

JULY 2023



August is here and for many that means school is about to start. The tax free weekend is approaching. Last vacations are in swing. Classrooms are being setup. All the band camps, football camps, dance camps are in full motion. New school clothes shopping is taking place. Needless to say, for many August is a busy month. One group of individuals that are in high gear this month are our educators. Public school teachers, private school teachers, homeschool teachers, and college professors are finalizing their curriculum and preparing for a new year.

As I was reading an email from Dayspring, I came across one of their articles that had a beautiful prayer for teachers. Join me in praying this for all the men and women who serve in education.

Dear God,

As countless teachers begin to prepare for a new school year ahead, grant them an abundance of Your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our loved ones, and may we make sure to show them love and respect in return. Give them grace as they help students who aren't thriving, courage to say what needs to be said, tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they share with our children. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come. Amen.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. - **1 Corinthians 15:58**



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Special points of interest

- August Devotional is available
- Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life August 11-13
- Women's Retreat September 22-24

We are thrilled to share with you the 31-day devotional, **ALL THE FEELS**, that has been written by 30 of our own Briarwood sisters. Each devotion is focused on understanding our emotions and navigating them biblically.

Our desire as you read is that you would see the beauty of our God in His design of us as creatures with a vast expression of emotion. We also desire for you to learn biblical truths to guide you in navigating your emotions as a believer.

If you are interested in purchasing a book, please contact Amanda León in the Women's Ministry Office at:
Aleon@briarwood.org

 COURAGE	 JOY	 COVETOUS	 DOUBT
 WEARY	 FRUSTRATED	 PATIENCE	 ANXIETY
 PEACE	 WAITING	 GENEROUS	 ANGER
 FEAR	 GRATITUDE	 SHAME	 TEMPTED
 LOVE	 LONELY	 HOPEFUL	 SAD

All The Feels

A DEVOTIONAL BY BRIARWOOD WOMEN

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGY AND LIFE

GOSPEL TRUTHS FOR A WORLD OF LIES

AUGUST 11-13, 2023



ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD
PETER JONES



BRIARWOOD.ORG/EVENTS

MAKE NURSERY RESERVATIONS AT BRIARWOOD.ORG/NURSERY.

Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life: “Gospel Truths for a World of Lies” August 11–13

Come hear from speakers **Rosaria Butterfield** and **Peter Jones** at this year’s Conference on Theology and Life! The Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life is Briarwood’s Conference on facing cultural and contemporary issues from a Biblical Perspective. This conference, held at Briarwood, is open to all churches, denominations, and individuals who are interested in learning how they can exchange “Gospel Truths for a World of Lies.”

This conference is completely free and open to all. No registrations are required for either Friday or Saturday’s events. Nursery will be available upon registration at briarwood.org/nursery.

We encourage you to invite friends from other congregations or walks of life to hear the truth of the Gospel proclaimed in this age of chaos, confusion, and insanity.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full conference schedule

Women's Retreat



September 22-24, 2023
Shocco Springs Retreat Center
Speaker: Lisa Looper
Theme: Rest



For more information, visit briarwood.org/women.

Schedule:

Friday, September 22

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Check-in

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Session #1

Saturday, September 23

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am – 11:30 am Session #2

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Break

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Session #3

Sunday, September 24

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Check out

Women's Retreat

Date: September 22-24, 2023

Speaker: Lisa Looper

Women's Retreat Speaker, Lisa Looper Lisa was born in Pensacola, FL, but spent her formative years in St. Louis. Her father was a Ruling Elder in a PCA church, and her family was very active in ministry. After earning her BSN at St. Louis University, Lisa completed a Masters in General Theological Studies at Covenant Seminary where she met Rob. Marrying in 1992, Rob and Lisa began ministry together while Rob served as a staff pastor at Twin Oaks PCA in St Louis and then took Senior Pastor positions at PCA churches in Tuscaloosa and Pensacola, the latter for 20 years. Rob now serves as Briarwood's National Ministries and Church Revitalization Pastor. Active in women's ministry for over 30 years, Lisa has passion for discipling women to find their true rest in the Lord Jesus. She currently works as a Nurse Practitioner. Lisa and Rob have three children: Hannah, 26, a Samford graduate who is married and lives in Birmingham; Bennett, 26, also a Samford graduate who lives in Cookeville, TN; and Laura, 21, who is a rising senior studying voice at Indiana University.

