



# THE REAL NEWS Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Publisher: Latorria Freeman

## A Heartfelt Farewell from the North Pole: Santa and Mrs. Claus Reflect on a Season of Giving

As the twinkling lights of Christmas fade and the world turns its gaze toward the promise of a new year, Santa Claus and his beloved Mrs. Claus take a moment to look back on the magic they've shared—not just with children around Natchitoches, but with the Shreveport, Bossier City, and surrounding areas. This holiday season, the dynamic duo from the North Pole went beyond delivering gifts under the tree. They embodied the true spirit of Christmas by supporting local events, visiting nursing homes to bring cheer to those in need, and encouraging acts of kindness in neighborhoods far and wide.

They pray that everyone remembers the true meaning of the season. Santa and Mrs. Claus reminded us all that the greatest joy comes from lifting others. Their elves weren't the only ones working overtime; the Clauses themselves inspired others to join in, spreading love, peace, and joy throughout communities. Now, with their sleigh packed and reindeer rested, it's time for a well-deserved return to the snowy serenity of the North Pole. But fear not—they'll be watching from afar, preparing for next year's adventures.

As Santa ho-ho-hos his final waves and Mrs. Claus sends her warmest smiles, they share, "We pray you all continue sharing the blessings God gives us each day." To every member of our wonderful community—near and far—we wish you a prosperous New Year filled with health, happiness, and endless opportunities. May 2026 bring you joy, success, and the magic of new beginnings. With love from the North Pole,



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Santa & Mrs. Claus



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## A Heartfelt Farewell from the North Pole: Santa and Mrs. Claus Reflect on a Season of Giving







**BOM**  
Bank

**Gives Back**



#### **Natchitoches:**

BOM Bank is proud to be a Title Sponsor of St. Mary's Catholic School's Round Robin Basketball Tournament on December 29 - 30! This amazing event serves as the biggest fundraiser of the year for both the boys and girls basketball programs — and we're always excited to support our local athletes and school spirit! Pictured left to right: BOM's Carrie Hough, Cole Yopp, Ava Hebert, BOM's Claire Mayeaux, and Head Coach Layne Huckabay.



#### **Rapides:**

Go Lady Indians!

BOM Bank is proud to support the Tioga High School Softball Program.

Pictured left to right: Head Coach Brad Woodward and BOM's Mark Leger.



#### **Bossier/Caddo:**

Go Southern Dynasty! BOM Bank is a proud sponsor of the Southern Dynasty 12U softball team. This talented group of local athletes not only competes in travel softball but also strives to serve the Lord and give back through charity and community service. Pictured: Ryleigh Williams, Lily Williams, BOM's Bre Yarber, Harper LaCroix, and Abigail Thomas.



*Congratulations*  
**KIM WILKERSON**

#### **Sabine:**

We are excited to announce that Kimberly Wilkerson has been promoted to Branch Manager of our Many, Louisiana location!

A DeRidder native and DHS alum, Kim now calls Toledo Bend home, where she lives with her husband, two boys, and their golden lab. She enjoys traveling, fishing, shopping, and—most importantly—getting to know new people. Kim's dedication, leadership, and passion for serving others make her a wonderful fit for this role, and we know she will continue to do great things for our Many community. Please join us in congratulating Kim on this well-deserved promotion!



The Law Offices of Howard E. Conday’s Annual Toy Giveaway  
Village of Natchez





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## 2025 Charles and Hoover Christmas in the Park Giveaway Village of Natchez







## 2025 Shop with a Cop Sponsored by Cane River Branch of Magnolia State Peace Officers Association

The Cane River Branch of the Magnolia State Peace Officers Association had a great time shopping with students at Walmart on Saturday, December 20th, for their annual Shop With A Cop day. Students selected are paired with an officer and allowed to shop throughout the store for whatever they want within the price limit. The purpose of the national event is to build community relationships with the children and law enforcement officers. A special thank you to Walmart for welcoming the members, students, and officers with hot chocolate and doughnuts. Thanks to our sponsors who help to make this annual event a success.

