

An unexpected calling

DAWN REED'S PREACHER'S WIFE COLUMN
Many times in the Bible, God showed up on ordinary days. Moses was a shepherd when he saw the burning bush. David was also tending sheep the day the prophet Samuel came to his house. Gideon was secretly threshing wheat, and Elisha was plowing a field when their lives changed forever.



DAWN REED

It was on another perfectly ordinary day over 2,000 years ago, that an angel of the Lord divinely interrupted the simple life of a young girl. The angel's name was Gabriel; the girl was Mary. It happened in a town called Nazareth. (The true story is told in Luke 1 and 2.)

God had chosen Mary for something very special ... exciting ... and terrifying. She would be the mother of the promised Messiah. She was the one the prophets and preachers had talked about for hundreds of years.

Mary was a teenager, engaged to be married to a fine man named Joseph. She could picture it all: they would have a home, a good life, and many children. She had a wedding planned, NOT an unexpected, life-changing, world-shaking calling. We know Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future." Did Mary know that, too?

I carry Bible verses in my pocket. Did Mary tuck the words of Gabriel in her tunic? Did she whisper them to herself during trying times? Did she yell them when she was alone? They were good words to remember in Nazareth, Bethlehem, Egypt, and all the other places she would go: "The Lord is with you ... Do not be afraid ... Nothing is impossible with God."

I am not the angel Gabriel, but I have special and exciting news for you: GOD HAS ALSO CHOSEN YOU FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT. Mary would carry the Savior of the world in her belly, but WE carry the Savior of the world in our hearts, not to keep, but to share.

You may not feel worthy or equipped. That's OK. God is famous for using unlikely. He equips those He calls. Mary might not have seemed like an obvious choice either. She was young, poor, and female — three reasons others might overlook her. You may have three strikes against you, too. God isn't scared of your past or your present condition. God saw what was in Mary's heart, what she was capable of. The same is true for us.

In the early 90's, a mission team of college students came to our church. They led services during the weekend. I vividly remember that Sunday night feeling the Lord stirring my heart

and the call to be a missionary. Then I was immediately disheartened thinking all missionaries were single and served in Africa. Here I was married, with two children, and living in eastern KY. There was no mission for me. Oh, how wrong I was! I didn't realize as a follower of Christ I was on mission every single day, at home, at work, and in my community. Just as He did Mary, God planted us exactly where we need to be. Her place was Nazareth; mine is here in the mountains. He gives each of us gifts, talents, passions, and personalities that can be used to share the Good News. We are ALL called. We are ALL on mission. God invites us to work with Him. Right we are, to reach our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. And people who are unseen by others. We can pray and ask God to show us where He is leading; where we are to go and to whom we should go. Oh, He will. And He will give us the courage to do it! the unexpected calling, she had a choice. She fully surrendered to God's plan. Let's follow her example.

Email religion columnist Dawn Reed at preacher-swife7@yahoo.com.

Stock Yards Bank donates to NC Vets Park



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stock Yards Bank recently donated \$500 toward the construction of the upcoming Nelson County Veterans Park. The new Bardstown branch of the bank opened Dec. 10.

Trump admin says sign-language services hinder his image control

BY MEG KINNARD ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Trump administration is arguing that requiring real-time American Sign Language interpretation of events like White House press briefings "would severely intrude on the President's prerogative to control the image he presents to the public," part of a lawsuit seeking to require the White House to provide the services.

Department of Justice attorneys haven't elaborated on how doing so might hamper the portrayal President Donald Trump seeks to present to the public. But overturning policies encompassing diversity, equity and inclusion have become a hallmark of his second administration, starting with his very first week back in the White House.

The National Association for the Deaf sued the Trump administration in May, arguing that the cessation of American Sign Language interpretation — which the Biden administration had used regularly — represented "denying hundreds of thousands of deaf Americans meaningful access to the White House's real-time communi-

cations on various issues of national and international import." The group also sued during Trump's first administration, seeking ASL interpretation for briefings related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a June court filing opposing the association's request for a preliminary injunction, reported Thursday by Politico, attorneys for the Justice Department argued that being required to provide sign language interpretation for news conferences "would severely intrude on the President's prerogative to control the image he presents to the public," also writing that the president has "the prerogative to shape his Administration's image and messaging as he sees fit." Government attorneys also argued that it provides the hard of hearing or Deaf community with other ways to access the president's statements, like online transcripts of events, or closed captioning. The administration has also argued that it would be difficult to wrangle such services in the event that Trump spontaneously took questions from the press, rather than at a formal briefing.

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IMPACTED PUBLISH DATE/ISSUE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
Real Estate and all Classifieds
(Display /Reader /Line /Legals & Notices)

Advertising Deadline
3 p.m., Tuesday December 23rd

Retail Advertising Deadline
10 a.m., Wednesday, December 24th

IMPACTED PUBLISH DATE/ISSUE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH
Real Estate and all Classifieds
(Display /Reader /Line /Legals & Notices)

Advertising Deadline
3 p.m., Tuesday, December 30th

Retail Advertising Deadline
10 a.m., Wednesday, December 31st

Our office will be closed on Dec 24th & 25th, and on January 1st.

The Kentucky Standard

Get ready for a wonderful

Indoor Market

Holiday Shopping Time!
Shop local to find one-of-a-kind items!
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Santa

We will be collecting non perishables for Room at the Inn

10AM UNTIL NOON