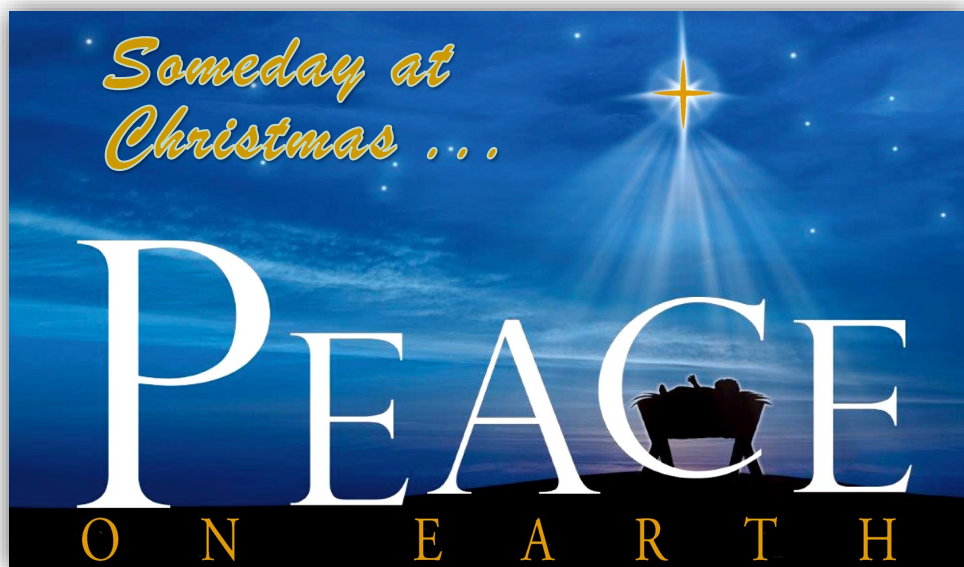




## *Sisters in the Spirit Ministries* **Newsletter**

*Empowerment for the Christian Woman*



**By Rev. Dr. Katrina White Brown**

*Someday at Christmas,  
There'll be no wars  
When we have learned  
What Christmas is for  
When we have found  
What life's really worth  
Then there'll be peace on earth*  
Stevie Wonder released the song "Someday at Christmas" in 1967. At the time, America was engaged in the highly controversial Vietnam War, and everyone just wanted peace. The lyrics filled my ambitious young heart with hope and anticipation because it made me feel as though peace on earth was really doable. Especially at Christmas, when hearts and minds are far more receptive to the idea of peace, love and goodwill more than at any other time of the year, my naïve spirit rejoiced for the time that those lyrics would be a reflection of our global reality. *Someday at Christmas,  
We'll see a land  
With no hungry children,  
No empty hand*

*One happy morning  
People will share  
A world where people care*  
These lyrics impacted me the most. I believed the words gave me a preview of the world that I wanted to live in - a world where everybody had enough to eat; where people treated each other the way they should be treated; and where the pain of war and hatred would be a thing of the past. I was hopeful that this would happen someday, and when it did, it would surely be at Christmas. 54 years after the song's release however, we are not only still engaged in highly controversial wars, but we are fighting battles on every imaginable front: our health, finances, future, and our very humanity. We're at global war with the deadly adversary COVID-19 and it's ever increasing variants. We are engaged in an escalating fight with racism, sexism, atheism, age-

***Continues on page 6***

## **20 SECONDS OF PRAISE**



Health officials recommend washing your hands frequently for a minimum of 20 seconds as a primary defense against germs. You can time this by singing the first verse and chorus of:

**Joy to the World**  
By Isaac Watts

*Joy to the World  
The Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart  
Prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and  
nature sing*

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**Merry  
Christmas**  
**From the Sisters  
in the Spirit Ministries  
Board of Directors**



**Rev. Dr. Katrina W. Brown**  
**Founder/President**  
**804-356-1721**

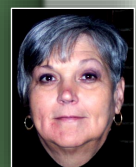


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*Sisters in the Spirit is  
an outreach ministry  
created to empower  
Christian women in  
better serving the Lord.  
We are here to help  
"equip God's people  
for works of service, so  
that the body of Christ  
may be built up ..."*

**Ephesians 4:12**



**I** read this post on Facebook: "women are abandoning the need to just come together and gossip. They are coming together to heal, grow, and prosper. This is the new sisterhood."

