

# News, Connections & Joys

North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women

Volume 1, Issue 1 July 2021

## A New Thing

Greetings NCJ Sisters,

Welcome to our first newsletter edition from the 2021-2024 North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) team!!

How many times have we heard how 2020 was a very hard, difficult, and sometimes a lonely year? The global pandemic and COVID – 19 has really made us think about a lot of things. But, the one thing that I want to remember about 2020 is how all that time being sheltered in place made me closer to God and understand how blessed I (we) are. Because of COVID, we had to learn how to do things in a different and innovative way. Use all of the skills and be creative in ways that we might not have thought of attempting if we did not have our global health crisis. Yes, we missed our social and personal contact with each other, but we remembered how important it is to reach out to each other on the telephone, send cards, and develop other means of being together (ZOOM meetings!!!) All I can say is, "God is good! He is good all of the time! And, all of the time He is good!!!" In saying all of that, let us explore what we have already accomplished this year without physically meeting each other.

- The NCJ team met and introduced ourselves in December 2020 before we began our Christmas and New Year holidays.
- We had our UMW Leadership Development Days (LDD) gathering January 28-30, 2021.
- The NCJ team started having various Zoom meetings with the 10 Conferences and began building relationships and to make plans of joy in the various Conference events.
- The NCJ team updated our website and the 10 Conferences have included their events and invited all to be a part of their mission work. Note: If there is something missing on our Conference link in the website, please let us know.
- The NCJ Vice President, and the rest of the team, are busy working in the next NCJ Quadrennial Event being scheduled for 2024.
- We shared information about our activities and events that are promoting the Charter of Racial Justices in our NCJ Conferences.
- The Conference presidents have started discussing and sharing their various local and

district needs that are surrounded around the membership, especially younger women. We only had a very short and beginning discussion, but we are committed to more detailed discussions in the future. This is a topic that is near and dear to all (UMW) women. I cannot wait to see where this will lead all of us to go.

I think we can truly say to ourselves that we (the UMW North Central Jurisdiction and Conferences) are truly doing and learning a "new thing."

This is very exciting and we are showing that we are bold, we have faith and hope, we are in action, and we are in love with our mission work!!! So, as we continue our UMW work, let's discuss our latest event, the 2022 Assembly.

We are all excited about the 2022 Assembly that is scheduled for May 20-22, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. The title of the 2022 Assembly is "Turn It UP!" This will be one of our big chances to get back together again and personally enjoy each other and our work as United Methodist Women. Of course, instructions and details about the Assembly will be coming out to us as quickly as the National Office has the information. The one bit of information that we do have at this time is early registration and this is a good time to make our NCJ offer for 20 scholarships (same as the immediate past NCJ team offer -- see the 'Save the Date' announcement by Sylvia Kempton, NCJ Treasurer found on Page 4).

Please take advantage of the NCJ team's offer of the 20 scholarships for the 2022 Assembly registration. That would be two (2) scholarships for each Conference.

We want to make sure that we are at the Assembly and prepared to:



As we can see 2020 was a hard and challenging year. But it was also a year of discovery and anticipation of great and wonderful things. I am looking forward to seeing what new social concerns the United Methodist Women will be taking on for the betterment of women, children and youth.

I am sending my love and prayers to all of you!

**Marchelle "Micki" Phelps, President**

## Opportunities to Serve

Do you have in mind a person you would like to recommend for consideration as an officer for the United Methodist Women's North Central Jurisdiction team for 2024-2028? The form to fill out and return is the **Recommendation to the NCJ Committee on Nominations** (found on page 9).

Or would you yourself be interested? Then fill out the **Tell me more...I may be interested!** form and send to one of the current NCJ Committee on Nominations members (found on page 10).

***Elizabeth Everett, Chair, Committee on Nominations***

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## Knitted Together

As I step into this position of North Central Jurisdiction Treasurer, I hope to represent the United Methodist Women of West Ohio well. There are many accomplishments of women that have made history; but for now, I will focus on the four National Mission Sites within the West Ohio Conference.

These four sites are included with the nearly 90 National Mission Sites which are totally supported by United Methodist Women: Wesley Education Center [Cincinnati, OH] est. 1920, Friendly Center [Toledo, OH] est. 1923, Wesley Community Center [Dayton, OH] est. 1966, Community Development For All People [Columbus, OH] est. 1999.

United Methodist Women Conference team has 'prayer partners' as a way of networking within the team. In December each year a special gift to mission from the prayer partners is remitted to one of the West Ohio Mission Sites, and the recipient site is alternated [every 4<sup>th</sup> year].