The excitement was evident as smiling faces filled the aisles, with students eagerly picking out gifts and essentials. Both officers and students shared laughter, making lasting memories and strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community.



## Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW APP

Instant access to essential information at your fingertips.

- NPSO Directory
- Submit A Tip
- Sex Offenders
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- Extra Patrol Requests
- School Resource Officers
- Join Our Team
- Emergency Prep

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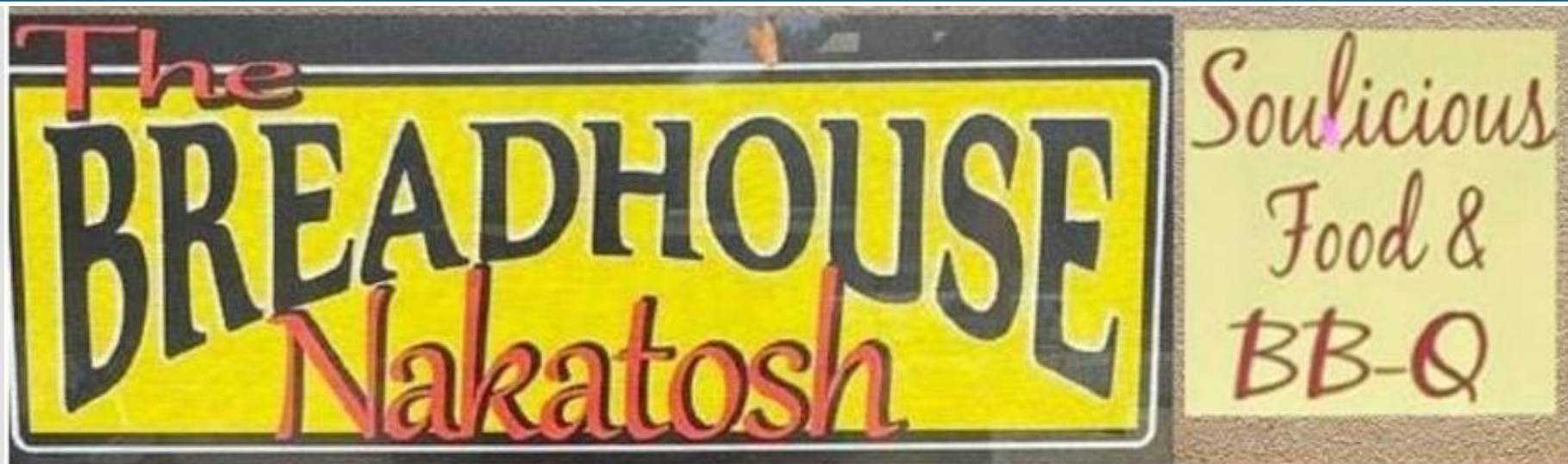
# AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW!



## The Brotherhood of Goodwill Baptist Church Prepared and Served Meals to the Community on Christmas Day

This holiday season, the brotherhood of Goodwill Baptist Church in Natchitoches, Louisiana, opened its doors to host a heartfelt Christmas dinner for the community, spreading joy and fellowship during the most wonderful time of the year. Under the leadership of Pastor Brian J. Small Sr., Goodwill Baptist Church—located at 1312 Holmes Street—continues its longstanding commitment to community outreach. Known for providing free meals and support, the church used this Christmas event to bring people together, offering not just a delicious meal but a message of hope and belonging. The gathering emphasized creating a safe, comfortable space where everyone feels welcome, regardless of background. Church members encouraged attendees to visit local churches, fostering connections and reminding the community that they belong.

In the spirit of the season, the dinner served as a reminder of unity and support. By hosting this event, Goodwill Baptist Church aimed to instill hope, encourage spiritual growth, and invite more people to experience the warmth of local faith communities. As Natchitoches glows with its famous Christmas lights along the Cane River, events like this highlight the true heart of the holidays: coming together in love and goodwill. For more information about Goodwill Baptist Church and upcoming events, visit their Facebook page or website at [thegoodwillbaptistchurch.org](http://thegoodwillbaptistchurch.org). Stop by and experience the sense of family—they're always ready to welcome you home.