What does sisterhood really mean to you? By definition, biological sisters have at least one parent in common. Ironically, spiritual sisters can be defined the same way. We all share the DNA of God the Father.

While it is always an amazing blessing to have a close and loving relationship with a biological sister, unfortunately that's not always the case. Biological sisters really had no choice in their relationship - they were born into it. But spiritual sisters are in relationships by choice, and so it is purposed quite differently. Biological sisterhoods build family; spiritual sisterhoods build friends.

One of the greatest examples of this is found in the story of Ruth and Naomi. These two women were about as different as they could be - they were neither of the same ethnicity, culture, age, or experience, nor did they worship the same God. Yet, their relationship reveals a deep truth about sisterhood. "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." (Ruth 1:16-17)

In 21st century language, Ruth was Naomi's "ride or die" friend. Ruth was there for Naomi no matter what; it was how she demonstrated the tremendous love she had for her friend.

Jesus actually expresses love in terms of friendship. He said "there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." As sister friends, we lift each other up when we are down and out. We stand shoulder to shoulder together in unity to keep each other from falling through the gap. We carry one another when we aren't able to move under our own power. And we show each other the light of the Lord through our actions, especially when things seem dark and hopeless.

Sometimes sisterhood goes terribly wrong. At times we let the secular world drive us apart. We have all probably encountered mean and self-absorbed women at the workplace. Many of us have been victimized by envious and petty women in our lives. Friends have betrayed us; and we have betrayed them. Even in our churches and places of worship, women have been responsible for destroying others with gossip, petty arguments and power struggles.

*But the new sisterhood is transformative.*

We become intentional about thinking differently. When we think differently we act differently. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds. This gives us wisdom.

*The new sisterhood is encouraging.*

We gain strength, get motivated, and achieve the unexpected because "the God who gives endurance and encouragement gives [us] the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. This gives us compassion.

*The new sisterhood is all about God's love.*

We need the love of our spiritual sisters. Our sisterhood is an acknowledgement that we cannot and should not walk alone. By sharing our Christian values of faith, hope and love with one another, we also demonstrate the love Christ has for us.

In my spirit for you my dear Sisters, is that you experience the love of the new sisterhood in every relationship God blesses you to have with your spiritual sisters. Cherish the true friendships in your life. They, like Jesus, are a gift from God. Merry Christmas!

*Love, Peace, and Blessings Always,  
Katrina W. Brown*





# I'VE BEEN VAXXED, I'VE EVEN BEEN BOOSTED, BUT I STILL GOT COVID. WHAT'S GOING ON?

## BREAKTHROUGH COVID-19 CASES AND THE DELTA ANDOMICRON VARIANTS

**B**ernice called. "I'm sorry I won't be able to come and sing Christmas Carols with the group. I went out of town this weekend to celebrate a birthday with my family. I had no sooner gotten back when they called to let me know two of those at the party had tested positive for COVID-19. I don't understand it. The ones who got COVID-19 had been fully vaccinated. Anyway, I'm going to be in quarantine until my test comes back."

Rev. Bob, who is the Choir Director at his church, had to let the vocalists know that he wasn't going to be coming to church for a while. He had COVID-19. He had been vaccinated and had gotten his booster shot. Although Rev. Bob's church had been meticulous in maintaining COVID-19 protocols: consistently sanitizing everything; maintaining social distancing; requiring the wearing of masks at all times while in the building, he still contracted the virus, and probably while at church. Rev. Bob is in his late 70's; going back to in-person worship may not be possible for him until the Delta and Omicron variant spikes are more contained.

15-year old Morris had to put soccer on hold. Although he was among the first to get a shot when the vaccine became available to those under the age of 18, he still got COVID-19. Now, he has to spend his Christmas holidays in isolation from the family.

Although the names have to changed for the sake of privacy, these situations are quite real. These three people, and hundreds of others are concerned, confused, and compromised by COVID-19. They have been vaxxed and even boosted but they still got COVID-19 - what is going on?

The most important thing you need to know about COVID-19 is this - **THE VACCINES DO WORK.** The vaccines currently available are very effective in

doing what they are designed to do: preventing serious illness and death. Getting vaccinated is the first and best line of defense against a pandemic that, after almost two years, just won't go away.