In the East Ohio Conference, we are honored to have West Side Community House [Cleveland, OH] est. 1922, with roots back to Women's Home Missionary Society, 1890.

Another fact: The Lucy Webb Hayes Heritage Center in Chillicothe, Ohio is a small frame house, the 1831 birthplace of Lucy Webb. She became wife of 19<sup>th</sup> U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881. From the roots of United Methodist Women, in 1880 the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society organized and Lucy Webb Hayes is elected

president. This was a national organization and Lucy served as a faithful and courageous leader while also serving as the first First Lady in the White House.

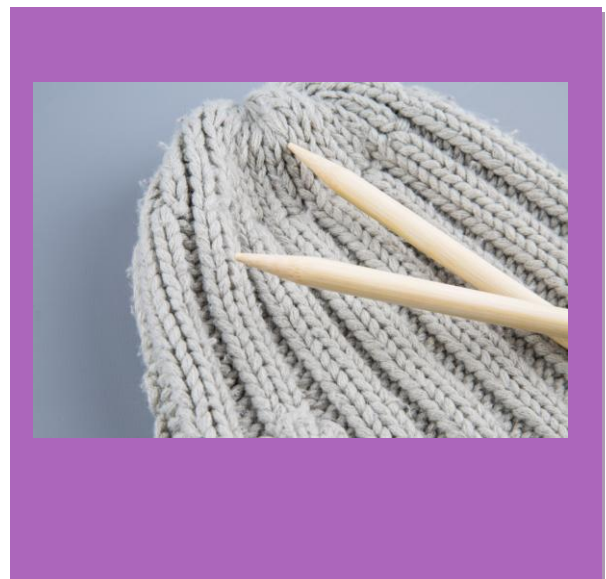
Another fact: Toni Morrison, of well-known literary recognition is from Lorain, Ohio. Her first of eleven novels, *The Bluest Eye*, was written in 1970. Her mother was a key member of the African Methodist Episcopal church choir.

My own very small church, Springbank UMC, est. 1799 by Dr. Edward Tiffin, Ohio's first governor and Rev. Henry Smith, Circuit Rider of the Methodist Church. In 1787, the federal government established the Northwest Territory. The Ordinance of 1787 recognized every man as free and equal [no slavery or involuntary servitude] and prohibited interference with worship or religion. The Indian Wars lasted 1790-1795. Ohio became a state in 1803.

Springbank continues to thrive as a small church in the community of Yellowbud, near Chillicothe, Ohio. Springbank United Methodist Women has been in existence since 1913. The church is surrounded by corn fields. Much of Ohio is agricultural with a large share of industry. ***We are all knitted together in God's grace.*** We have weathered the storms, faced the trials and celebrated accomplishments beyond all measure; and we, as a very historical state continue to be 'Knitted Together for God's Good Work'.

***Sylvia S. Kempton, Treasurer***

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## Poem of Inspiration from Tiwana Carmichael

Out of her book: Given Utterance (Poems that heal and comfort the soul)

### It's Already Done

When sometimes things get you down  
When you want to smile, but yet you frown  
When you want to laugh, but instead you cry  
When you sit quietly alone and wonder why?

I know where my heart is and I know where my faith lies  
I know that the answer to my prayers is right before my eyes  
I know that God has a plan and it's always for the good  
But sometimes I can't help wanting to know so that it's better understood

We'll pray for your strength and pray that you won't worry  
You know better than anyone, who in the end will get the glory!  
Our Lord, Our God, by Him all things are made.  
For He IS "the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"^\*

*\*Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

*President Micki's notes about the writer:  
Tiwana Carmichael's work was introduced to me by one of my dearest friends and sister in Christ, Avis Taylor. Both Avis Taylor and Ms. Carmichael are also friends. Avis describes Tiwana as a wonderful young woman and inspiring writer. I wanted to share an example of Tiwana's work that helped me to smile and to remember that God has a plan for all of us. Also, that young people have something very important to say that speaks to our heart and soul.*

*I know what it is to have little and  
I know what it is it have plenty.  
In any and all circumstance, I have  
learned the secret of being  
well-fed and of going hungry.*

**I can do all things through him  
who strengthens me.**

Philippians 4 -12-13

This is one of my favorite scriptures. This passage has helped me understand what it means to trust in the Lord.

October 2020 I had my third back surgery. It was hard because we were in the middle of a pandemic. I think for me at that time I really depended on my faith to help me through. I was blessed that I was able to come home and my family could take care of me.

