

# NOVEMBER 2023



*Here is a standing reason for thanksgiving. Although we may not always be healthy, nor always prosperous, yet God is always good, and, therefore, there is always a sufficient argument for giving thanks unto Jehovah. That he is a good God essentially, that he cannot be otherwise than good, should be a fountain out of which the richest praises should perpetually flow. – C.H. Spurgeon*

So often we allow our circumstances and our frustrations to dictate our heart towards God. However, if we step back and view God through the lens of scripture He does not change whether our circumstances are easy, difficult, pleasant or sublime. God is consistent in His character. One of the main characteristics of God is that He is good and His actions are always good. While this may be difficult to believe at times, nevertheless, it is true. This year, 2020, has had it's share of trying times, uncertain times and sweet times. Through them all, we can confidently declare that God has been good. Remember Mark 10:18: "No one is good but One, that is, God," Psalm 25:8: "Good and upright is the Lord," 1 Chronicles 16:34: "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever," Psalm 34:8: "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" and Psalm 145:9: "The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works."

Ladies, as we walk through November and all the busyness of the season, let gratitude and thankfulness pour forth from our hearts and mouths as we consider the goodness of our God. When we face difficulties and frustrations this month, let gratitude and thankfulness pour forth from our hearts and mouths as we consider the goodness of our God. When laughter and joy fills our home, let gratitude and thankfulness pour forth from our hearts and mouths as we consider the goodness of our God. Let us be women of gratitude and thankfulness for our good God!

-Kristie



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## Special points of interest

- Christmas at the Caroline House November 14-15
- Operation Christmas Child Boxes due November 12
- Angle Tree gifts are due November 19



FEATURING

## PORTRAITS OF *Hope*

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES FROM  
THE LOVELADY CENTER

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2023

REGISTER AT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN)

**Ticket sales end on**  
**Wednesday, November 8**

Online tickets can be picked up Sunday, November 12  
in front of the Bookstore from 9:00AM to 12:30PM.  
Online tickets will also be available at will call on the  
day of the event.

**Christmas at the Caroline House** is a wonderful event to prepare our hearts for the upcoming Christmas season. As our time together unfolds, we will hear the gospel, see the beauty of design, fellowship with one another and exchange ideas. Our prayer is that this event will bring our focus back to the Heavenly Father's great love for His people in providing our Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **What happens during this event?**

- ▶ **Food and Fellowship.** We will begin our time together gathered around a meal. As you enjoy your meal get to know the women at your table. Make sisterly connections with one another.
- ▶ **Program.** This year we will hear from women from **The Lovelady Center**. Each woman who shares has been transformed by the Lord during their time at the center. Their personal stories will show resilience, faith, hope and courage as they have walked through recovery by the power of the Holy Spirit. Their Christmas' have taken on a new meaning because of the power of Christ to transform His children. Their powerful stories of transformation will be encouraging to all who attend.
- ▶ **Caroline House.** Following the program, the Caroline house tours will begin. The house has been decorated by women in the church to help spark your imagination for ways to decorate. This is meant to uplift your heart and get you thinking about ways to enhance your home at Christmas. This is a fun aspect of our time together. Take pictures and enjoy. How do we go about visiting the house? We will dismiss small groups of women to tour the house to ensure that the house is not overcrowded for each touring group. Keep in mind that you will remain in the fellowship hall as you wait for your time to tour.
- ▶ **While You Wait Opportunities.** While you are waiting for your tour of the house, you will have the opportunity to visit tasting tables and gather recipes for future holiday events. For those who tour the house first, you will be able to participate in the tastings after your tour. In addition to the tastings, you will also have the opportunity to visit **The Lovelady Center** table. At the table you can visit with The Lovelady Center women, and you will have the opportunity to purchase one of their *Portraits of Hope* books.
- ▶ **Gifts.** In addition to all the activities, you will have opportunities to win door prizes and every woman will receive a Christmas devotional written by women in our church. The devotional walks through the full Christmas story and shares the hope we have in Christ.