Theme: Rest

Jeremiah 2:13 the Lord says: *"they (my people) have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."*

We are busy. We are exhausted. We are mentally overloaded and we carry heavy loads as women. We long for our minds, hearts, bodies to just rest and be refreshed. The question then is where are we looking to find rest. Is it in the broken cisterns of this world that bring temporary and waning rest or are we women who are looking to the living water to find rest that is deeply satisfying to our souls? What would this look like? Is this even a possible reality?

Location: Shocco Springs Retreat Center <https://www.shocco.org/>

Meetings will be in the Bagley 300 conference room.

Meals will be in the dining hall of Bagley Center.

Accommodations: We will be staying in Oakridge Lodge and Springview Lodge.

All rooms have 2 full beds and a private restroom.

These lodging facilities have recently been updated and renovated.

Cost: Prices are provided **per person.**

Price includes lodging two nights, three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning.

Regular price beginning August 1:

Singles no longer available

\$200 for a double room

\$180 for a triple or quad room

Registration: Space is limited.

When registering, you will need to provide the name of your roommate(s). However, ALL roommates must complete their own registration form/payment and list your name as their roommate(s) as well. If they do not register by the deadline, or if you do not have a roommate we will maintain a "Need a Roommate List" so that you may reach out to those in search of a roommate. This list is for double occupancy only. Triples and Quads must be made by the registrant to ensure the trip/quad pricing.

To Register and make Payment **click here** <https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-retreat-registration/>

Registration closes August 31st or when all spots are full.

Misc. Information

- Transportation is to be secured by the individual registering for the event. Our office will not coordinate rides to and from the retreat.
- All fees are non-refundable. However, fees are transferable. The registrant is responsible for locating a substitute to take her place and any payment transfer between parties. Please notify us if there has been a transfer.
- Cafeteria style meals are provided by the Retreat Center. We will not be able to make special dietary requests. Outside food is allowed.
- Bring plenty of snacks to share – we will set up a table in the meeting room with snacks and water.

Women's Fall Studies

Monday at 10:00AM

Michele Cantley
The Book of Daniel
A 201 and Zoon

Tuesday at 9:30AM

Amanda León &
Mary Anne Turnbull
The Book of Micah
G101

Tuesday at 9:30AM

Mary Lou Morrison
& Cindy Reeder
1 and 2 Peter
Fellowship Hall A

Tuesday at 10:00AM

Brianna Evans
**How to Share the Gospel
in Conversations
You're Already Having**
G103

Wednesday at 6:30PM

Kristie Harrick &
Elizabeth Bondurant
The Book of 1 Kings
Room TBD and Zoom

Wednesday at 6:30PM

Teresa Caldwell
Genesis Part 3
M210

Thursday at 9:30AM

Donna Evans
The Red Sea Rules
G101

Thursday at 9:30AM

Yvonne Welch
The Book of Joshua
Chapel



For the Love of homeschooling

Calling all Homeschool Families!

If you are currently homeschooling your kids or if you have ever done so and are still passionate about homeschooling, we want to know who you are!

We are hoping to create opportunities for homeschooling families, especially mothers, to network, socialize and encourage one another through discipleship. If you are interested in joining this community of Briarwood families, please reach out to Christian Terrell at terrellcc@gmail.com.

Thank you

This summer we have had so many different women who have helped us with the various Women's events and projects. Please take time to thank these women for the way they have served this summer!

Summer Fellowships with Mystery Guests in JULY

Thank you to the following women who hosted a July Summer Fellowship:

Lyndsey Holcombe, Wendy Long, Cindy Ball, Shannon Black, Peggy Parrish, Caroline Carlisle, Elizabeth Buchanan, Amy Butler, Cheryl Blackmon, Laura Hyche, Paty Pruet, & Vanessa Cain

Thank you to the following women who were a Mystery Guest in July:

Ashley Draper, Denise Wichlan, Beth Mooney, Judy Black, Brenda Parks, Annette Blake, Brianna Evans, Carol Sitton, Kami Ralph, Lynn McWaters, Christian Terrell, & Jerri Lynn Turner

Summer Studies

Thank you to our teachers this summer:

