

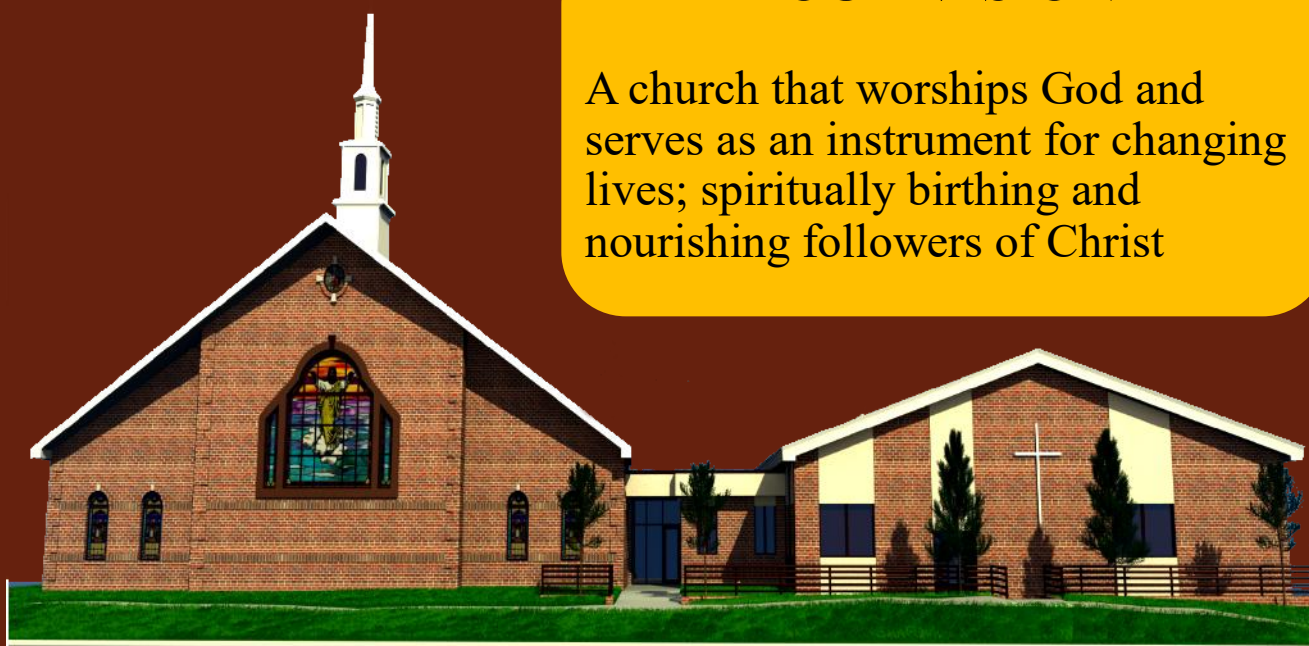
Oak City News

March 2025 ~ Volume 22 ~ Issue 1

Oak City Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.
Pastor

OUR VISION

A church that worships God and serves as an instrument for changing lives; spiritually birthing and nourishing followers of Christ



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From The Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.

Ten Commandments About Pastors

My brothers and my sisters, I wrestled with whether or not to submit this article to the Communications Committee for publication, and as you see, I finally decided to do so. It is an interesting article, and one I find quite true. Read it and see if you agree! Ten Commandments About Pastors!

A good pastor lives, "where the rubber meets the road." Here are ten practical suggestions that will help him/her, if you choose to do so.

- 1) Don't heap upon your pastor a problem or major question just before it's bedtime or just before it's time to enter the pulpit.
- 2) Don't give a sympathetic ear to every little gripe or criticism of your pastor or the church.
- 3) Don't live your life so as to add to the heavy burden of concern he/she already carries.
- 4) Don't force him/her to do all of the visiting, calling, and soul winning.
- 5) Don't expect your pastor to be the janitor, carpenter, painter, yard man, and general errand boy for the church.
- 6) Don't falsely assume that a pastor can't become discouraged by worldliness, laziness, indifference and lukewarmness among God's people.
- 7) Don't insult your pastor's intelligence by supposing that he/she can't see through the shallow excuses offered.
- 8) Don't conclude that because your pastor prays for and deals strongly with your sins, that he/she isn't aware of his own shortcomings as well. He/she needs your prayers as well.
- 9) Don't get such an exalted view of a pastor that, if he/she fails, you conclude that "no one can really live the Christian life." The pastor/preacher is not your example, JESUS is.
- 10) Don't think that a compliment on his/her sermon is a sufficient response. The pastor would rather you say nothing and did something.

