



EMPOWER WOMEN NEWSLETTER

"Inspiring Confidence, Strength, and Unity"

JANUARY 2026

I AM My Sister's Keeper

GREETING FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DIANNA COLE

Happy New Year's greetings, Women of God! WOWEE! Look what our God has done, and how excited we are to have made it into the year 2026! A year of potential, new beginnings, fresh starts, and new opportunities to do more and be more than we did and were in 2025. This is the most exciting time, as we have a chance to revisit our dreams and fulfill more goals as we endeavor to grow in grace and reach higher heights and new depths. It is an amazing new season to continue to see miracles, signs, and wonders. It is a time to marvel as we see God's handiwork like we have never seen before.

There are many things that caught our attention in 2025, as we did see many miracles, signs, and wonders, just as we were told according to God's Word and as we saw in Jesus' ministry while on earth in scriptures such as Acts 2:22, 5:12, and Hebrews 2:4, to name a few. We were also witnesses to times of suffering, sacrifice, trials, tribulations, and even the loss of loved ones and friends. But through it all, God, through His Holy Spirit, kept and sustained us, even during times that seemed too much to bear. God has truly been good to all of us, and we each have a testimony and a story to tell. Now here we are in a new year and a new period. A change has come, and as we are reminded in Ecclesiastes 3:1–6, there is a time for everything.

I pray that at the start of this new year, you will embrace that this is your season of grace and favor, that God has much in store for you, and that all you suffered in 2025 was for your making and for your good. This will be the time when you reap the benefits of remaining faithful to God and walking by faith instead of faithlessness. Make up your mind that you are "not going to quit in 2026" and that this year you will walk in your newness of life (Romans 6:4). I am praying for you in 2026!

God's Servant,
Pastor Dianna



HEARING THE VOICE OF WISDOM

The Woman Who Calls to Us

One of the most striking images in Scripture is the way Wisdom is portrayed as a woman. Instead of presenting wisdom as a dry concept or a list of rules, the biblical writers give her a voice, a personality, and a presence. She becomes someone we can imagine—someone who speaks, invites, warns, and welcomes.

When the Bible describes Wisdom as a woman, it is making an important point: Wisdom is relational. She is not merely learned; she is known.

She calls out to people in the busiest places of life—not hidden in a quiet library or locked away in a temple, but standing

right in the middle of the city. Her voice is strong, confident, and full of compassion. She speaks like someone who deeply desires to guide others toward flourishing.

Her invitation is wide open: "Come, listen to me." She wants to be heard not only in moments of crisis, but in times of peace. Like a trusted friend, she longs to walk alongside anyone willing to build a relationship with her.

But she is honest, too. She warns of the pain that comes from ignoring her. Not because she delights in consequences, but because she knows how life works—how choices take shape, how character

forms, and how small decisions grow into habits. When Wisdom is ignored, she feels the ache of being pushed aside until she is convenient.

And yet, even then, she continues to call.

The Bible's portrayal of Wisdom as a woman reveals something tender and powerful:

Wisdom is not distant. She is near. She is speaking. She hopes to be known.

She offers guidance, peace, clarity, and a steadier way forward. And for anyone who chooses to listen, she becomes a lifelong companion—one who teaches us how to live with depth, integrity, and purpose.



Lady Wisdom



PEARLS BY MOTHER BOBBIE COLLINS KATES

Five things Jesus did NOT say.

1. Follow Your Heart.
2. Be True To Yourself.
3. Believe In Yourself.
4. Live Your Truth. Jesus said, "I am ...the Truth..." John 14: 6
5. As Long As You're Happy. Jesus said, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Mark 8: 36

For Christians, we have just come through the Christmas season, acknowledging the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Let's always remember that His coming to the earth was in vain, if we don't believe that every Word of the Bible can be read, memorized, and meditated upon, to make us better.

My prayer for you all in 2026 is:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13



SISTERHOOD

Hey Sis,

As we step into this new season, I've been sitting with Proverbs 3. The chapter introduces us to three powerful companions for the journey ahead—wisdom, love, and faithfulness—all rooted in a deep trust in the Lord. Since wisdom is the theme God has placed on my heart for 2026, I want us to intentionally invite her into our lives this year—not as an abstract idea, but as a daily presence shaping the women we are becoming.

I recently read something from Sister + Keeper about Becoming Her, and it resonated so deeply that I felt led to share it with you.

When we talk about **Her**, we're not talking about someone else. **Her is you.** She is the healed, confident, Spirit-led woman God designed you to be—aligned with her purpose, rooted in her identity, and walking boldly in the truth God speaks over her life.

But sis, let me be honest—*becoming Her is beautiful, and it's also uncomfortable.*

God transforms us from the inside out, and no one can do that work for us. I can encourage you, love you, and pray for you—but only you can choose surrender. Only you can say "yes" to the transformation God is inviting you into.

You cannot become Her while holding on to who you used to be. Those two versions of you cannot coexist. Releasing the old version of yourself often feels like grief—grieving the plans you made, the control you thought you had, and the comfort of what once felt familiar. I understand that deeply.

But sis, if you truly want to step into who God is calling you to be, letting go of the old is not optional. You cannot hold on to what was and expect God to do something new within you. Becoming Her requires choosing growth over comfort, surrender over control, and obedience over what once felt safe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- "INSPIRATION ON THE GO" — *Wednesdays, January 7th and 21st, at 5:30 PM CST.*
- "YES" Club King Day Celebration *at Nordlof Center in Rockford, IL, at 1:00 PM.*
- *6th Jurisdiction of Illinois Women's Department Prayer Breakfast at Mt. Olive COGIC, Aurora, IL, from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM.*
- "WISDOM AND YOU" (WAY) *L.I.F.E. (Living in Favor Everyday) Workshop — Live, Saturday, January 24th, at 3:00 PM.*
- *COGIC International Leadership Conference — Monday, January 26th through Thursday, January 29th. Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas.*

Because here's the truth: the version of you God is calling forward cannot rise while the old you is still holding the reins.

As a sisterhood, let's walk this journey of becoming together—encouraging one another, lifting each other up, and reminding ourselves that becoming Her is not about perfection, but about transformation. God already sees you as Her; now it's your turn to see it too.

I love you deeply, and I'm grateful to be becoming alongside you.

From my heart

to yours, Sis.

Sister Denise

