Jesus' hands and feet securely to the wood at Calvary.

... held Him to His promise.

... held heaven to earth.

Those nails were exactly what this world needed to keep from falling apart.

Both Jesus and His father Joseph, a carpenter by trade, had to rely upon nails in order to faithfully build what it was they were meant to build in this life.

Joseph, by nailing wooden beams - one to another, created shelters and a resting place for the people of his time to love, and to call home.

Jesus, by being nailed to wooden beams, became a shelter and a resting place for the people of <u>all</u> time . . . to love, and to call home.

## A Sacred Scripture

"As far as the East is from the West, so far does He remove our transgressions from us." - Psalm 103:12

## An Intention

When I remember the strong and faithful NAILS that are holding my world safely around me, I will also remember the nails which held Jesus to the Cross . . . and whisper this prayer:

"In the arms of your mercy I find rest, because *You know* just how far the East is from the West . . . from one scarred hand to the other."

-Lisa Dreyer