Taken from Maranatha

In humble submission,
Pastor Newkirk



Impressions by the First Lady

Catherine White Newkirk

Lessons from the Valleys

As a child, I often feared listening to stories in which valleys were the setting and the morals only implied desperation. Gleaming through various definitions of valley, I feel the following shares the clearest meaning: "An elongated space between ranges of hills or mountains, often with a river flowing through it. It sounds like an awesome place to be while exploring nature at its best.

Various artists and inspired writers of the "Holy Word" have penned what I call "character building" experiences while one may be in a valley season of his/her life. The Twenty-Third Psalm, one of my favorites, and the other song Lily In The Valley share the "growth, pruning, and deliverance" that is

available to all. Most of all, God is there offering all of His characteristics/attributes for the asking and seeking. Love, peace, joy, and healing are only a tip of the iceberg when considering what God has to offer.

The following poem/prayer, which I found among my readings, shares why we should welcome "Valley experiences" realizing we will come out stronger and better prepared to be a witness to someone else. Let go of all that is hindering you from God's blessings that have your name on them. We have to let go and let God before we can be effectively used by Him.

Imagine the instrumental of: Peace In The Valley being played as you read.

It's In The Valleys I Grow

By: Jane Eggleston

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble and woe
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate God's love
And would be living in vain.

I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My Lord will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing
When I picture Christ on the cross
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was Satan's loss.

Forgive me Lord, for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, Lord
And use my life each day
To share your love with others
And help them find their way.

Thank you for valleys, Lord
For this one thing I
know
The mountain tops
are glorious
But it's in the
valleys I grow!

Pressing on by the
Grace of God.
Lady K



God's, Commandments to Love

Discipleship Ministry

This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Jesus's response is applicable to believers in every generation. How we treat other matters, how we treat others reflects our relationship with God. When we treat others with kindness, we are also treating God with kindness. The focus of this parables is on loving every person and serving anyone we can. Such love for others glorifies God by reflecting our love for him. Our love for others should extend beyond the household of faith; we should have compassion for all humankind. We serve God by serving those around us, we love God by loving other. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. God did not make us little islands set apart to ourselves. He made us to be in



relationships---to live with, lean on, and love one another as we go through this life.

Jesus, open our hearts to all people who enter our lives, showing them Christlike love and godly hospitality. Help us to make everyone we meet feel the warm welcome of your love. In Jesus Name Amen!

Referencing Scriptures

Matthew: 25:36-40



Inspirational Thoughts

Communications Committee

Bible Verses to Inspire you!

Below are some inspirational bible verses the Communications Committee would like to share with you. We hope that they inspire you and help you as they have helped us. God's continued Blessings.

Sister Xenia Pigford

Romans 8:36-39

36As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

Jeremiah 29:11-13

11For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (NKJV)

Sister Cheryl Lucas

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (ESV)

Deacon Richard H. Jones

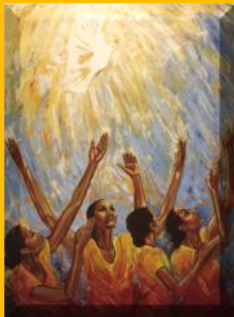
Philippians 3:13: Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. 14: I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Sister Alice B. McCoy

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

Psalms 23 1-6 (NKJV) — My grandmother would recite the entire chapter and have all of us say it also during trouble times, especially when there was a storm.



These are only a few verses we wanted to share with you. God is with us always. He is just a pray away!



Deaconess Sherine Vernon

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (KJV)

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (NIV)

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (KJV)

Sister Glenda D. Sandlin

Psalms 91 1-16 (Entire Chapter—she read it every morning to start her day)

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. (NIV)

Sister Angela Bailey

Psalms 27:1-2 - The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. (NIV)



Sunday School Lessons



Sunday School Lessons

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
Sunday School Ministry

Spring - 2025

Tabernacle, Sacrifices, and Atonement

March 2 A Kingdom of Priests, A Holy Nation	Exodus 19:1–14
March 9 A Space for God	Exodus 25:1–9; 26:1, 31–37
March 16 The Ordination of Priests	Exodus 29:1–9, 35–37
March 23 Offering a Sweet Aroma to God	Leviticus 1:3–17
March 30 The Day of Atonement	Leviticus 16:11–19

