



Saved by Grace

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Praising God!

Thank you!

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*I will praise the name of
God with a song, and will
magnify Him with
thanksgiving.
~Psalm 69:30 NKJV*



About Us

Sowing the Word Ministries is a non-profit organization founded by faith in Christ Jesus through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

501c(3) in progress

Our Mission

Sharing God's good news with others so they may develop an intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This ministry is to God's honor and glory, now and forever more!



Our Beliefs

Abide in Christ (John 15:4)
Our Lord tells us what we are to do as branches in Him. *Abide in me, he said, and I in you. Remain in me and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.*

Abiding requires a belief in the sacrificial work for Jesus Christ on our behalf. It is a dependence upon His provision of life and strength that is emphasized in *John 15:4 - if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you.*

Praising God!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Thank you!

Thank you to **Papa Murphy's Pizza** of Edwardsville for hosting our ministry fundraising events this year: Soles for Jesus, a non-profit organization that collects gently used shoes and delivers them to people of Africa who desperately need them; and, Operation Christmas Child-The Greatest Journey, an exciting discipleship program that teaches children to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Both organizations received 100% of funds raised, STWM used these opportunities to spread God's Good News (Galatians 5:22-23) – the Fruit of the Spirit.

Thank you **Sunset Hills Dental** for your donation again this year, supporting 100 needy children as part of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoe box drive. Your toothbrush and toothpaste contribution will soon bring a smile to 100 children in need.

Thank you **Family Christian Stores** for promoting our ministry cookbook this year. On Sale Now – "Breaking Bread Cookbook" (Volume 1). See more details inside.

Did you know?

National Adoption Day is officially recognized on the Saturday before every Thanksgiving.

The James Fund - is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of orphans and widows around the world. God's direction and purpose for this mission is defined in scripture: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..." James 1:27 NIV

Our Blessed Savior (A Christmas Story)



♪ *What Child is this...* ♪

"Greensleeves"

(Christmas Carol sing-along)

What child is this,
Who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet
With anthems sweet,
While shepherds
Watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard
and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe,
The Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian,
fear for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

Repeat Chorus

So bring Him incense,
gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own Him,
The King of kings, salvation
brings,
Let loving hearts Enthroned Him.

Raise, raise the song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe,
The Son of Mary!



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

~Isaiah 7:14

The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

~Luke 1:35

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

~Luke 2:9-14

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

~Isaiah 9:6-7



*Everyone who believes that **Jesus is the Christ is born** of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

~1 John 5:1-3 NTV

Happy Birthday Jesus!
Thank you Father for
our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ!

Christmas Carol sing-alongs...



♪ "Oh Holy Night" ♪

(Christmas Carol sing-along)

Oh holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear
Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and
error pinning Till he appear'd
and the soul felt its worth. A
thrill of hope the weary world
rejoices For yonder breaks a
new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine
Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine
Oh night divine

Led by the light of
Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His
cradle we stand So led by light
of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from
Orient land. The King of Kings
lay thus in lowly manger. In all
our trials born to be our friend.

Truly He taught us to love one
another His law is love
and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the
slave is our brother and in His
name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful
chorus raise we, Let all within us
praise His holy name



♪ "Joy to the World" ♪

(Christmas Carol sing-along)

Joy to the World,
the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart
prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven,
and nature sing.

Joy to the World,
the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Heaven sings and He brings
All these best things to this world
And we pray, and we say

He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His
love.

Joy to the World, the Lord has
come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him
room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and
nature sing.



Did you know?

"What Child Is This," also known as "Greensleeves", was written by William Chatterton Dix (1837 - 1898). Mr. Dix was a hymn writer who also wrote carols. The three verses were actually taken from Mr. Dix' poem, "The Manger Throne", and harmonized with a famous melody known as "Greensleeves."

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen is an English traditional Christmas carol. Although the author is unknown, the melody was published in minor mode by William B. Sandys in 1833.

The First Noël is a traditional classical English carol, most likely from the 18th century, although possibly earlier. The word Noel comes from the French word Noël meaning "Christmas", from the Latin word natalis "birthday". It was first published in *Carols Ancient and Modern* (1823) and *Gilbert and Sandys Carols* (1833), both of which were edited by William B. Sandys and arranged, edited and with extra lyrics written by Davies Gilbert *Hymns and Carols of God*.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is a Christmas carol that first appeared in 1739, and written by Charles Wesley. In 1955, English musician William H. Cummings adapted Felix Mendelssohn's secular music from *Festgesang* to fit his lyrics to "hark! The Herald Angels Sing". Mr. Wesley envisioned the song being sung to the same tune as his song "Christ the Lord is Risen Today".

