

## MARCH 2022

### BRIARWOOD *Women's Ministry*

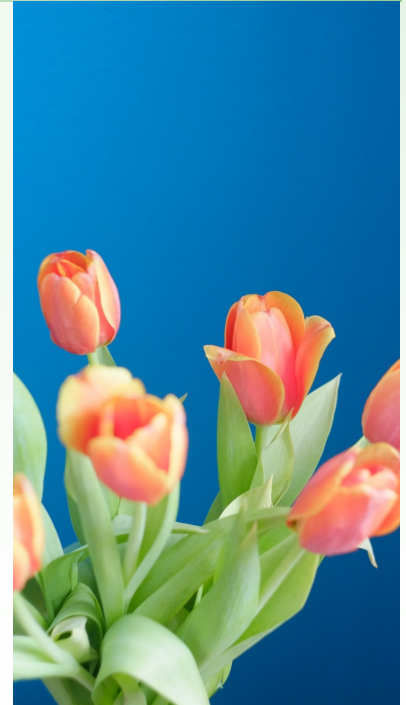
We live in uncertain times. We watch as Russia invades Ukraine. We watch around the world and in our own country the wide array of responses and control as it relates to COVID. Our trips to the grocery store and gas station have seen a steady increase and cost to our budgets. These are uncertain times, but if we are honest we always live with a level of uncertainty: life to death, health to sickness, flourishing relationships to soured relationships, employment to unemployment. When we are honest we recognize that our circumstances can change so quickly.

This was my situation in my late 20s. I was living in Texas, a part of a fantastic church, had great friends, purposeful in work and ministry, and overall just happy with where the journey had taken me and where it was going. Then in an instant it changed. Life became very unrecognizable. There was a shooting at my church and one of my dearest friends was killed. I did not have a category for this in my thinking or believing.

During this time, I ended up being one of the 4-5 people who kept being asked to be in news reports and interviews on behalf of the church. I could say all the right answers...I mean I was a Sunday School teacher and I had finished seminary! But at night I struggled with the Lord. Again, I did not have a category. This went on for months, from September through December of that year.

It was in December that I was asked to be in a sister church's Christmas program where I was to share a 5-7 minute testimony of God's faithfulness from the tragedy. As I tried to prepare, I had nothing. That is where God in His kindness led me to a passage of scripture just for me and my heart which was consumed by these circumstances!

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#### Special points of interest

- March 1: Women's Missionary Coffee
- March 18-19: Pathway to Preparation
- March 22: Spiritual Gifts Luncheon
- April 9: Women's Spring Brunch

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Psalm 62:5-6 (NASB)

**My soul, wait in silence for God alone,  
For my hope is from Him.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
My stronghold; I will not be shaken.**

As I waded through these verses the Lord taught me so much:

**My soul, wait in silence.** Stop talking. Sit quietly before Him. Quit telling God what He should do to make the circumstances “right.”

Wait in silence for who?

**GOD ALONE.** Not God plus something else, not God and an answer. Wait for Him alone.

Why wait for God alone?

**For my hope is from Him.** There is no other hope for my broken and confused heart. There is no other source of truest comfort.

How is He a Hope?

**He alone is my rock, my salvation, my stronghold.** There is nothing else solid in this world. Life is uncertain, friendships disappoint, health can be lost, and safety is not guaranteed. So my eyes are fixed on God. And, my source of JOY is solidly anchored and secured by the work of Christ alone.

What does he promise?

**I will not be shaken.** I will walk through the uncertainty in His strength, in His provisions, in His arms with his eyes towards me and His outstretched right arm gripping me.

In that sweet time of fellowship in the Word, the Lord drew me to Himself and declared He alone was who, what, and everything I needed. I had to **press into him**. And I did. I knew He loved me, cared for me, and that He was in control during this uncertain and difficult season of life. He showed me that in this life there will be troubles and great uncertainties but I am not to fear because He overcame this world and I am now anchored to Him where I can know peace, steadfast love and live in daily JOY!