**1202 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457**

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## The Legacy Project of Natchitoches Delivers Hams and Toys to the Community





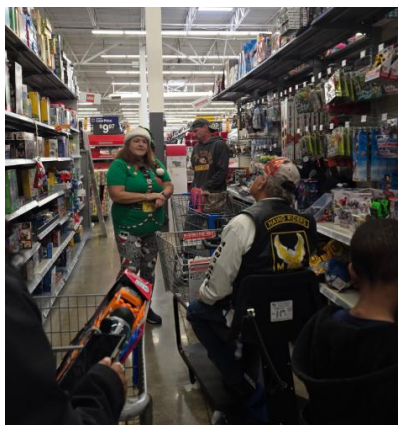


## The Legacy Project of Natchitoches Delivers Hams and Toys to the Community





Natchitoches Hawg Riders MC Annual Shop with a Biker Event





## Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action



The Dreams Natchitoches Foundation recently marked a significant milestone: 20 Years of Dreams in Action. This celebration highlighted two decades of dedicated service, generosity, and profound community impact, with a focus on supporting youth, education, mentoring programs, and holiday outreach initiatives.

### A Legacy of Empowerment

Founded to invest in the future of Natchitoches' young people, the Dreams Natchitoches Foundation has spent 20 years fostering growth through scholarships, mentoring, educational support, and community programs. From holiday assistance for families in need to initiatives such as the Boys to Men/Girls to Ladies program, the foundation has touched countless lives, helping youth overcome challenges and realize their potential.

### The Milestone Celebration

The "20 Years of Dreams in Action" event brought together supporters, beneficiaries, and community leaders to reflect on past achievements and look toward the future. Attendees honored the foundation's ongoing commitment to uplifting Natchitoches' youth through education and mentorship, while celebrating acts of generosity that have made lasting differences.

### Looking Ahead

As the foundation enters its third decade, it continues to emphasize community involvement and support for local youth. Programs in education, mentoring, and seasonal outreach remain at the core, ensuring dreams become reality for generations to come. The Dreams Natchitoches Foundation's 20-year journey is a testament to what community unity can achieve. Here's to many more years of turning dreams into action in Natchitoches!

*Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration next page...*



Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action

Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration







## Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action

### Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration







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## Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action

### Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration





## Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action

### Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration







## Dreams Natchitoches Foundation Celebrates 20 Years of Dreams in Action

### Photo Gallery: 20th Annual Celebration



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## Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Celebrates Excellence



5 Years of Service



10 Years of Service



15 Years of Service



20 Years of Service



30 Years of Service



40 Years of Service



25 Years of Service



*Caring*  
for Your Family  
Like Our Own



Choosing the right place for yourself or a loved one is one of life's most important decisions. At the Courtyard of Natchitoches, we provide more than just care — we offer comfort, community, and peace of mind. Our residents enjoy personalized care tailored to their individual needs.

Whether you're seeking independence with a little extra help, or a vibrant community where you or your loved one can thrive, choose the Courtyard where care meets compassion and your loved one is more than a patient — they're family.

Call 318.214.4545 today  
to schedule a tour.

**NRMC**  
The Courtyard  
of Natchitoches





Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Celebrates Excellence



Craig Chenevert (Sports Medicine) - SL Non-Clinical Services Associate of the Year



Deborrah Broadway (EMS) - SL Clinical Services Associate of the Year



Morgan Austin (Urology) - CNA/Tech of the Year



Ashley Thompson (OB/GYN Associates) - LPN of the Year



Abbey Lucky (ED) - RN of the Year



Cyndi Twilligear - Volunteer of the Year



Kelsey Collins (Administration) - Associate of the Year



Misty Dalme (ED) - Leader of the Year



5 Years of Service





Hosted by: The Coach De Foundation, Go DJ Chris, The Kurators, and We Are King David



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*Jason Brock*

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**Hours Monday- Friday 8 am- 5 pm**  
**Saturday 9 am- 1 pm**  
**Sunday Closed**



## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Christmas: The Toy Drive

Hosted by: The Coach De Foundation, Go DJ Chris, The Kurators, and We Are King David





## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Christmas: The Toy Drive

Hosted by: The Coach De Foundation, Go DJ Chris, The Kurators, and We Are King David





## Crime Stoppers of Natchitoches: Empowering the Community with "See Something, Say Something"

In historic Natchitoches, Louisiana, community safety relies on resident vigilance. Crime Stoppers of Natchitoches empowers locals through anonymous tips and the "See Something, Say Something" approach.