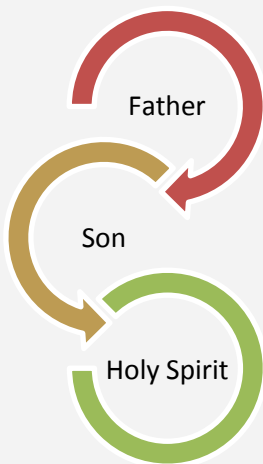
"Silent Night" Joseph Mohr wrote the lyrics of the carol, was born December 11th, 1792, in the city of Salzburg, where he also spent his childhood and early youth. He joined the priest seminary and was ordained as priest in 1815.

♪ "Silent Night" ♪

(Christmas Carol sing-along) ...

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born. Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face With drawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus Lord, at thy birth.

Living by Faith (connecting the dots)



Now faith is confidence
in what we hope for
and assurance about
what we do not see.
~Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)



Jesus said to him,
"Have you believed
because you have seen me?
Blessed are those
who have not seen
and yet have believed."
~John 20:29 ESV



Preparing for His Return...

In the realm of your sleep,
can you count how many
times God has spoken to
your heart, working in and
through you, even while you
sleep? Surely, there are
times in your life journey that
you can recognize as a
pivotal moment in your
sleep (a dream), when God
has clearly spoken to your
heart. No?

Are we held accountable
to deliver His visionary
messages to others, for His
name sake? Oh, Yes!

Consider this – you decide...

Walking straight ahead,
down the dark and lonely
path (at night) would have
been the wrong decision in
my journey, slipping off into
the bottomless pit. To my
left, I grabbed the right arm
of a Sister-in-Christ (later
revealed to be a Heavenly
Angel), and I said to her...
"Stop – don't walk there, or
you will fall".

Immediately following this
discerning, near mishap in
my life journey; and, as my
path became straight and
narrow again, but, crystal
clear, having overcome the
dark and gloomy journey
before; there stood erected
to my left, with doors wide
open, two very tall
mausoleums. In front, two
exposed above ground
vaults, the lids ready to be
lifted. My typical fears were
somehow held at bay in my
dream. An angel then
appeared to me, diverting
my attention to the East –
saying to me, "Look there"
(to the East).

There He was, My Lord and
Savior, descending to earth,

just as He promised in
scripture! All aglow –
brightly shining, with
brilliance that simply
cannot be verbalized. I fell
to my knees, exclaiming,
"There He is, my Lord and
Savior – He is here, our
journey has begun"! Thank
you Father! "My Lord and
Savior, My Lord and Savior
– I am coming Lord; wait
for me! I am coming
Lord"!

Crawling on my knees to
Him as fast as I could
possibly move, I awoke
from my dream as His
divineness was almost
ready to set foot to earth
(again). Behind the trees
He was quickly
descending. I never lost
sight of Him.

His discerning message
was crystal clear, and to
be delivered to others:
"Be prepared for our Lord's
return – time is nigh."

Author ~unknown

"For I know the plans I have

for you," declares the Lord,"

plans to prosper you and

not to harm you, plans to give

you hope and a future."

~Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

His loving arms embrace (testimonial truths)



He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more.
~Revelation 21:4 ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
~Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

I am sure of this,

that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
~Philippians 1:6 ESV

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."
~Matthew 23:12 ESV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ~Romans 5:1-2 KJV

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.
~2 Corinthians 13:14 NKJV



Blessed Assurance....

The gift of everlasting life

"God is always good"
"God is always good"

Recently my mother-in law went home to Our Lord. It is so hard to watch someone you love, from the deepest part of your soul get closer to death on a daily basis. Yes, in our selfishness, we want to keep them with us.

What will life be like now without one of the most precious gifts (my Momma) whom God gave me to love, and to be loved by? She was the greatest teacher EVER!

Well, let me tell you that with the pure love of Jesus; and continual GREAT faith; laying everything at the foot of the cross, and not taking it back; has revealed to me the most beautiful experience of my life. Jesus blesses us in so many ways; and, the greatest blessing of all was being able to help someone go home to be with Jesus. It was an honor! Others were blessed too as part of her journey home to Him.

