Snowflakes are like People—The Mystery of the Snowflake

There is a mystery in the heavens. It is a very special story about the formation of the most delicate pieces of artwork that fall ever so daintily from the skies. This is the mystery of the snowflake. This is a mystery from God!

Snowflakes are like people according to Father God. Each one is so very unique from the other. Not a single one forms the same way nor does any look exactly like the other. Each snowflake has its own design and dimension and each snowflake becomes exquisite in God's perfect timing. Never has there been a more beautiful revelation for the children of God.

Snowflakes fall from the heavens as miniature heavenly masterpieces of artwork. As the elements shape and have their influence upon each delicate ice molecule, they spin and they spin and they fall to the ground. One snowflake may look very similar to another, but to the Creator who sees every snowflake's splendor individually, a different story is told. While one snowflake may have a star-shaped pattern, and another like a leaf, they all have microscopic branches like on a mighty oak tree. Each branch is spun ever so uniquely. Each snowflake a magnificent design from heaven.

So the next time you are outside in a snow flurry, rejoice at all the masterful pieces of artwork that are floating all around you. And if one by chance happens to fall upon your cheek, smile and say “Thank you for sending these rare ice crystals to me.”

2016—The Year of Abundant Living:
In 2016, I am already VICTORY!
Currently, more than 3 million people in the United States have glaucoma. The National Eye Institute projects this number will reach 4.2 million by 2030, a 58% increase.

Glaucoma is called “the sneak thief of sight” since there are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it’s permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. Moreover, among African American and Latino populations, glaucoma is more prevalent. Glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasians.

**What is Glaucoma?**

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. Although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages.

Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. It is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain.

There is no cure for glaucoma—yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. The appropriate treatment depends upon the type of glaucoma among other factors. Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease.

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**Regular Eye Exams are Important**

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world, according to the World Health Organization. In the most common form, there are virtually no symptoms. Vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision, so if you have glaucoma, you may not notice anything until significant vision is lost.

The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get a comprehensive eye examination. Then, if you have glaucoma, treatment can begin immediately.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness among African-Americans. And among Hispanics in older age groups, the risk of glaucoma is nearly as high as that for African-Americans. Also, siblings of persons diagnosed with glaucoma have a significantly increased risk of having glaucoma.

**Are you at risk for glaucoma?**

Those at higher risk include people of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent. Other high-risk groups include: people over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely nearsighted. Regular eye exams are especially important for those at higher risk for glaucoma, and may help to prevent unnecessary vision loss.

For more information, ask your optometrist and visit this web site, www.glaucoma.org.
“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:7 NLT)

God wants you to focus on growing, sowing, and going in faith.

First, God wants you to grow in faith. He doesn’t want you to be a spiritual baby! The Bible says in Colossians 2:7: “Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness”.

And, God wants you to sow in faith. He wants you to learn to become generous, because you cannot become like Christ without becoming generous. The Bible says, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV).

This is the law of sowing and reaping, and it’s true in every area of life. If you sow criticism, you’re going to reap criticism. If you sow love, you’ll reap love. If you sow kindness, you will reap kindness. And you always reap more than you sow. When you plant one corn kernel in the ground, you don’t get one kernel back. You get a whole stalk. You always get more back — positive or negative — of what you put out in life.

Then, God wants you to go in faith.

Hebrews 11:8 says, “It was by faith Abraham obeyed God’s call to go to another place God promised to give him. He left his own country, not knowing where he was to go” (NCV).

Would you do that? Abraham was up in years. He was in his retirement phase, just about to hang it up and settle down when God said, “No. Dust yourself off, and get ready for the greatest journey of your life.” When you live by faith, it involves going, often to places you were never planning to go.

Why is it so important for you to develop your faith?

Because everything that God does in your life he does by his grace and through your faith:

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6a NIV).

“According to your faith let it be done to you” (Matthew 9:29b).

“Anything that is not done in faith is sin” (Romans 14:23b GW).

Meditate on This!

• How have you grown in your faith in the last six months?
• What would the people who are close to you say that you are sowing in your life?

God wants you to have faith and depend upon Him. So look for the small ways He answers your prayers, the doors He opens and the ways He meets your needs step by step. Praise His intimate involvement in every detail of your daily living.
CHURCH DIRECTORY — If you participated in the church directory and still have not received your free 8x10 portrait please see Frita Pineda before or after morning service, to receive your portrait.

WOMEN’S CHOIR REHEARSAL sing on 5th Sundays. If you would like to join, please see Meredith Summers or Steve Kelly.