Launched in 2021 as a non-profit, Crime Stoppers partners with law enforcement and the community to solve crimes anonymously. Funded initially by the city and donations, it encourages information sharing to keep homes, families, and businesses safe.

Tipsters remain fully anonymous—no personal info required, just a code for reward claims.

- Submit Tips: Call (318) 238-2388, use the P3 Tips app, or visit [p3tips.com](https://p3tips.com).
- Rewards: Up to \$3,000 cash for tips leading to arrests in serious crimes (e.g., homicides, weapons, drugs).
- Community Impact
- Since launch, anonymous tips have aided arrests in kidnappings, shootings, and more. In 2025, Natchitoches reported overall crime reductions, thanks to task forces, technology, and public cooperation—including Crime Stoppers tips.
- Get Involved

If you see suspicious activity, report it anonymously. One tip can prevent crime or solve a case. Visit [natchitochescrimestoppers.com](https://natchitochescrimestoppers.com) or call 318-238-2388 today. Together, we're building a safer Natchitoches.

# PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY.

# SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

## 318-238-2388



## P3TIPS.COM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT [NATCHITOCHESCRIMESTOPPERS.COM](https://natchitochescrimestoppers.com)





## Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce

# LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Visit [GoNatchitoches.com/NatchitochesJobs](https://gonatchitoches.com/NatchitochesJobs) to see member job listings in Natchitoches Parish including those in the following industries:

- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Education
- and more!

12/17/2025

To have a Chamber member job listing added the website, email the information to [Morgan@GoNatchitoches](mailto:Morgan@GoNatchitoches) today.

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mini

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[morgan@gonatchitoches.com](mailto:morgan@gonatchitoches.com)



## Notary Public Exam Prep Course to begin Jan. 27

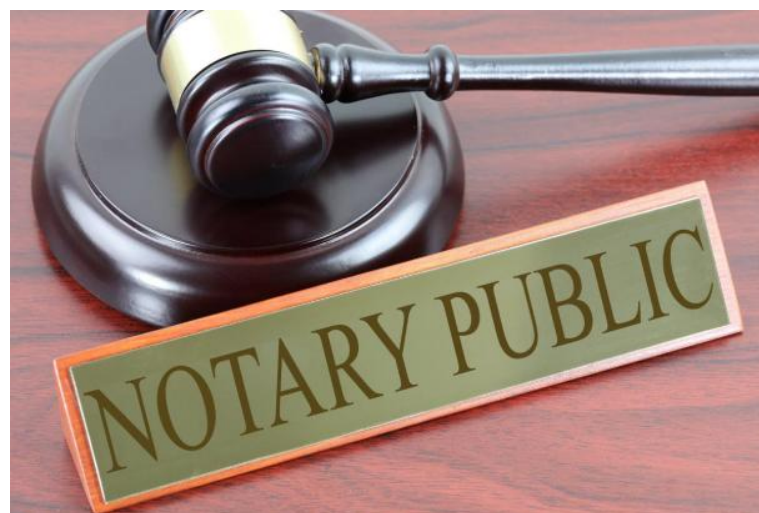
NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education will offer a Notary Public Exam Prep Course starting Tuesday, Jan. 27. The early bird fee is \$499 until Jan. 7 and \$519 after that date.

In partnership with Louisiana State University-Shreveport, this 52-hour course is an introduction to notary public fundamentals. The instructor, attorney, and notary, Jennifer Brown, will distribute significant course study guides and materials to assist in preparation for the exam. This course will be delivered via online video conferencing.