Christ’s All-Sufficient Sacrifice

April 6 Christ’s Once-for-All Sacrifice	Hebrews 9:23–10:4, 11–14, 19–25
April 13 Christ, the Atoning Sacrifice	1 John 2:1–6; 4:9–17
April 20 Christ Dies and Rises to New Life	Matthew 27:39–40, 45–54; 28:1–10
April 27 The Lamb Is Worthy	Revelation 5:1–10

Special Offerings and the Sanctuary

May 4 David’s Sacrifice	1 Chronicles 21:14–30
May 11 Solomon Dedicates the Temple	2 Chronicles 7:1–7, 11
May 18 Worship Is Restored	Ezra 3:1–6, 10–13
May 25 A Covenant Renewal	Nehemiah 10:28–39



Vacation Bible School

"SAVE THE DATE"



**Vacation Bible School 2025
June 17th - June 20th @ 6:30 PM
Oak City Baptist Church**

Theme: GOD'S LABORATORY: FUSING ELEMENTS FOR EXPLOSIVE JOY

Theme Scripture: "These things I have spoken to you, that MY joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11,NKJV)

Motto: I've Got Joy!

Oak City Baptist Church Homecoming and Church Anniversary



Oak City Baptist Church 160th Homecoming and Church Anniversary Sunday, October 26, 2025

**Theme: Honoring Our Past, Harvesting Our Blessings, and
Embracing Our Future**

**Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares
the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to
harm you, plans to give you hope and a
future.”**

**Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not become weary in doing good, for
at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we
do not give up.”**

**The 2025 Homecoming and Church Anniversary Committee is
busy planning activities leading up to Homecoming Sunday
2025. More details to follow!**

Oak City Baptist Church New Members

M. Elaine Hopkins / Lauretta Barrett

Jeremiah 29:11

"God has plans for young people to prosper and give them hope and a future".

How good it is to present a group of new, youth members. As we extend warmth and welcome them, may we do this by reflecting the love and generosity of our Lord and Savior.

Questions and answers are the method used for our youth.

Carter Townes

(Interviewer) **Which season do you like the best and why?**

(Carter) *I really like Winter and Summer. Because during Winter we can go outside and make a snowman just like we just finished doing. Summer we can go to the beach, stay in hotels and sleep.*

(Interviewer) **Tell me about your family and your favorite thing to do with your family.**

(Carter) *My favorite things to do with my family are to watch them work, eat breakfast and dinner together and spend time with our grandma and Pa Pa.*

(Interviewer) **When was your most enjoyable time at church?**

(Carter) *Oh my God, to be honest, I don't even know. The reason I can't say is because during Easter time. There have been so many different experiences we get at Oak City Baptist Church.*

(Interviewer) **What is one very important quality about a teacher? Why?**

(Carter) *A very important quality of a teacher is supposed to teach us, and we learn since that's what they went to school to do.*

(Interviewer) **How do you prefer working, alone or in a group?**

(Carter) *It depends on whether I have a good group. If I don't have a good group, I would try to work with them.*

(Interviewer) **How do you think they should improve schools? Why?**

(Carter) *They should improve their math and reading. For reading to learn better how to sound out to follow instructions. Without math you cannot do 4x4 and solve problems. Such as "Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally" (steps, for solving a problem).*

(Interviewer) **What would you like to be involved in at church?**

(Carter) *I would like to be involved with being in the pulpit to do the reading of the divine word.*

(Interviewer) **Would you prefer to be smart or popular?**

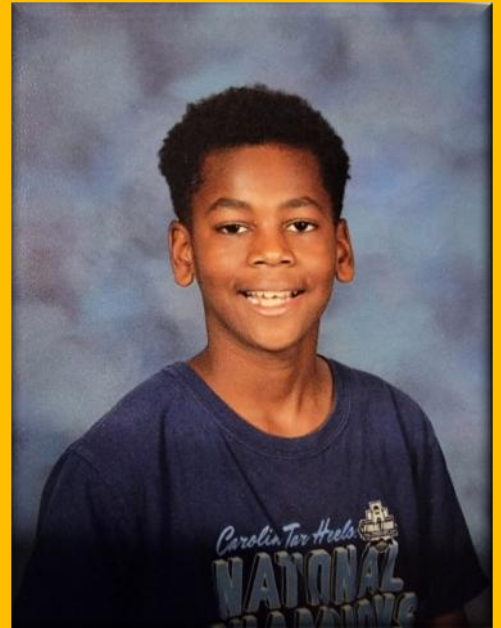
(Carter) *I would prefer to be popular...my name would be on Google. I would search me up every day!*