WOG HEART TO HEART MINISTRIES is the mentoring program for WOG youth ages 11-17. Activities to resume after Christmas break by request only. If anyone needs tutoring please call or email to coordinate a time with the tutor/mentor. Any volunteers to assist will be greatly appreciated. Contact Sis. Sonja Thomas at (336) 254-2612 or email her at heart2heartwog@gmail.com.

MEN’S MINISTRY — Interested in the WOG Iron Men’s Ministry and want to stay up to date with information and events, text the word “WOGMEN” to 55469 to receive text message alerts. Contact Elvis Graves or David “Big Tiz” Jarmon (336) 215-0050.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY — All women of WOG are a part of the Women of VIRTUE Women’s Ministry. Would love to have you participate, to add your talents and gifts to build this great endeavor. We come together the third Saturday of the month and are open to other days for activities as suggested! We are here for you! If anyone has any questions, please see any woman minister or Deaconess Alice Foust.

AUDIO AND VISUAL MINISTRY IS GROWING! Serve on the technical team ministry and let God use your gifts. Please contact Sis. Sandra Little or Rev. Ernest Graves.

VAN DRIVERS NEEDED — See Deacon Clarence Morehead or Deacon Keltz Summers for more info.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES
Attention all members: Missionary meetings are held once a month on the Tuesday after the 3rd Sunday @ 6:30pm and our homeless outing is the last Saturday of the month. We meet at the Assembly Road location at 8:00am to load the van before departure. Nursing home visits are on the 2nd Monday of each month. The Missionaries are collecting CLEAN gently used and new items for the homeless. Before you think GOODWILL, THINK WOG. Drop off boxes are available at BOTH LOCATIONS. Missionaries are also collecting clothes hangers. Please see any of the missionaries if you have any donations.

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES? Or perhaps you are a member of WOG and are looking for a good worker to fill a position in your place of business. WOG now has a database of resumes available on the website. To post your resume there, submit resumes to resume@whiteoakgrove.net.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
NABAJ Insurance Group – Contact Reneé Lewis (336) 709-3063, Office: (336) 265-8528 Email: NABAJ@nabajinsurancegroup.com. Up to 40K+ per year.

MEETING WITH THE PASTOR
Contact Monique Chavis at (336) 986-5339 for meetings and counseling sessions with Pastor Graves. Days available are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

FELLOWSHIP HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT. To reserve the church or fellowship hall, please contact Sharon Yancey at wog2600@gmail.com or (336) 656-3043.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
All student achievements can be emailed to Gail Garland at Egarland02@cs.com for publication in the newsletter.

SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please contact Deborah Phillips at sigdesign2008@aol.com by Wednesday of each week to have your announcement published in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

WOG GENERAL INFORMATION
White Oak Grove’s mailing address is
P.O. Box 1078
Greensboro, NC 27402
New email address is wog2600@gmail.com.
Contact Sharon Yancey at wog2600@gmail.com.
Website: www.whiteoakgrove.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY TIDBIT: “Relationship is not based on what we do for God, . . . relationship is more about the condition of our heart.”
Without doubt God is absolutely faithful in keeping His promises. So as you are confronted by difficult situations in the coming year, commit yourself to seeking Him, observing His commands, watching for His help, maintaining your focus on Him, recalling His faithfulness, and embracing His Word found in bible verses.

CALLING ALL 4 YEAR OLDS!
NC Pre-K Open Enrollment for the 2015-16 School Program Year
No appointments necessary. Plenty of slots available!
There is no cost to families accepted into this program

SPREAD THE WORD!
WOG Contact Deaconess Joyce Logan
For additional info, call Ernest Johnson, GCD Family Services Director (336) 378-7700

WORD SEARCH
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

AMERICAN
CIVIL RIGHTS
COLOR
EQUALITY
FREEDOM
HERO
HOPE
I HAVE A DREAM
JUSTICE
LEADER
LIBERTY
NOBEL PRIZE
PEACE

PREACHER
RACISM
SEGREGATION
SPEECH
STRUGGLE

I HAVE A DREAM

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Thank you Sis. Sandra Pressley for your contribution of Broccoli Casserole to the Recipe Corner last month! Alright now, I know WOG has other cooks who are willing to share! I am not the best cook, I just love to eat! And I don’t mind trying new foods! And I don’t like eating out for many reasons! Love, Love, Love home-cooked meals, don’t you?!

Here is one I made previously and enjoyed it much! So you try it and tell me if you found it palatable and delicious!