April 2021 I had a total knee placement. This has been the test for me. I am still working on my walking and balance. I have read and re-read the above scriptures. I have found strength and I know this too will pass.

Being a part of United Methodist Women has been a blessing in so many ways. They have prayed, sent cards, and called to make sure I was doing ok. I could not have visitors because of the pandemic so my outing was doctors visit and physical therapy.

I continue to heal physically and spiritually. There is nothing too hard for God .

***Simmie Proctor, Committee on Nominations***







## UMW - JOY!

Hi, My name is Ginny Coates, from the Dakotas Conference; serving on the Nominating Committee. Soon and very soon, I hope we can meet in person; although meeting by Zoom has been quite interesting. Thusly, we have been working together.

Several years ago I had to put on a skit at Regional School. It was to promote the Reading Program, especially Response Magazine. I had the shortest shorts I'd ever worn, and set my lounge chair out to read. Only the chair wouldn't cooperate! It just kept collapsing, and I kept trying. The audience is laughing, (they think it's part of the skit), and I'm desperately trying, but cannot get this chair to sit up. I look down and see my husband, who was one of the teachers for Mission u that year; hoping he would come up on stage and help me. But no, he has his hand over his eyes. The laughter was louder, the audience whooped. Finally, I was able to get the chair somewhat tamed, and another Virginia was able to push reading Response.

Two or three years later we were traveling through Iowa and stopped for church on a Sunday morning. The President of their Conference UMW was giving the message in that church on that Sunday. On our way out, she shook our hands and said, "I don't remember your name, but I know you are the woman with the lounge chair!!"

*Attending Assembly has always been a joy.* At the Kansas City Assembly, I got to meet up with my college roommate, whom I had not seen her for eighteen years. She was ushering at Assembly. Some of us from the Dakotas were walking up the steps to the balcony, and there was Liz, handing us our programs.

The singing together at Assembly is inspiring and uplifting, with thousands of rich voices pealing out praise. At another Assembly, over lunch at one of the interest sessions, I met Mary Kercherval Short. She noticed that I was from South Dakota. I asked where she was from, and she answered: "Cincinnati, Ohio." I persisted, "No, no, where was your home, home?" "Oh," she answered, "a little town in South Dakota that you wouldn't know." "Try me," I responded. "Edgemont, South Dakota," she said. "That's my husband's home town...did you

know Ed Coates?" Yes, indeed, she did. His brother was in her class. Mary and her brother have been to visit us since in our home; and I persuaded her to teach a class for our Mission u one of the years I was Dean of the school.

Oh, the joys I have had through UMW Assembly, and all of UMW. It would be another joy for me to have NCJ meet in the Dakotas. With the cancellation of NCJ last year, we got beat out of entertaining you in Sioux Falls. I would like to have opportunity to do that again.

UMW has been my life for over 50 years; and I feel so fortunate to have had this education that I've received from the studies, workshops, reading programs, and meetings with my sisters in Christ.

'Hope to see you in Florida at Assembly May 20-22, 2022.

*Ginny Coates, Committee on Nominations*

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North Central Jurisdiction

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## Ripe-Ness

### Is it ripe yet?

As I revise this meditation from my book: 101 Helps for Helpers, I reflect on the last year. Who would have thought of being on hold for more than a year as we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic? We kept asking, is it time to ditch the masks, the social distancing, and the restrictions that were meant to keep us safe?

### Is it ripe yet?

Growing up in Georgia, we had the glorious option of letting fruit stay on the vine until it was lusciously ripe. We didn't have to buy it green and wait for it to ripen or wait too long as with bananas that end up only being good for banana bread. We picked it when Big Daddy or Big Mama said it was ripe. They could tell the ripe moment by the color, blush, scent, or feel. They knew when each peach or pear or plum or tomato had reached its ripeness. They even had a foolproof method of knowing when watermelons or cantaloupes were ripe. Still today, people use all sorts of techniques such as thumping or smelling when they go to the supermarket to pick a melon that is just ripe. Some even claim to have a method to be able to pick the sweetest melon or fruit.