(Interviewer) **Where is your idea of a dream vacation? Why?**

(Carter) *My idea of a dream vacation would be to go to Texas where the Community of Fish is located. Isn't that the largest state? Would you leave your family? No, I would take them with me.*

(Interviewer) **What is something that you are passionate about that you really want to get involved in at church?**

(Carter) *Keeping my choir up and getting them where they are supposed to be and trying to be the leader.*



Oak City Baptist Church New Members Continued

Korizma Miracle Love

(Interviewer) **Why do you think it is important to eat well?**

Korizma *If you don't eat healthy, your teeth may fall out and you have to go to the dentist.*

(Interviewer) **What do you like most about your school?**

Korizma *I like when we do math...because sometimes in reading it is hard for me. That's why I like math.*

(Interviewer) **What excites you most about church?**

Korizma *Our Christmas party!*

(Interviewer) **What would you like to do in church and why?**

Korizma *I like to sing and I'm in the choir.*

(Interviewer) **Which do you enjoy most: in school or virtual learning?**

Korizma *I like in-school better because my teacher is right there to help me if I need it. Then I will get it right.*

(Interviewer) **What do you like most about yourself?**

Korizma *I like most about myself is I feel good in my body and I'm told I'm cute.*

(Interviewer) **What do you like to do during your free time?**

Korizma *During my free time I enjoy drawing and coloring.*



Oak City Baptist Church New Members Continued

Marcuz Deashawn Hargrove

(Interviewer) **What is something you are really passionate about?**

(Marcuz) *I am passionate about my family because they mean the world to me.*

(Interviewer) **Have you made someone smile recently? Explain.**

(Marcuz) *I made my mom happy when I got out of bed and gave her a hug.*

(Interviewer) **Describe your most memorable time at church.**

(Marcuz) *My most memorable moment at Church was when Pastor was talking about young life and everybody praised the kids who went up for baptism.*

(Interviewer) **Share something that brings you the most joy?**

(Marcuz) *My baby brother gives me much joy.*

(Interviewer) **What is your favorite family tradition?**

(Marcuz) *My favorite family tradition is on Fridays when we eat pizza and ice cream.*

(Interviewer) **What are three words that describe your teacher?**

(Marcuz) *My teacher is helpful; she is cute and incredible.*

(Interviewer) **What do you like to do in your free time?**

(Marcuz) *I like to build Lego's during my free time.*

(Interviewer) **If you could take a cruise around the world, who would be the one person you would invite with you?**

(Marcuz) *I would take my family on a cruise around the world, or I wouldn't go.*

(Interviewer) **What do you consider among the most important things in the World?**

(Marcuz) *I think God is among the most important thing in my life because He is my Father and my Savior.*

(Interviewer) **Did you enjoy virtual or in-person learning? Why?**

(Marcuz) *I love virtual learning because I love staying home and having more time with my mom.*

(Interviewer) **What else do you enjoy doing in church?**

(Marcuz) *I enjoy sitting in the choir stand.*



Oak City Baptist Church New Members Continued

Kortez Marcelluz Love

(Interviewer) **What do you think makes a person look good?**

(Kortez) *I believe a person's personality makes them look good.*

(Interviewer) **What was one of the nicest things you've done for someone else?**

(Kortez) *One of the nicest things I've done for someone else was to cheer them on when they did something good.*

(Interviewer) **Do you have a talent or special skill/interest you'd like to share?**

(Kortez) *My talents are running and catching in football.*

(Interviewer) **What makes you the happiest about having a family?**

(Kortez) *I'm happiest about having a family because we can go to the park, play games, and enjoy snowy days like we did today.*

(Interviewer) **If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

(Kortez) *If I could travel anywhere in the world, it would be to talk to God in my dream. I want to study and learn more about Him.*

(Interviewer) **If you inherited a lot of money, how would you spend it?**

(Kortez) *I wouldn't spend the money on myself. Instead, I would donate it to homeless groups, providing them with clothes and assistance to the poor.*

(Interviewer) **What is your favorite thing to do in the world?**

(Kortez) *My favorite things to do are playing football and basketball with my brothers.*