I saw God's work first-hand, and how He positioned people and situations at the perfect timing in this blessed journey.

God is so good all the time. God allowed me and my son to be with her at her last breath. I will tell you, I personally, saw Him (Jesus) come to get her. Color and a beautiful smile came upon her face. The Lord came through us both. I could feel His presence. Thank you Father for the most blessed experience of my life!

The Lord gives us our first breath and our last breath. Our loved ones are only gifted to us. They are His; and to see them go home to Jesus; is a breath-taking experience.

If you ever have a fear of death – do not! The Lord comes to get you personally, to take you home.
Amen.

~Author: a devoted daughter-in-law

Let Go of fears and Let God!

"Trusting Him enough for the perfect outcome"

One foggy morning, after coffee and my usual prayer time in God's presence, I stepped out the door for my journey that day. "Trust Me, Trust Me, Trust!", He spoke to my heart.

"Father", I said, "shall I stay put until the fog subsides? I am fearful to venture out this morning; yet, I have commitments." Speaking to my heart, He said, in a crystal clear way that only our Heavenly Father can do - "My child", He said, "it doesn't matter whether you do, or you don't; what matters the most is trusting in me enough."

Wow! His tender, loving words of discernment immediately washed my soul with blessed assurance as I continued in my journey with confidence; knowing that His loving arms were embracing my heart, mind and soul, no matter what.

The dense fog produced five feet visibility at the forefront. As I set forth down the long driveway, I was stopped four separate moments, to allow four beautiful sparrows to cross my path. The first sparrow landed in the middle of the driveway, directly in front of my car, sitting down on the asphalt drive – I laughed. I stopped my car and waited patiently a few moments for the bird to move along. I inched my car forward; and while the first sparrow slowly walked away (nonchalantly), another sparrow flew in to take its place; once again, landing in the middle of the driveway in front of my car, sitting down – I stopped my car and chuckled. By the time I neared the end of my driveway four sparrows had loving and repeatedly engaged me – one at a time, sitting down in front of my car,, and nonchalantly walking away; keeping me company as my journey was delayed.

I was engulfed in God's presence while the sparrows entertained me. At the end of the driveway (over a five minute period), I had regained my faith – to "trust in Him enough". With my faith fully restore, my soul was enveloped with His perfect peace once again; His peace, which the Apostle Paul speaks of in *Philippians 4:6-7* "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

I looked to my left, and then to my right before entering the typically busy highway, with courage and strength to endure the journey, no matter what. Just before setting forth, through the dense fog arose an enormous truck with another vehicle tailgating quickly behind; having no mercy upon anyone in their path; speeding past at a high rate of speed that was not only well over the speed limit, but under the foggy conditions, was hazardous. Immediately, God reminded me why He sent the four loving sparrows to delay my journey.

"Well Lord", I said, "here I go, stepping out in faith." I was on my way with a humbled heart, traveling many miles in the fog without passing a single vehicle.

While fears attempted to overcome me along the foggy path that morning, His discerning words continually spoke to my heart, and the beautiful sparrows once again revealed to me, God's tender love and presence in my life – trusting Him enough for the perfect outcome, no matter what.

Thank you Father! ☺

~Author – STWM

"Peace / leave with you; my peace / give you."

~John 14:27 NIV

Surrender All!

If you would like to accept Jesus Christ by faith as your Lord and Savior, pray the following prayer today...

LET GO AND LET GOD!

"Father, I know that I have grieved your Spirit and broken your commandments and that my sins have kept me from building an intimate relationship with you. I am sorry Father, and I so want to turn from my sinful past and live a life that leads to you only. Please forgive me Father and I ask that you help me from sinning against you again. I believe that you are God the Father, maker of Heaven and Earth and that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, and is alive today in our hearts through the Power of the Holy Spirit. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I so want to live the life that you have intended, so I may fulfill your calling in my life. I pray Father too that you will teach me to trust and obey you all the days of my life. I ask these things in Jesus' Name -Amen."

How to experience a New Life in Christ...