### Is it ripe yet?

Hopefully, finally the time is ripe for us all to reconnect to family and enjoy the many things that made us realize the importance of even simple things, things we took for granted. So, I ask, is it ripe yet? As a member of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Nominating

Committee, I will be asking the question: "Is this the time to rethink your involvement and commitment to the United Methodist Women?" "Is this the time for you to be plucked from your "let someone else do it tree" and see how your own seed will develop?" I accepted a position with the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women at a time when I feel I can grow, develop, and blossom at this stage of my life. *So, let's declare: "I'm ripe, I'm ready, and as with Esther, I'm called for such a time as this."* You will ripen in due time.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord of the Harvest, Only You know when ripeness occurs. You plant us in places where we are meant to grow. You nurture us with cooling waters that nourish our spirits and quiet our minds. You provide the beautiful, warming sunshine and the shining example of Your Son, to provide the Light that guides our growth. You provide good soil for us to anchor our roots. You prune us to make us better and to produce more fruit. We pray that we will recognize when we are ripe, and burst forward in all our blushing, glowing radiance, and be examples of the luscious fruit that You made us to be. Amen.

From: 101 Helps for Helpers, Linda Johnson Crowell, 2009.

*Linda Crowell, Committee on Nominations*

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## Tell Us About Your State

Hello, everyone!  
I am Pat Bostic, NCJ, Vice President.

It is very exciting to be a member of the NCJ team. I have been looking at our nine states, and it will be difficult to choose a location for our event for 2024. All nine states are awesome - so much so that I am asking all of you to *send in any fun, unique, and exciting things about your state.*

Please send to:  
[Becky Heeren \(becky@alumni.iastate.edu\)](mailto:becky@alumni.iastate.edu)

This is another way for us to be "Knitted Together". I am so happy to be a part of this NCJ team. Their team spirit is awesome.

Warm regards  
*Pat Bostic, Vice President*

## Scholarships-Seeds for the Future

We are coming up on early registration for Assembly 2022 and many of you are hoping for a good representation in Orlando from your UMW group (Local, District, Conference). I would like to encourage you to [find a way to offer a scholarship or 2 to young women](#). You will be amazed at the harvest from your investment in the future.

In the North Central Jurisdiction, we are familiar with farming and gardening as a way of life. In my life, the seeds planted by UMW changed me and my family. In 1988, I received notice that I had "won" a scholarship to School of Christian Mission. I don't remember applying, but decided not to ask too many questions! My registration, lodging, meals, and child care were all included.

So, I packed up my 5 year-old daughter and drove for 3 1/2 hours to Morningside College in Sioux City. We stayed in the dorm and ate at the dining hall. My daughter decided that college was for her due to the fancy cereal dispenser. The studies were Ruth and Esther, as well as South Africa (still under Apartheid at that time).

My first exposure to a UMW event outside of my local unit was life changing. When Nelson Mandela was set free in 1990 after 27 years in prison, I knew that the fervent prayers of so many United Methodist Women had an impact.

Some years later, I said "yes" to serving on the district, then to the conference, where I had the privilege of leading Iowa's first Mission u as Dean.

My daughter is still in college, as a seminary student, preparing to live out her call to ministry. She has previously served in UMW's Program Advisory Group.

I am forever grateful for the women in the Waterloo District for making me feel like a winner and sowing the seeds of a wonderful journey in UMW.

**Becky Heeren, Secretary**



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## North Central Jurisdiction

### News, Connections & Joys

#### News:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." *Luke 4:18-19 NRSV*

*Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

*UMH #251*

#### Connections:

United Methodist Women ..."Shall be a **community of women** whose PURPOSE is to know God..."

"In prayer, there is a connection between what God does and what you do."

*Matthew 6:14 "The Message"*

*Bind Us Together*

*The Faith We Sing #2226*

#### Joys:

"**Make a joyful noise** to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God, it is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations."