(Interviewer) **What excites you most about church?**

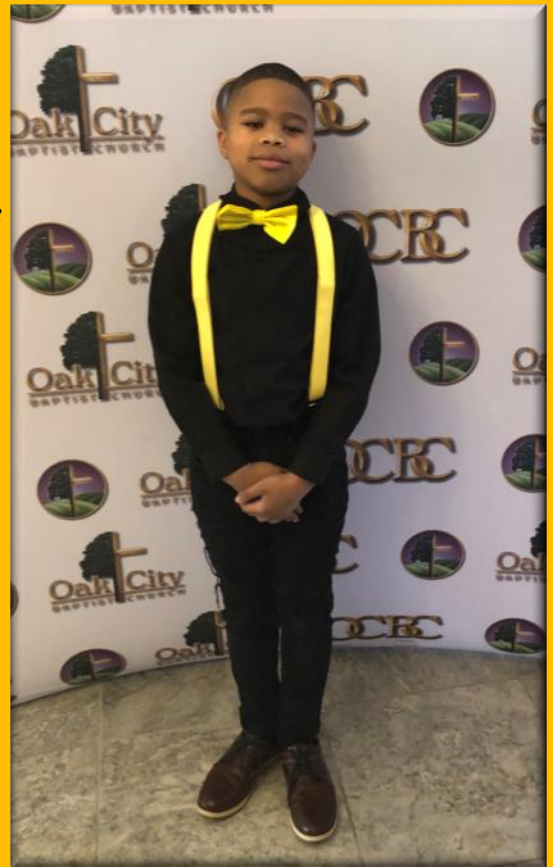
(Kortez) *It excites me when we go to Children's Church and choir practice.*

(Interviewer) **If you could relive 1 day in your life, what day would it be?**

(Kortez) *My favorite thing to do is return to my friend Craig's birthday party and give him some Pokémon games.*

(Interviewer) **How do you enjoy spending time with your family?**

(Kortez) *I enjoy spending time with my family by listening to the divine reading.*



Oak City Baptist Church New Members Continued

Martez Deshawn Hargrove

(Interviewer) **Martez, with you being the oldest child, tell me what it is like to take the lead in situations like this?**

(Martez) I think my responsibility is a little bit harder. I must help look after the little ones.

(Interviewer) **What would you like to be involved with at church?**

(Martez) I am thinking about becoming active in Youth Church. Later, I want to join the Male Choir and become a Deacon.

(Interviewer) **Explain how you were led to join Oak City Baptist Church?**

(Martez) I was led to join OCBC because when my mom used to go to this church when she was smaller. Now, I want to attend with her while she is here at Oak City Baptist Church again.

(Interviewer) **How would you describe your efforts on a team?**

(Martez) I would 1st look at the needs of what should be done. (Interviewer) How awesome!!

(Interviewer) **What do you enjoy doing with your family? Why?**

(Martez) I like having games every Friday with my family because every Monday through Thursday we are in school and there is no time to spend together.

(Interviewer) **After striving to excel in school, what do you want to do when you grow up?**

(Martez) I want to be a Deacon.

(Interviewer) **Considering things you can do, what is a unique talent you have? Do you plan to pursue this talent, explain how?**

(Martez) I play the tuba. The tuba is a low-pitched instrument, somewhat difficult to play. I learned on an old one.

(Interviewer) **Will you pursue playing later on?**

(Martez) I'm not sure; maybe, maybe not.



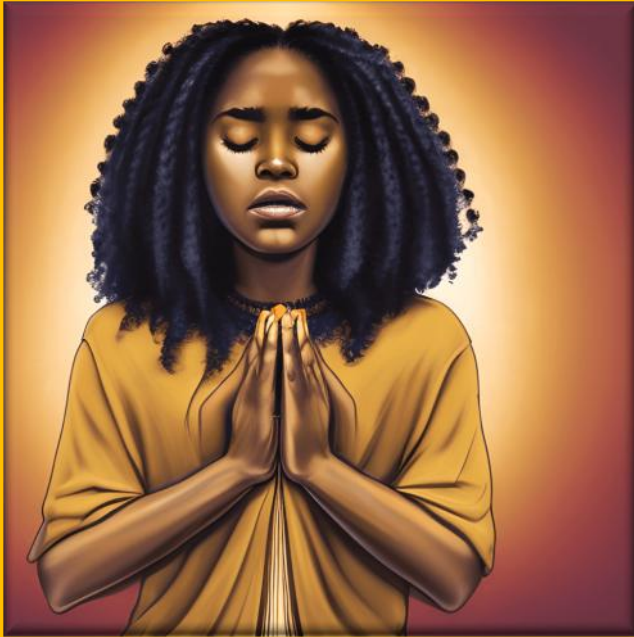
Mark 9:36-37

“And he took a child and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them, Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me”.

