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# Be Encouraged!

Pastors' Wives and Women In Ministry  
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I would love to hear from you: [njr9025@aol.com](mailto:njr9025@aol.com). Your ideas are welcome! Honest!

## *Is it Time for a Pedicure?*

It was a Christmas I will never forget. It held one of those moments that the Holy Spirit drops something so profound into your heart that it actually becomes a defining moment in your life. I have what I call my “**spiritual treasure box.**” Some of the jewels in my treasure box are gems from the Father that came wrapped in a beautiful encounter with Him or a circumstance that displayed His love for me. Others are painfully hewn out of situations in which trials and failures produce a pearl of great price - a life lesson.

Christmas dinner at my sister and brother-in-law’s house is one of my favorite events of the holiday season. Not only is our family together, but the table includes an array of interesting people. There is Pierre who is known throughout our region as the leading pulmonary pediatric physician; John is a nuclear physicist who works for NASA; Mary and Sue are nurses involved in a research team. Sitting around the table are Greeks, Irishmen, French, and Swiss. To say the conversation is lively is an understatement!

That was a year of discontent if you happened to be a conservative in America. Liberal agendas were thriving and we were all “worked up” to say the least. The discussion around the dinner table was heated and I was right in thick of it. I had great political insights so articulately stated that I even impressed myself! With stomachs full, emotions peaking, and brains swelling, we pushed ourselves from the table dispersing to various comfy sofas and chairs throughout the house.

*To my astonishment, I found myself speechless!*

I was nestling into my favorite overstuffed chair when John (the nuclear physicist) sat down, looked straight into my eyes and said, "If I was ever going to put a gun to my head and pull the trigger, it would be at Christmas. I *hate* Christmas." **These are the moments I live for.** It was one of those incredible situations when a broken heart opens slightly, and the opportunity to sow the seeds of the Gospel presents itself.

John lost both of his parents at a young age in a tragic accident. His only brother had drowned at a young age. He was divorced from his wife and estranged from his children leaving him literally without a family. Here I sit with a brilliant man who has everything, yet nothing all at the same time, and baring the deep anguish of his soul. To my astonishment, I found myself speechless. This woman, the one who *lives and breathes* to share Christ with the lost bleakly stammered, "Yeah, the holidays can be really hard." Period. End of conversation.

As we drove home with our car packed with presents, tears streamed down my face. "Lord, what happened in there?!" The Holy Spirit did what I call a "rewind and replay". I saw myself at the dinner table ranting and raving about current issues. He said, "Nancy, when you are barreling down that highway full throttle, it is simply too big of a downshift to change gears and share My love with someone. You need to decide what message you want to champion." Then the verse came to mind, "How lovely are the feet of them who bring GOOD NEWS, announcing PEACE, proclaiming NEWS OF HAPPINESS." **In other words, I had ugly feet.**

I take this jewel out of my treasure box and admire it all the time. It cost a lot. What is our life message? God has entrusted precious saints to our care who need to hear good news. They need a little peace and happiness. We encounter unbelievers everyday who are more familiar with what Christians are *against* than what we are *for*. I fear we need a pedicure! We set the course as leaders in this incredible entity called the Body of Christ. The message is defined by our words and our focus. We are in danger of being distracted and raising the wrong banner in this crucial hour of our nation's history As women who are pastors' wives and women in ministry in America, we have incredible influence to LOVE, to LIVE, and to LEAD in a manner that "diffuses the fragrance of Christ in every place" and points the world and the church to Jesus.

***I'm getting regular pedicures by the Holy Spirit these days!***

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*How beautiful upon the mountains  
Are the feet of those who brings good news,  
Who proclaim peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things,  
Who proclaim salvation,  
Who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"  
Isaiah 52:7 NIV*