-Kristie

# Women's Missionary Coffee



Please join us for the  
Women's Missionary Coffee  
held during the Global Ministry Conference

**Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:30 am – 11:30 am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Whether you are able to attend or not,  
please join us in prayer over the missionaries attending the coffee.

For specific ways to pray please see the  
conference prayer guide booklet and the various prayer cards  
for each missionary and their families.



  
**GIFTED TO SERVE**  
GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE 2022

Feb. 27 – March 6  
Phil Tuttle, speaker



## PATHWAY TO PREPARATION

Join us for this weekend, hands-on workshop for women who are interested in growing in their skills as Bible teachers, small group leaders and / or individuals just interested in enhancing their understanding of how to rightly understand the Word of God in their personal study. We will walk through training that teaches us how to understand the context and structure of a passage of scripture, how to filter the passage through the Gospel lens and then ultimately how to connect it to our day to day living.

**WHEN:**

Friday, **March 18** 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Saturday, **March 19** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**WHERE:**

A-209

**COST:**

\$15 (includes material and Saturday boxed lunch)

**WHO:**

Women of every age and stage are encouraged to attend. Special invite to teachers/leaders of children's SS class, youth d-group, college & singles small groups, and women's small groups

**REGISTER:**

[briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women)  
Registration Deadline: **March 14th**





DISCOVER, DEVELOP, DEPLOY

This Spring the Women's Ministry will be hosting numerous Spiritual Gifts Luncheons. Each luncheon will focus in on a particular group of spiritual gifts with the desire of providing insight into how the various gifts can be deployed in the church. During these lunches you will also have the opportunity to hear from 3-4 women who will share about the unique ways that they are using their spiritual gifts in ministry.

Through these luncheons we want to show the many different ways that your gifts can be used inside and outside the church. We know that our gifts work in concert with the other gifts the Lord has given as well which allows for an abundance of ways He can use them. We would encourage you to attend

the luncheons that correspond with your gifting. For some of you that may be one luncheon or three luncheons.

In February, our first luncheon focused on Wisdom, Discernment, Knowledge and Teaching. The remaining Spiritual Gifts Luncheons for the Spring semester are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**11:30 am – 12:45 pm**

**Fellowship Hall E&F**

**Spiritual Gifts focus: Hospitality, Exhortation, Shepherding**

**Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**11:30 am – 12:45 pm**

**Fellowship Hall E&F**

**Spiritual Gifts focus: Helps, Service, Giving, Mercy**

Summer and Early Fall Spiritual Gifts Luncheons will be focused on the following Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Leadership, Faith, Intercession, Evangelist, Missionary.

For more details and to register, visit [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women)



### **Intercession Spiritual Gifts Opportunity Exploration**

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm - Room M200

Come and discuss all the opportunities to engage in intercession through the church and area ministries

## Always Rejoicing

By Brooke Robyck

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”<sup>1</sup> The Apostle Paul exhorts the Philippian church to rejoice in the Lord always, no matter their circumstances. If anyone was qualified to make such an exhortation, it was the Apostle Paul, as he wrote his epistle to the Philippian church when he was imprisoned in Rome for spreading the gospel. In fact, Paul describes his “imprisonment in the cause of Christ”<sup>2</sup> in the first chapter of Philippians and how the Lord utilized his imprisonment to bring guards to saving faith. Throughout the book of Philippians, we see the call to rejoice even in the midst of suffering and have an example through the Apostle Paul of how to do so.