Poor Woman Response to Secretary – Believe in God

26/12/2023 by MoralStories26.com

There was a poor woman who had a firm believe in God. Once, the poor woman and her family didn't get any food for several days. So, she sent a message to God through a radio asking him to help her.



In the same city, an atheist rich man heard this broadcast and thought of doing something which will shake her faith in God.

So, he called his secretary and asked him to buy a lot of food and get it delivered to that poor woman's house and tell her that, "It was not sent by your God but was sent by the devil."

The secretary did as asked. He bought food enough for a month and reached that poor woman's house. When the poor woman opened the door, the secretary gave her the food.

The poor woman started taking that food inside the house.

The secretary was seeing all this and waiting for her to ask about the person who sent all this food but to his surprise even after a while, she didn't asked.

Now, the secretary couldn't stop himself and asked, "Are you not going to ask who send you this food?"

Poor woman replied, "I know, it is sent by God."

Secretary said, "No, it was not sent by God but is sent by the devil himself."

Poor woman didn't respond and kept on doing what she was doing.

Secretary again said, "Are you not surprised after knowing, that it was sent by the devil?"

Poor woman smiled and replied, "What is surprising about this? When God gives an order, even the devil has to follow that order."



Sleep Awareness Week® is March 9-15

National Sleep Foundation

Why do we do it?

The connection between sleep and health is real. It impacts every one of us. That's why we conduct our Sleep in America® Poll and release our findings to anyone who wants to know pretty much anything about sleep. During Sleep Awareness Week, we share valuable information on how people have been sleeping the past year while offering research-based advice on the benefits of quality sleep and how it affects health and well-being.

What's the National Sleep Foundation all about?

Short answer? Your sleep. We've been studying and reporting on it for over 30 years. It continues to be what springs us out of bed in the morning. Need a sleep aid? Consider us your go-to for daily habits and routines that lead to a healthier night's sleep.

Sleep Awareness Week® is March 9-15

Tips for a healthier and more restful sleep:

1. **Stick to a Sleep Schedule:** Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on weekends.
2. **Create a Restful Environment:** Keep your bedroom cool, quiet, and dark. Consider using earplugs, a white noise machine, or an eye mask.
3. **Limit Exposure to Light:** Avoid bright screens for 1-2 hours before bedtime. Opt for dim lighting in the evening.
4. **Be Mindful of What You Eat and Drink:** Avoid large meals, caffeine, and alcohol close to bedtime. Instead, go for a light snack if you're hungry.
5. **Exercise Regularly:** Regular physical activity can help you fall asleep faster and

enjoy deeper sleep. Just avoid vigorous exercise close to bedtime.

6. **Manage Stress:** Practice relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, or yoga to calm your mind before bed.
7. **Limit Naps:** Long daytime naps can interfere with nighttime sleep. If you need to nap, try to keep it short and earlier in the day.
8. **Create a Bedtime Ritual:** Establish a relaxing pre-sleep routine, such as reading a book, taking a warm bath, or listening to calming music.
9. **Limit Blue Light Exposure:** Use apps or settings on your devices that reduce blue light emission in the evening.
10. **Seek Professional Help if Needed:** If you continue to have trouble sleeping, consider consulting a healthcare professional or a sleep specialist.

Sweet dreams! 🌙

National Sleep Foundation is an independent nonprofit, dedicated to improving health and well-being by advancing sleep health

<https://www.thensf.org/>



Please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2025.



Health and Wellness

Lauretta Barrett

Healthy Recipe Sunshine Pudding Tarts

A day without dessert is a day when the sun doesn't shine, and these little tarts will brighten even the cloudiest day.

(4-serving) package Jello Sugar Free instant vanilla pudding mix
(4 serving) package Jello Sugar Free orange gelatin
2/3 cup Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk Powder
1/2 cup water
3/4 cups Cool Whip free
1 (6- single serve package) Keebler Graham Cracker Crust
2 tablespoons Graham cracker crumbs or 2(2- 1/2 inch) Graham cracker squares made into crumbs

In a large bowl, combine dry pudding mix, dry gelatin, dry milk powder, and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in 1/4 cup of Cool Whip Free. Evenly spoon pudding mixture into graham cracker crust. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Just before serving, top each with 1 tablespoon of Cool Whip Free and sprinkle 1 teaspoon of graham cracker crumbs over top.

Serves 6

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