#### **What are the dates and when should I arrive?**

##### ▶ November 14th

9:30 am Session – the doors & food lines open at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:30 am

6:30 pm Session - the doors & food lines open at 6:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm

##### ▶ November 15th

9:30 am Session – the doors & food lines open at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:30 am

6:30 pm Session - the doors & food lines open at 6:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm

**Nursery** is provided for those who make Nursery reservations by November 8<sup>th</sup> at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery)

#### **Ticket Information**

- Tickets will go on sale in the Briarwood Bookstore and online beginning September 17th.
- Tickets are \$18 per person.
- There is no reserved seating.
- There are no refunds for tickets.
- Each session has a maximum of 120 tickets available.

#### **Volunteers**

We need your help to make this event happen. Check out our website for volunteer opportunities.



Fill a shoebox and let a child know that someone cares about them and that God loves them! Briarwood participates every Christmas season in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes packed with small gifts – toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children around the world, some of who may have never received a gift in their life. The boxes are given with a gospel booklet and a gospel presentation and an opportunity to participate in a twelve week discipleship program (The Greatest Journey).

**Beginning on October 29**, shoeboxes will be available in the Ministries Lobby for you to take home and fill.

**Boxes are due back Nov. 5 – 12.**

You can also build a box online. Great if you don't want to shop, and online boxes are shipped to hard-to-reach areas. A link will be provided on the Childrens Ministry webpage.

The Trailblazers are having a **packing party on Nov. 7 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM**, light lunch provided. See the Trailblazer web page for more information (<https://briarwood.org/ministries/trailblazers/>) .





Available **November 5 and 12** in the church lobbies.  
This year's gifts will benefit children in need from the Birmingham area.

**Gifts are due back at Briarwood by November 19.**

Email Kari at [kescue@briarwood.org](mailto:kescue@briarwood.org) with any questions.



# Thailand Mission Trip

The Women's Ministry has a group of 5 women heading out on a mission trip to Thailand this December 2-10. We will provide a full women's retreat for 38 of the women who serve with Campus Outreach in Thailand. We will provide the speaking, music, crafts and game time. Please pray for us as we make final preparations and for those we will be serving. This is their first women's retreat since 2018. Our desire is that this will be restful and fruitful time for the women.

We would also like to ask you to consider helping us with the purchase of some items needed for the craft and games time at the retreat. All our needed supplies are on the amazon list. Purchased items will be sent directly to our team leader so that the entire team can spread out the purchased items amongst our teammates suitcases.

## **THAILAND Prayer Card** **(December 2 – 10)**

God would be Glorified. (John 15:8)

Health and safety of women on our team (Psalm 27):  
Kristie Harrick, Sydney Marvin, Jennifer Mayfield,  
Jessica Mayfield, Samantha Roberts & Melody Young

Encouragement of Women Serving in Thailand.  
(1Thessalonians 5:11)

Retreat would be restful and fruitful, and we would love and serve them well.  
(Luke 10:27)





Starting December 1st we will be kicking off our month of YouTube video devotionals. Each day you can hear from a different woman of Briarwood as she unfolds the Biblical truths behind some of our most familiar Christmas carols.

## 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/>



## 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/](https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/)





# Behold & Believe

ENCOUNTERING JESUS AS THE GREAT I AM

## **The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference (TGCW24)**

**June 20-24, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana**

Registration opened September 27th

**Reduced rates are available through October 11, 2023 with the discount code: 20OFF  
which brings the opening price to \$179.**

Briarwomen this is a wonderful conference to attend. The cost only covers the conference fee. Participants are responsible for travel and accommodations. Once hotel options are available we will notify everyone of what hotel we are staying in. If you are able to stay in the same hotel that would be great. When registering for rooms in hotels, please note that not all hotels guarantee double beds.

If you register, please let us know. We would love to find a time during the conference that we could all meet up. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/event/tgcw24/>

## **Save the Date!**

**Women's In-Town  
Retreat**

**January 26-27, 2024**