

Merry Christmas!!!!

What a wonderful time of year! Things are just speeding by and I can barely catch my breath before there are more challenges and events! The T2W Ministry is off and running and we are seeing more and more of you every month. It so blesses my heart to sit in the background and listen to all of you laughing and talking and enjoying fellowship with each other. It's so important for us as women to get together on a regular basis and just enjoy each other's company.

Our Christmas Tea was absolutely wonderful! We had 100 women attend, and the food was fabulous as always! Karla was the coordinator for the event and with our decorating elves, Mandy and Stephanie, the fellowship hall looked lovely and everything went off without a hitch. Shirley Dobson was our guest speaker and she enjoyed herself immensely! Her message on Keeping Christ in Christmas was both timely and pertinent as we all learn different ways to express our Christianity in a world that is so commercialized. She had some wonderful suggestions that I hope you will put in to practice this season.

As we close out 2018, I know you are all very busy preparing for family and your own personal Christmas celebrations. But I would encourage you to take a few minutes each morning before you hit the ground running, and reflect on the wonderful gift of God's Son, Jesus. We know that Jesus wasn't really born in December, but we choose this time to make a special point of honoring and remembering His birth. If you received one of the booklets, "God with Us", from the church, I'd encourage you to read one reading a day through the end of the month. They are so encouraging and uplifting and will help keep your focus on the real "reason for the Season".

Because we know you are all pretty much exhausted, (or will be!) our January event is going to be an easy one. I will be bringing a message as we start out 2019 with our theme for the year – "Transforming our Families". It's going to be an exciting year and we have lots things planned for you. So we will be sharing a pot luck of "Soups and breads – Share your recipes!" Just make up a pot of your favorite soup, (January is a great time for warm soup!) and make copies of the recipe to share with all your sisters. It should be exciting and I can't wait to see what all of you come up with. Soups and breads only, please. After the holidays, we want to give our immune systems a rest from all the sugars. I will bring the

message first, and then we will enjoy lunch together. We will have a sign-up sheet in the lobby, only for those who require child care.

I'll be thinking of all of you as I prepare my own holiday traditions and celebrations. To all the young mothers out there, my prayer is that you will develop your own traditions and memories for your little ones. It's amazing what children remember. The other day, my oldest son, Chris was remembering a Christmas Angel my Mother had made out of a blown out egg and a toilet paper roll! I had forgotten all about that, but at 42, it is still something he treasures in his heart. Memories are more important than presents. Make lots of memories this year. For our singles, my prayer is that you will get to spend time with family or friends and enjoy the season. For those of you who have family away from home, please know how much we appreciate your service as well as that of your spouses and don't think that God will not bless you in a very special way for your sacrifice. Be the light, Ladies. This world is lost and dying and WE have the answer!! From the waiter at the restaurants to the checkout people in the grocery stores to the rude driver who just cut you off in traffic, BE JESUS this season. Show the world that we are different, and God willing, share the reason why.

I love all of you and am getting to know more and more of you each month. I'm so thankful for each and every one of you and look forward every Sunday to seeing you and talking with you. It is my great pleasure to serve you.

May our Lord and Savior bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you. And be gracious unto you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. I love you all. Merry Christmas!

IHS and yours,  
Karen