The Delta, and now the Omicron variant are fueling severe outbreaks of COVID-19. Unfortunately, in a lot of communities, the most basic precautions such as the wearing of a mask and frequent hand washing and sanitizing surfaces have been relaxed. Large public venues have returned to hosting thousands of people without requiring any type of social distancing. As such, breakthrough cases of COVID-19 seem to be more prevalent than ever. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) however, breakthrough cases are to be expected. Even though the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at delivering immunity, no vaccine is 100% effective.

The CDC explained "a breakthrough case is when a person tests positive for COVID-19 at least two weeks after becoming fully vaccinated. This includes receiving a booster or third dose, if eligible." Infectious disease expert Steven Gordon, MD pointed out "throughout the pandemic, we've talked about flattening the curve, and the vaccine has effectively done that." Dr. Gordon, who is the Chairman of the Department of Infectious Disease at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio noted "these spikes in severe cases of COVID-19 are primarily among the unvaccinated, not among people who are fully vaccinated."

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A BREAKTHROUGH CASE?

Symptoms of a breakthrough case are the same as with typical COVID-19 cases. But people who are fully vaccinated and boosted are less likely to develop serious illness than those who are unvaccinated. "Many breakthrough cases are either asymptomatic or have symptoms that are far less severe than cases in unvaccinated patients," Dr. Gordon says. "The vaccine and booster are absolutely key here."

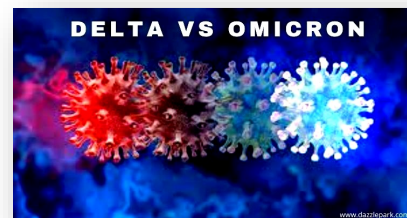
### HOW COMMON ARE BREAKTHROUGH CASES?

The CDC is collecting data on vaccine breakthrough infections, but because many breakthrough cases are asymptomatic or mild and aren't reported by

people, the total number of breakthrough cases is likely undercounted. "The CDC is however, keeping track of those breakthrough cases that result in hospitalization or death," Dr. Gordon says, "and that number is still small." The CDC has created a database to track these cases, and reports that a person who is unvaccinated is 10 times more likely to test positive for COVID-19 and 20 times more likely to die of COVID-19 than people who are vaccinated. In short, people who are fully vaccinated and boosted can experience breakthrough cases and exhibit symptoms of the illness. But the chances of contracting a serious illness remain far lower compared to people who are unvaccinated.

### WHY ARE BREAKTHROUGH CASES HAPPENING?

Again, no vaccine is 100% effective, so breakthrough cases have always been expected. Breakthrough cases can come from all COVID-19 variants, but right now, most seem to be from the Delta and Omicron variants.



"The Delta variant is more transmissible than previous variants of the COVID-19 virus, and the Omicron variant seems to be, too," Dr. Gordon says. Worldwide, cases from these two variants are dominating the upswing in COVID-19 infections.

### OMICRON VARIANT

First reaching the United States in December 2021, the Omicron variant has since spread quickly and contributed to the rise in breakthrough cases. The CDC says it believes that anyone with an Omicron infection can spread the virus to others — even if they're vaccinated or asymptomatic. Research is ongoing about how easily Omicron spreads, what treatments are effective against it, and more.

*Continues on page 5*





# Looking for



Just for Fun

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LIGHTS  
MYRRH  
POINSETTA  
VIRGIN MARY

BABY JESUS  
DECORATIONS  
GARLAND  
HOLLY  
MANGER  
NATIVITY  
SAVIOR  
WISE MEN

BETHLEHEM  
EMMANUEL  
GIFTS  
JINGLE BELLS  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
NOEL  
SHEPHERDS  
WREATH

CANDLE  
FRANKINCENSE  
GLORIA  
JOSEPH  
MESSIAH  
ORNAMENTS  
STABLE  
YULETIDE



# I'VE BEEN VAXXED. I'VE EVEN BEEN BOOSTED, BUT I STILL GOT COVID-19. WHAT'S GOING ON?

*Continued from page 3*

## DELTA VARIANT

The CDC reports that the Delta variant, which accounted for over 83% of U.S. cases in July 2021, is more transmissible than previous variants of the COVID-19 virus. "The Delta variant is at least twice as contagious as previous variants," says Dr. Gordon.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET A BREAKTHROUGH COVID-19 CASE