In order to begin a new life in Christ (i.e. be saved), you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and declare that you accept Him as your Savior.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" ~Romans 10:9 KJV

This is God's promise to you -if you accept Jesus, He will accept you. *"For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" ~Romans 10:13*

Everyone is a sinner and is separated from God. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" ~Romans 3:23*

God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" ~ Romans 5:8*

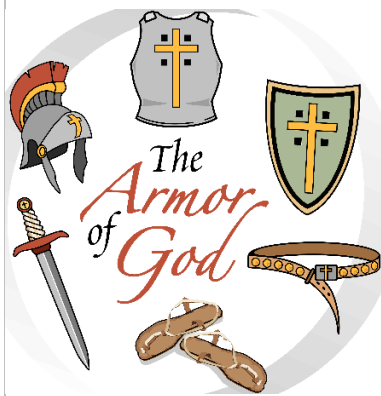
Death means separation forever from God. Eternal life, however, comes by trusting Jesus Christ. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" ~Romans 6:23*



Surrender All
to Him today!

You may not have
another opportunity in
your life journey.

Putting on God's Armor



What is God's Armor and why do I need it?

We are engaged in a spiritual battle - all believers are subject to Satan's attacks because we are no longer on Satan's side. This is why the Apostle Paul tells us to use **every piece** of God's armor to resist Satan's attacks and to stand true to God, even in the midst of those attacks.

What are the pieces that make up God's Armor and how do we apply them to daily living?

- **Belt** ► Truth
- **Breastplate** ► Righteousness
- **Shoes** ► Readiness to spread the Good News (the Gospel)
- **Shield** ► Faith
- **Helmet** ► Salvation
- **Sword** ► The Spirit; the Word of God

Etch God's Armor into your heart, mind and soul, forever.

Ephesians 6:11 NIV
Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

7

Puzzled?

Seek Him word search



C X S L D W S Z S R D Q I O Q
L O E N X O Y S E A I R W N C
E N M R X N O M E L V G O O L
U G L F C D E N N N L I U L G
N V H Q O E F P L H D N O E N
A B U U D R Y C E T S N K R I
M B G E O F T S Z E G T I C K
M M R D Y U A E L J T P U K C
E P S Q D L T O R U O G E N P
W E V O L K R E C N E I T A P
Y A I V E U K U Z U J O Y K P
B C G E N T L E N E S S C B D
M E S S I A H Y S X X O M L A
W X S E Z E Z U C G R P L V W
N S D Y Q P S C K F D G F Q U

Comforter	Counselor
Emmanuel	Gentleness
Jesus	Joy
Kindness	King
Lord	Love
Messiah	Patience
Peace	Redeemer
Rock	Savior
Wonderful	

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ~Psalm 118:24 ESV

Let us pray...

Thank you Father for this day and for each other;
we thank you for your guidance and blessings in our lives.
And most of all Father, thank you for your unconditional love.
We thank you for the life of your Son, Jesus Christ who suffered for our sins;
And, who is all sufficient in our hearts and minds today.
Thank you – thank you – thank you Father!
May we go forth each and every day to fulfill your calling in our lives.
May we become living water vessels for you, whereby your gospel,
The Word of Truth, may enrich our lives and,
Reach the lives of many more, as you've commanded.
And, Father, may others too experience
Your perfect peace which surpasses all understanding.
Agape Love Father! Agape Love!
We recognize that we are not perfect Father, but we aspire to be more
Christ-like each and every day; remaining steadfast in your Word of Truth.
And since our words alone cannot simply express our gratitude Father,
may our actions honor and glorify you always!
In Jesus' precious name – Amen.

Why/How should I pray?

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. ~Psalm 145:18-19 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." ~Matthew 21:22 KJV

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." ~Matthew 7:7-8

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." ~John 14:13-14 ESV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ~Ephesians 6:18 NIV

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open upon their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. ~1Peter 3:12 KJV

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you," declares the Lord. ~Jeremiah 29:12-14 ESV



Matthew 28:20 NIV

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children"
~Luke 18:16



Daily Morning Prayer

Thank you Jesus for today
Walk with me each step of the way
Hold my hand in work and play
Protect and guide me, this I pray.
Amen

Meal-time prayer

God is great; God is good; let us
thank Him for our food. By His
hands we are fed, give us Lord our
daily bread.
Amen

Bed-time prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.
Amen

Need Prayer?

Contact us via E-mail at:
prayerfully@sowingtheword4him.org



Meditating on God's Word

Do you have a Holy Bible? Are you grounded in God's Word daily?



Meditating on God's Word on a regular daily basis is absolutely essential in a believers life. If we try to manage in our own strength, we will soon find ourselves drifting away from God. Pray daily that the Power of the Holy Spirit will guide your way as you begin your life journey anew, following Christ. And then, thank the Father often for the blessings He sends your way.