*Psalms 100 NRSV*

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*UMH #89*



## North Central Jurisdiction

## 2021-2024 Leadership Team

**President – Marchelle (Micki) Phelps**  
marchellephelps@gmail.com (Michigan)

**Vice President – Patricia (Pat) Bostic**  
pbostic02@att.net (Michigan)

**Secretary – Becky Heeren**  
becky@alumni.iastate.edu (Iowa)

**Treasurer – Sylvia Kempton**  
kemptonss@yahoo.com (West Ohio)

**Nominations Chair – Elizabeth Everitt**  
e.everitt@comcast.net (Minnesota)

### Nominations Committee:

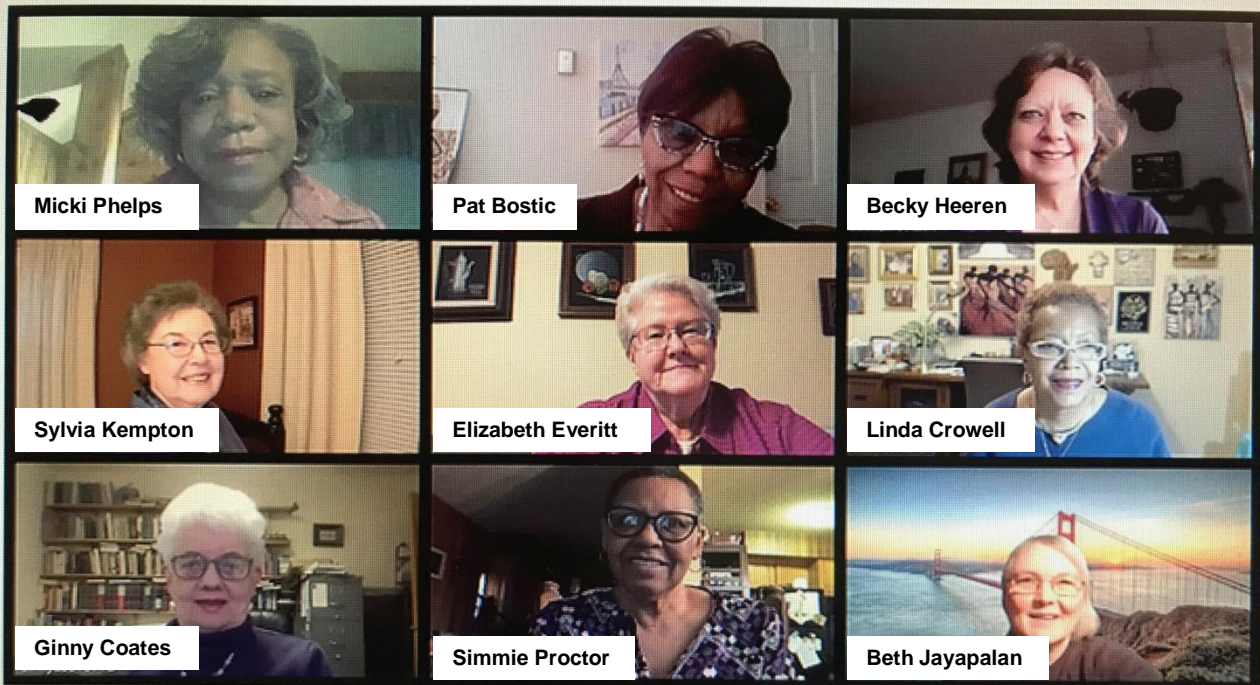
**Dr. Linda Johnson Crowell**  
lfchso@msn.com (East Ohio)

**Virginia (Ginny) Coates**  
edcoates@gwtc.net (Dakotas)

**Simmie Proctor**  
simmiepr@hotmail.com (Michigan)

**Elizabeth (Beth) Jayapalan**  
jaybeth76@yahoo.com (Northern Illinois)

*We hope to see you in Orlando  
May 20-22, 2022  
for Assembly*



**Stay tuned for updates on our North Central Jurisdiction  
Quadrennial Event to be held in 2024!**





**United Methodist Women  
North Central Jurisdiction  
Committee on Nominations  
<https://www.umwncj.org>**

### Recommendation to the NCJ Committee on Nominations

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I recommend: (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_20's \_\_\_30's \_\_\_40's \_\_\_50's \_\_\_60's \_\_\_70's \_\_\_80's+

Race/Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Languages Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Employed: \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Why this person should be considered (use back side, if needed):

Positions I would recommend this person for:

Office of \_\_\_\_\_

And/or \_\_\_\_\_

References:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Person submitting this information:

Signed (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Elizabeth Everitt, Chair of Nominations, NCJurisdiction  
4460 Jack Pine Trail North  
Lake Elmo MN 55042  
651-260-5347

*Thank you and God Bless You!*



**United Methodist Women  
North Central Jurisdiction  
Committee on Nominations  
<https://www.umwncj.org>**

***Tell me more....I may be interested!***

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference** \_\_\_\_\_

**My ethnicity/race (to help us be as inclusive as possible)** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Experience in United Methodist Women:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What I might be interested in doing** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return this form to a NCJ CON Team member.**

Elizabeth Everitt, Chair  
4460 Jack Pine Trail North  
Lake Elmo MN 55042-9522  
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[e.everitt@comcast.net](mailto:e.everitt@comcast.net)

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[jaybeth76@yahoo.com](mailto:jaybeth76@yahoo.com)

***Thank you and God bless you!***