If you or someone in your home gets sick with a breakthrough COVID-19 case, the best course of action is to isolate as much as possible. This is especially true if anyone in your home is unvaccinated. If isolation isn't possible, try to keep air circulating as much as possible and wear masks while indoors. The CDC currently says that patients who self-isolate are OK to end that isolation 10 days after the onset of symptoms and, if there is fever, 24 hours after the fever breaks. If you are fully vaccinated and develop a fever, feel ill, or experience any symptom that is not typical for you, getting a COVID-19 test may be a good idea. For instance, if your allergies seem worse than usual or you experience a headache or mild cough when you normally don't have one, talk to your doctor about being tested for COVID-19.

If you suspect you might have breakthrough COVID-19 keep in mind that if you are infected, you can transmit the coronavirus to another person. While you are waiting to be tested or to get your test results, isolate yourself from others to the extent possible and follow coronavirus precautions such as mask wearing, physical distancing and hand sanitation hygiene to protect those around you. "The good news", Dr. Gordon says, "is that breakthrough cases for vaccinated individuals are rarely serious and usually relatively mild — underscoring why it's so essential that every eligible person gets vaccinated and boosted."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING VACCINATED AND GETTING THE BOOSTER

The highly transmissible nature of the Delta and Omicron variants proves how critical it is to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. "The vaccines available in the United States are effective against COVID-19," Dr. Gordon says, "and the two-shot mRNA vaccines, in particular, are effective against all variants of concern to date. That means making sure you get both doses of the two-shot mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) and then getting your booster or third dose as soon as you're eligible."

## WHO IS MOST AT RISK FOR BREAKTHROUGH COVID-19?

Although any fully vaccinated person can experience a breakthrough infection, people with weakened immune systems caused by certain medical conditions or treatments (including organ transplants, HIV and some cancers and chemotherapy) are more likely to have breakthrough infections. The CDC recommends that patients with weakened immune systems receive an additional, or third, dose of the COVID-19 vaccine 28 days or later after their second shot to strengthen their protection against the coronavirus. Ask your doctor if you are living with a medical condition or receiving treatment that puts you at risk for a lowered immune system, and if getting a third vaccine is appropriate.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE DELTA ANDOMICRON VARIANTS

Even after you've received the vaccine, Dr. Gordon says the best course of action is to keep wearing masks and taking other precautions. "You can cut down on risk factors by wearing masks, especially indoors with other people around," he says. Continue to follow all safety precautions - masking, distancing and hand sanitizing hygiene - while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Resources for this article include excerpts from the following articles:

*The Possibility of COVID after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections*  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

*What You Need to Know About Breakthrough COVID-19 Cases*  
Cleveland Clinic - [health.clevelandclinic.org/breakthrough-covid-cases/amp](https://health.clevelandclinic.org/breakthrough-covid-cases/)

*What Vaccinated People Should Really Know About the Delta Variant's Threat to Them* by Susan Matthews - [msn.com](https://www.msn.com)



## THE PEAR TREE AND THE SEASONS OF LIFE

**T**here was once a man who had four young sons. Wanting to teach them about the dangers of judging things too rapidly, he decided to send each of them on a journey, one after the other, to a distant pear tree.

Each son went in a different season, the first in winter, the second in spring, and so on. At the end of the year he brought his children together and asked them what they had seen.

The son who'd travelled in winter described a gnarled, twisted, and barren tree that stood stark and ugly against the land.

The son who went in spring disagreed. No, he said, the tree seemed full of hope and promise, with green buds along its branches. The third son, who'd travelled in summer, disagreed once more. The pear tree he'd seen was covered in beautiful blossom that looked and smelled divine.

Finally, the last son, who'd made the journey in fall, disagreed again, describing a tree laden with sweet and delicious pears that tasted better than any he'd eaten before.