Joy, the second fruit of the Holy Spirit, which Paul outlines in chapter five of Galatians, should be a natural outworking of the Spirit’s work in our lives. After all, we are a people who have been redeemed from hell and set free from the penalty and power of sin by the work of Christ on the cross. What a reason to rejoice! John MacArthur, in his commentary on Galatians 5:22, writes that “joy is a gift from God, and, as such, believers are not to manufacture it but to *delight in the blessing they already possess*.”<sup>3</sup> *Joy was not something the Apostle Paul had to manufacture in his imprisonment, instead it was a natural gift from God, a result of the new birth or regeneration. As such, joy is not a mere emotive response or a feeling that changes based on our station in life, but is truly a gracious gift from God.*

True joy also has to be “in the Lord.” MacArthur explains how biblical joy is contained in “a sphere unrelated to the circumstances of life, but related to an unassailable, unchanging relationship to the sovereign Lord.”<sup>4</sup> This is the key to having true joy in our lives. Realizing that joy is a gift we already possess because we are new creations in Christ and that joy is related to our sovereign and unchangeable God is how we are able to face “various trials”<sup>5</sup> that test our faith.

However, even as Christians, we all go through times in which we feel like our joy is lacking. We may be facing the loss of a family member, the loss of a job, or a multitude of uncertainties in our lives. I have found myself lacking the joy God has given me as I go through the motions of mundane tasks and face the looming reality of what my future holds (Will I ever get married?, How can I pay off debt?, What job am I supposed to take?). Maybe your questions and doubts are different from a recent college graduate’s, however, we all have fears, worries, doubts, and anxieties that keep us from remembering the God-given gift of joy. When we find ourselves in this spot, let us remember that joy is not based on this sphere of worldly circumstances, but is based on the reality of our relationship with our wise, sovereign, and just Creator. We can rejoice always because our hope is in Him- our steadfast, immovable Lord.



1. Philippians 4:4, New American Standard Version.

2. Philippians 1:13

3. John MacArthur. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. 2nd ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc., 2006), 1551.

4. Ibid, 1575.

5. James 1:2

Hello, my name is Brooke Robyck. Thanks for reading my article! For a little bit about my background, I am originally from Ohio and am also a recent graduate from Samford University, where I majored in Christian Ministry and minored in Business. The Lord graciously led me to Briarwood my senior year of college, where I was so grateful to be under such biblically-focused teaching, and now I have the privilege to be a part of the Briarwood Fellows program.

# Women's SPRING BRUNCH

Saturday, April 9  
9:30 am – 11:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

**“Finding Life Balance for Busy Women”**  
**Elizabeth Ellerbee**

Cost: \$8 Register by April 1  
[briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women)

*Nursery not available.*



# Briarwood Women's Care Team



Over the last 12 months, the Women's Ministry has been working towards enhancing how we minister to women. Specifically, church leaders have asked us to develop a team of women focused on serving women in crisis who are also sensitive to the needs of those being helped. We are pleased to announce that in April 2022 we are launching our first Women's Care Team made up of 9 Briarwood women. Over the past few months, this team of 9 women has been reading, praying, and walking through weekly training. And, while each team member fully understands her own limitations, each is confident that the Lord will work in the midst of crisis and each desires to be used to minister.

The focus of the ministry of the Women's Care Team is as follows:

**The Women's Care Team's primary focus is to serve as advocates for women experiencing significant needs and/or in crisis, and to come alongside the staff and leadership as they minister to women in the congregation in difficult circumstances.**

As we approach April, you will begin to hear more information about the team through your congregational communities and through various social media platforms. We know that one of the main questions we will receive is regarding how to connect with the ministry team. Connection to a ministry team member will either come through the request of a shepherding pastor or through the woman in crisis requesting help through our online portal located on the women's page of the church website (will open in April).

We are thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to expand how we serve the women of Briarwood. We do ask that you pray for us as we navigate a new ministry opportunity.



Many women from  
Briarwood will be traveling  
to attend TGCW22 in  
Indianapolis.

If you are interested in  
attending, you can register  
[HERE](#).

Use the discount code  
**BRIARWOOD** when  
registering.

## The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference June 16-18, 2022



### 5 Year Bible Reading Plan

You can download the  
5-year plan by visiting:

[https://briarwood.org/  
women-of-the-  
covenant/five-year-  
bible-reading-plan/](https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/five-year-bible-reading-plan/)

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