Susan Bellows, Donna Evans, Cierra Bragan, Rebekah Vermeer, Meredith Hamblen, Yvonne Welch

August Devotional Writers

Thank you to the women who wrote for our devotional:

Maddie Abbott, Nancy Battles, Cheryl Blackmon, Elizabeth Bondurant, Sarah Boyd, Ciera Bragan, Caroline Carlisle, Barbara Cartledge, Hannah Delk, Donna Evans, Rebecca Galbreath, Jackie Kalehoff, Windsu Kelly, Danae Lloyd, Mallory Marshall, Sydney Marvin, Madison Murphy, Rhonda Parsons, Chesley Peed, Meredith Peters, Ann Marie Purser, Eszti Richards, Summer Schor, Kristin Smith, Sonja Steelman, Christian Terrell, Rebekah Vermeer, Melody Weaver, Gini Beth Welch

Mentoring Opportunities

(Mentoring, Life-on-Life, Discipleship)

Mentoring, Life on Life Relationships, and Discipleship are all terms that seem to be interchangeable in the Christian world. However, we each come to these terms with very different ideas and expectations. For Briarwood Women's Ministry we are moving towards providing opportunity for engagement in these three areas. Below are the definitions we will use to identify the distinctions and expectations for each:

Mentoring. Pairing based around a book study of a focused topic. There is an expectation that the mentor would influence, provide guidance and direction to the mentee as subjects come up in a book study or through conversation. The relationship is once a week for a 4 month commitment of time.

Recommended Books:

- *Growing Together* by Melissa Kruger
- *Everyday Faithfulness* by Glenna Marshall
- *The Gospel Centered Woman* by Wendy Alsup
- *In His Image* by Jen Wilkin
- *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* by Rosaria Butterfield
- *Crazy Busy* by Kevin DeYoung
- *Growing in Gratitude* by Mary Mohler

Life on Life Relationships. This is an informal introduction to a relationship with someone of another generation. It is built around coffee or lunch, hobbies or shared interests. The pair commits to meet on a regular basis for 4-6 months. The hope is that gospel-centered conversations will naturally occur through a growing friendship.

Discipleship. The disciple is committed to entering into a relationship with a discipler who will help them grow in their spiritual disciplines through weekly meetings with homework and focused discussions related to spiritual growth and vitality. The commitment is one semester at a time through a set curriculum. *We would provide training for those discipling someone.*

This Fall 2023 we are providing opportunities for women to engage in **Mentoring** and **Life on Life Relationship** opportunities. We are not prepared to offer Discipleship opportunities yet; however, if you are interested in learning how to be a Discipler please reach out to us.

If you are interested in participating this Fall 2023 in Mentoring or Life on Life Relationships, visit our website to [register](#).

***Pairings will be made by mid-September 2023.



Ladies Fitness Class

Want to get fit and make new friends? Come try Fitness Together!

Each 60-minute class will consist of cardio, strength training, balance and stretching all to help with flexibility, joint stability and overall health.

Experience community, prayer and encouragement while we stay fit!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30am-9:30am (all ages)

\$36/month or \$5/class

Monday and Friday

9:30am-10:30am (format allows use of a chair if needed)

\$25/month or \$5/class

M-111, Ballet Room

For more information contact Brenda Parks

brendabparks@gmail.com





July Mystery Fellowships





**Titus 2 night with the
Sojourners Sunday School
Class**



Working Women's Dinner



**Young
Families
BBQ**



Faithful Followers Breakfast

Branches and Hearts & Homes Fellowship Lunch





The Senior Leadership Team enjoyed an in-town retreat



The Senior Leadership Team at the Baron's Game



The Flower Guild and LOVE Ministry



The Branches Sunday School class and Mary Anne Turnbull's Tuesday morning Bible study joined together to throw a baby shower for two expecting moms, Ali Wheeler and Eszti Richards.



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/>



Moms in Prayer International is a Christ-centered, interdenominational prayer ministry made up of moms, grandmothers, aunts – any woman who desires to pray for children and schools. Our goal is that every child, every school in the world would be covered in prayer. If you are interested in joining a group in the Birmingham area, please contact: P.A. Carmichael, the MIP Area Coordinator, at 205-613-8333 or at overthemountainac@gmail.com

Briarwood Women's Care Team



The Briarwood 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.

To find out more information, or to request help, visit:

briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/