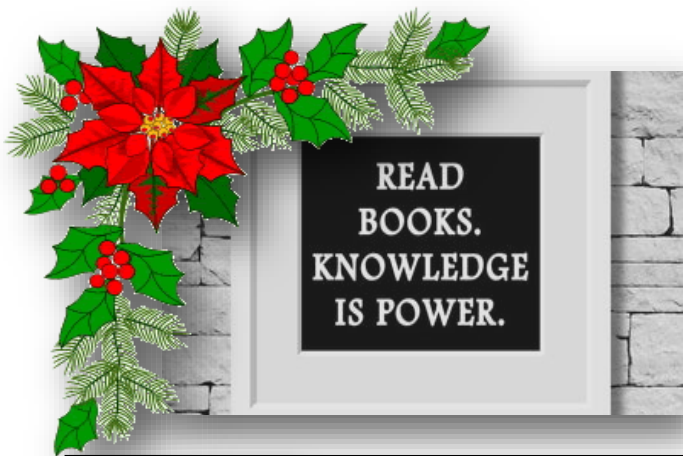
When each son had spoken, the father said that they were all correct, but they had only seen but one season of the pear tree's life.

He explained to his sons that it's foolish and impossible to judge something in this manner. He said "the essence of something, whether it's a tree or their fellow man, can only be measured as a whole, when it is seen in its fullness. To make your judgment in winter is to miss the promise of spring, the beauty of summer, and the fruit in fall."

Just as the tree's fullness couldn't be determined based on one season, refuse to judge yourself, life, or other people based upon one thing: whether that be a single mistake or challenging time. Refuse to let the pain of one season destroy the joy of those seasons to come.

Mistakes do not define us. Who we were yesterday is neither who we are today, nor who we will be tomorrow. Perception is not reality when we operate under God's authority. "For the Lord sees not as humans see. Humans look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

(1 Samuel 16:7)



# Someday at Christmas ...

*Continued from page 1*

ism, narcissism ... the raging battle goes on. And hate seems to never take a break: it is becoming even more prevalent during Christmastime. There is a marked increase in thief, illegal scams, and violence. According to statistics recorded in the Gun Violence Archive database, 69 people have died in mass shootings just during November and first two weeks of December 2021. But if we are to see peace on earth however, it will have to be at Christmas — the time when God's amazing love, grace, and mercy manifested on earth in real time. However, we have to enlarge the Christmas territory. We must stop limiting Christmas to one season. Instead, we should embrace the Christmastime attitude of peace, joy, and love throughout the entire year; not just in December.

It has long been argued that Jesus was not born during the time that we traditionally celebrate Christmas. Historians and theologians surmise the date for Christmas was primarily chosen as a convenience. The time frame lined up with the celebration of a pagan holiday used to observe the winter solstice. The holiday was celebrated as the Roman pagan solstice, or "birthday of the unconquered sun," which began on December 17 and ended December 25.

The scriptures however, help us determine when Jesus was really born. The presence of shepherds watching over their flocks is an indication that Jesus was born during a month warmer than December. Luke 2:8 tells us "*And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.*" Since the shepherds were living in the fields with their sheep, it means that Jesus was born within the range of time when the shepherds would have driven their sheep into the open fields and stayed with them. This occurred from May to October.

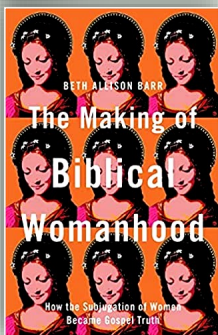
Luke's Gospel gives us further information. "*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*" (Luke 1:26-27) This is an indication that Jesus' birth took place in either September or March.

Also, Jesus was born during the time of the census. Luke writes that Joseph and Mary were travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for the census. According to the patterns of weather in that region, the most reasonable time for a census undertaking would have been in the non-rainy season from May to October.

The Bible does not specifically tell us the date of Jesus' birth. Regardless of the date, one truth is clear; Jesus is the reason for the season. Jesus was God's gift of love to bring life to a dying world desperate for hope and in need of salvation.

Our "someday" should be today and every day. We should never wait until Christmastime to give "Glory to God in the highest" and to show "peace, and good will toward men." (Luke 2:14) Why not do the same things we typically do at Christmas during every month of the year? Yes, we do need to "give love on Christmas Day" but also on every other day as well. We need to always remember that "Jesus is the Light of the World" who breaks the darkness of sin, not through His birth, but because of His death and resurrection. We need to open our hearts to those in need at all times, instead of just remembering them at Christmas. It is one of the best ways to show God's love; when you have love, it's Christmas all year long.

*Someday at Christmas, man will not fail  
Hate will be gone and love will prevail  
Someday a new world that we can start  
With hope in every heart.* Let's make our "someday at Christmas" be this day - and every day.