If you need a Holy Bible, please contact Sowing the Word 4-HIM via e-mail at prayerfully@sowingtheword4HIM.org, or by writing to us at:

1063 S. State Route 157, Suite 2-110, Edwardsville, IL 62025.

May God abundantly bless you as you trust and obey Him today.

Books of the Bible...

Old Testament

Law:

- [Genesis](#)
- [Exodus](#)
- [Leviticus](#)
- [Numbers](#)
- [Deuteronomy](#)

History

- [Joshua](#)
- [Judges](#)
- [Ruth](#)
- [1 Samuel](#)
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Major Prophets:

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- [1 Timothy](#)
- [2 Timothy](#)
- [Titus](#)
- [Philemon](#)



The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

~Psalm 15:18 NKJV

Sowing the Word Ministries (2012 outreach events)

Based on God's leading this year, the ministry obediently embraced these fundraising events:

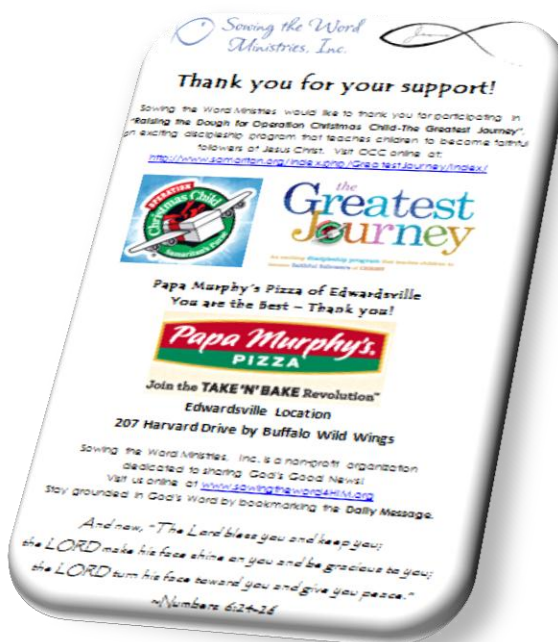


- **Soles for Jesus** – a non-profit organization that collects gently used shoes and delivers them to people of Africa who desperately need them.
- **Operation Christmas Child - The Greatest Journey** – an exciting discipleship program that teaches children to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Please pray that God will continue to abundantly bless those involved in these outreach efforts and especially those that are directly in need of these programs.

Thank you!

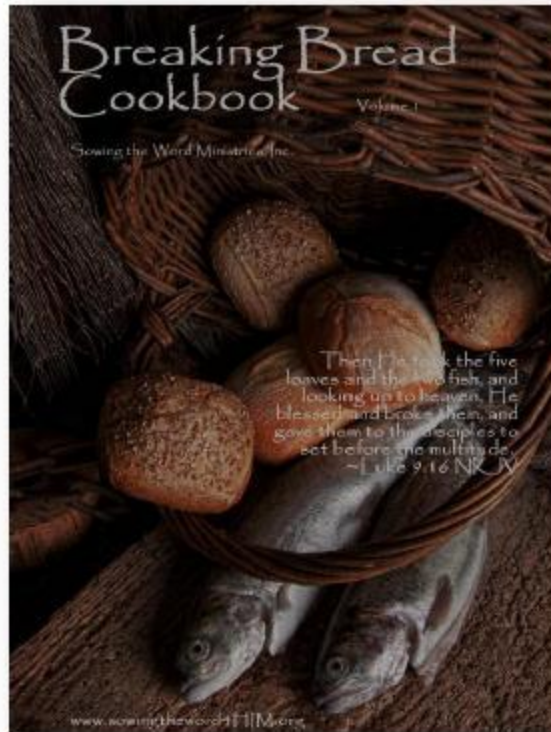
STWM supported 106 needy children this year through Operation Christmas Child (shoe box drive). This means that 100 needy children will soon receive a shoebox filled with love. If you are called by God to contribute to either of these needy causes, please contact us via e-mail at prayerfully@sowingtheword4HIM.org, or by mail; or learn more about these organizations at: www.solesforjesus.org, and www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/GreatestJourney/index/. More Blessings!



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*This cookbook is dedicated to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
who gave His life for all sinners. Thank you Father!*

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Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

~1 Peter 1:8-9 NIV