**CROCKPOT GUMBO**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1/2 inch slices
- 2 cups frozen cut okra
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (14.5 ounce size) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 package (12 ounce size) frozen shelled deveined cooked medium shrimp, rinsed
- 1 1/2 cup uncooked regular long-grain white rice
- 3 cups water

**DIRECTIONS**

In small saucepan, combine flour and oil; mix well. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-high heat for 5 minutes. This is your Roux. Reduce heat to medium; cook, stirring constantly, about 10 minutes or until mixture turns reddish brown. Place flour-oil mixture in 3 1/2 to 4 quart Crockpot.

Stir in all remaining ingredients except shrimp, rice and water. Cover; cook on low setting for 7-9 hours. When ready to serve, cook rice in water as directed on package. Meanwhile, add shrimp to gumbo mixture in crockpot; mix well. Cover; cook on low setting for additional 20 minutes. Serve gumbo over rice.

*Hey! You WOG cooks out there! Yes, You! Do you have a favorite recipe to share? Send it to sigdesign2008@aol.com … and don’t forget to send a photo of yourself and your finished dish, if possible!*
The Army of the Lord
A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, “You need to join the Army of the Lord!”

My friend replied, “I’m already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor.” Pastor questioned, “How come I don’t see you except at Christmas and Easter?”

He whispered back, “I’m in the secret service.”

Seeing A Child In Need
One afternoon a little boy was playing outdoors. He used his mother’s broom as a horse and had a wonderful time until it was getting dark.

He left the broom on the back porch. His mother was cleaning up the kitchen when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked the little boy about the broom and he told her where it was.

She then asked him to please go get it. The little boy informed his mom that he was afraid of the dark and didn’t want to go out to get the broom.

His mother smiled and said ‘The Lord is out there too, don’t be afraid’. The little boy opened the back door a little and said ‘Lord, if you’re out there, hand me the broom.’

Animals Go to Heaven
A cat and a mouse died on the same day and went up to Heaven. At the top they met God and he asked them ‘How do you like it so far?’

The mouse replied ‘It’s great, but can I get a pair of roller skates?’ God said ‘Sure’, and he gave him a pair of roller skates.

The next day God saw the cat and asked him ‘How do you like it up here so far?’ and the cat replied ‘Great, I didn’t know you had meals on wheels up here!’

Sing Sermon Words
A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, “If I had all the beer in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river.” With even greater emphasis he said, “And if I had all the wine in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river.”

And then finally, he said, “And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river.”

He sat down. The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, “For our closing song, let us sing Hymn # 365: “Shall We Gather at the River.”

Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?
"Under same management for over 2000 years"
"Soul food served here."
"Tithe if you love Jesus! Anyone can honk!"
"You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving."
"Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this Sunday!"
"Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church."
"We should be more concerned with the Rock Of Ages, instead of the age of rocks."
"Reputation is what people think about you. Character is what people know you are."
"Life has many choices, For Eternity, two. What’s yours?"
"Seven days without prayer makes one weak."
"No Jesus - no peace, Know Jesus - know peace!"
"Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due."
"A man’s character is like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash."
"Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible."
"It's hard to stumble when you’re down on your knees."
"A clear conscience makes a soft pillow."
"The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday."
"Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive."
"Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings."
"Forbidden fruit creates many jams."

"Christians, keep the faith... But not from others!"
"Satan subtracts and divides. God multiplies and multiplies."
"If you do not want to reap the fruits of sin stay out of the devil’s orchard."
"To belittle is to be little."
"Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself."
"God answers kneemail!"

THERE IS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR YOUNG PERSON’S ACHIEVEMENTS!

Let us celebrate our young people for all the good that they are doing! No task is too small to mention. Let us gear them up also for a lifetime of Abundant Living, by Accentuating the Positive which they do right now! There are so many negative situations that they could be in but they are working toward being good students, which means good citizens, which mean good leaders and good role models for home and community!
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<th>A&amp;S VENDING MINISTRY</th>
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Information for the monthly newsletter is due by the 2nd Sunday of each month and should be submitted to one of the following:

- Sis. Gail Garland Egarland02@cs.com
- Sis. Tina Williams ttnbwilliams@aol.com
- Sis. Yolanda Williams ywilliams@triad.rr.com
- Sis. Deborah Phillips sigdesign2008@aol.com

White Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church Cory A. Graves, Pastor
2600 Assembly Road Greensboro, NC 27405 (336) 621-3815 www.whiteoakgrove.net