## THE MAKING OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD BY BETH ALLISON BARR

This book addresses some of the difficult bible verses that are used by some, to silence and subjugate women. For example, Beth Allison Barr

looks closely at scriptures from 1 Corinthians 11, 1 Timothy 2, and Ephesians 5 (among others), which were written during the time of Roman rule. In the Roman culture women were treated as property and not considered as equal to men. Roman patriarchy was explicitly written in their laws and in their household codes. The author details how instead of bowing to this culture of oppression, Paul (the author of many of these contentious verses) was telling us that a life in Christ means to behave in the exact opposite way!

These verses often seem like a contradiction to the overall message of the Bible and the life of Jesus, but *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* carefully lays out how these verses weren't intended to contradict the messages of freedom we all have - men and women - in Christ but rather to amplify and celebrate it.

The book is a useful resource in providing historical evidence of the origins of Christian patriarchy. Barr makes the point that sadly, some people's idea of what it is like to be a woman in Christ only mimics the sinful ways of the secular world.

Barr demonstrates that "the subjugation of women is not a timeless Godly principle" as some may claim. She explains that Christian patriarchy changes over history to suit the prevailing politics, understanding of science, or to support a prosperous lifestyle.

One thing this book lacks is what the Bible actually says about women. Barr does not look at the scriptures outside the filter of patriarchy. But she makes a strong case for Christians to stop supporting Christian patriarchy, and it is a good read for anyone who is willing to re-think the belief that the Bible teaches male headship.

*The Making of Biblical Womanhood* creates optimism for the future - when women are no longer left out of the church's narrative and leadership and are treated the way Jesus and to the same extent, Paul, treated women rather than how the church's history has treated them.

*The Making of Biblical Womanhood* is available online at Amazon.com. Review reprinted from Amazon.com



# Christmas Joy Comes to the Residents of the Walter Reed Convalescent Center

Sisters in Spirit was blessed to present all 127 residents of the Walter Reed Convalescent Center in Gloucester, VA with Christmas Gift Bags that included socks, assorted toiletries, puzzle books, and inspirational writings. Board members sang carols, conducted Bible study, and personally distributed the gift bags to the resident rooms. To God be the Glory!



Special thanks to Bethel Baptist Church in Gloucester, VA for providing space to pack the Gifts Bags being worked on by Calisse Manning, Pat Jarvis, Sandy Thornton, and Barbara Foster.



Pat Jarvis merrily singing, even through her mask.



Board members Sandy Thornton and Calisse Manning prepare to distribute the Gift Bags



## HELP SUPPORT SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES

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- Publishing the newsletter
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- The Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway
- The Christmas Blessing Program
- The Senior Food Program
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P.O. Box 649

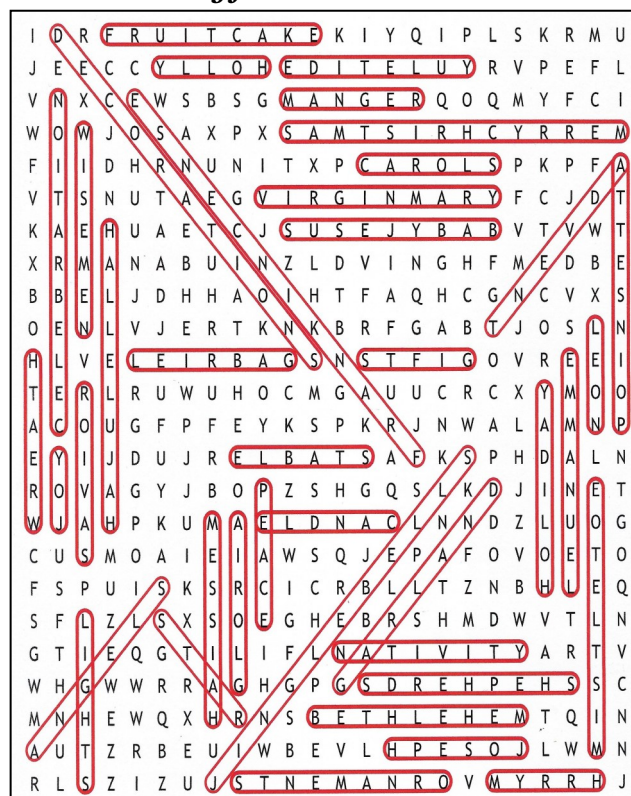
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Or Cash App \$SntheS

Contributions of \$30 or more will receive a Sisters in the Spirit Ministries tee shirt.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Looking for Christmas answers





Join **Sisters in the Spirit Ministries** on the  
2nd Monday of every month at the  
Walter Reed Convalescent Center for the



10:30 am - 11:30 am

7602 Meredith Drive \* Gloucester, VA 23061

*It's Hallelujah Good Time!*



## Sisters in the Spirit Newsletter

This is a free monthly publication by **Sisters in the Spirit Ministries, Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to empower women in their knowledge and authority, to better operate in their God-given purpose.

**Editor:** Dr. Katrina W. Brown

The newsletter is distributed via mail and online throughout the United States and U.S. Territories.

Visit our website:

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## SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS AND BLESSINGS ...

Our newest feature is a "letters to the editor" column. This is your time and space to share whatever comments about the newsletter with our readers. Please send your

**THOUGHTS AND BLESSINGS** to

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Gloucester Point, VA  
23062

**OR**

Email to  
[sistersnthespiritministries@gmail.com](mailto:sistersnthespiritministries@gmail.com)  
or  
[kawbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:kawbrown@yahoo.com)

*"Every time I think of you,  
I give thanks to my God."  
Philippians 1:3*

# THE LAST LAUGH



## WAITING FOR THE RIGHT BUS

A beautiful young lady was visiting Washington DC for the first time. All of her life, her fondest desire was to see the Capitol Building. She walked around, block after block, after block—seemingly for hours, but she still couldn't find the Capitol Building. Finally she flagged down a police car. She explained to the officer that all her life she had wanted to see the Capitol Building but that she was about to give up on her dream because "I can't seem to find the building anywhere. I've been walking and walking, and even though I know its got to be around here somewhere, I just can't find it" she said with a tearful voice.

The officer listened compassionately to her as she told her story. But he realized that although she was beautiful, the young lady was not to bright. She had actually been walking around in circles for hours looking for the Capitol Building, even though it was just a few blocks away. The officer said "you're not far away, but don't worry about walking. You're at a bus stop. Wait right here for the number 54 bus, and it will take to right to the Capitol," he said. "Oh thank you, thank you," she exclaimed. "I can't wait to finally see the Capitol."

Three hours later the police officer came back to the same area and sure enough the young lady was still waiting at the bus stop. The officer got out of his car and said "excuse me Miss, but three hours ago I told you to wait for the number 54 bus to get to the Capitol. Why are you still here?" The young lady excitedly said, "oh, don't worry officer. It won't be long now. The 45th bus just went by!"

## LET THE CONGREGATION SAY AMEN

A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the preacher's family expanded, so would his paycheck. After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the preacher's expanding salary.

A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the clergyman's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost. After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us." Silence fell over the congregation; nobody said a word. Finally from the back pew of the church, a little old lady struggled to stand. When she spoke in her frail voice she said "rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers." The entire congregation said "Amen!"

## CARING IS SHARING

An elderly couple walked into a McDonald's Restaurant one cold winter night, where they definitely looked out of place. The restaurant was filled with young couples and families with small children. The old woman went to sit at a table; the old man went up to the counter and placed his order for one hamburger, one order of small fries, and one drink. At the table, he carefully divided the hamburger in two; counted an equal number of fries between them; and after he took one sip of the drink, he passed it to his wife and she took a sip.

As the man began to take bites of his half of the burger, the expression on everyone's face indicated their thinking—"poor old couple, all they can afford is one meal for the two of them." Finally a young man went up to the couple and offered to buy them another meal. The old man politely refused and said they were just fine. "We are used to sharing everything." The young man kept watching the couple and he noticed that the old woman wasn't eating anything at all. She just sat there watching her husband eat, and occasionally take sips of the drink. Again, the young approached the couple, this time telling the old woman that he would be happy to buy them another meal. This time the old lady politely said no and explained that they were just fine. "We are used to sharing everything," she said. As the old man finished his meal and was neatly wiping his face with a napkin, the young man could stand it no longer. Again, he approached the elderly couple and offered to buy them some food. After politely being refused a third time, he finally asked a question of the old lady.

"Ma'am, why aren't you eating? You said that you shared everything. What is it that you are waiting for?" She answered ... "the teeth!"