Participants must have broadband access, a camera, and sound. The test is based on the Louisiana Secretary of State's newest edition of "The Fundamentals of Louisiana Notarial Law and Practice," only available at [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov). For more information, call (225) 922-0507. Participants must have this book before the end of the course. Those in the class will also need the "Louisiana Notary Exam Sidepiece" to the 2026 Study Guide by Steven Alan Childress, which will be available on Amazon in early February 2026.

Please visit the Louisiana Secretary of State's Notary and Certifications website for qualifications to take the notary exam at [www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov) or call (225) 922-0507.

For more information or to register for classes, go to [checkout.nsula.edu](http://checkout.nsula.edu) or call (800) 376-2422 or (318) 357-6355. Stay up to date with course offerings by following NSU Electronic Learning and Global Education on Facebook at [facebook.com/NSULA.ece](https://facebook.com/NSULA.ece).



The advertisement features a woman in a purple lab coat with a blood pressure cuff on her arm, smiling. Overlaid on the image is the Northwestern State University logo (a stylized 'N' with vertical lines) and the text 'NORTHWESTERN STATE'. Below this, a purple banner contains the text '100+ AREAS OF STUDY' in white. Underneath, an orange banner contains 'WWW.NSU.LA/EXPLORE' in white. At the bottom, a white banner contains 'SHAPE YOUR TOMORROW AT NORTHWESTERN' in purple. The background is a light blue gradient.



## BOM in the Community



BOM's Sylvia Davenport and Katrice Below are proud to serve as board members for Dreams Natchitoches, an incredible organization that provides scholarships, educational and mentoring programs, and holiday food basket giveaways to families in our community. Pictured in the donation photo (left to right): Board Member Shenita Hutson, BOM's Sylvia Davenport, Founder Cloyd Benjamin, BOM's Katrice Below, and Board Member Weda Anthony.



BOM's Kathy Myers and Chasity Adcock are shown wearing jeans and purple for a \$5 donation to the Hope for Lydia Love Fund



BOM's Katrice Below had the honor of working with Michael on his home loan!



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# BOM Bank

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# 2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

**OPEN CONGRESSIONAL  
GENERAL AND OPEN  
PRIMARY**  
**November 3, 2026**

**GENERAL ELECTION**  
**December 12, 2026**

**QUALIFYING PERIOD**  
**July 29-31, 2026**

OFFICE TITLES	YEARS OF TERM	BEGINNING OF TERM	EXPIRATION OF TERM	DISTRICTS
<b>OPEN GENERAL</b>				
U.S. Senator*	6	1/3/2027	1/3/2033	—
U.S. Representative*	2	1/3/2027	1/3/2029	6
Associate Justice, Supreme Court*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3
Public Service Commissioner*	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	5
<b>OPEN PRIMARY</b>				
				3-1-B
Court of Appeal Judges*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3-1-C
District Judges	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	10th JDC
District Attorney	6	1/11/2027	1/9/2033	10th JDC
School Board Members	4	1/1/2027	12/31/2030	all
Justices of the Peace	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all
Constables (Justice of the Peace Courts)	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all

- Candidates qualify with Secretary of State.
- All other candidates qualify with Clerk of Court.

## QUALIFYING PERIOD

# JULY 29-31, 2026



# 2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

## Important Dates

### QUALIFYING PERIOD

**July 29-31, 2026**

- District Judges
- District Attorney
- School Board Members
- Justice of the Peace
- Constables
- City Court Marshal
- City Court Judge- Ward 1

### ELECTION

**April 2026**

Village of Natchez

- Mayor
- Chief of Police
- Aldermen

### QUALIFYING PERIOD

**July 29-31, 2026**

Mayors of  
Natchitoches' Towns  
and Villages through  
the Parish

### CLOSED PARTY RACE

**April 2026**

- US Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Associate Justice of the Supreme Court
- Public Service Commissioner





## Near-Death Experiences

By: Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold

Have you ever seen your life literally flash before your eyes? Have you ever been so close to a situation like this, where you observed tragic incidents that occurred that you knew could have been you? Had the Lord decided not to hold back death and allowed your time to roll on a little while longer? What about the sickness that was assigned to take you out? What about times when you were planning to be at a certain place, and you didn't go, but later that night or early the next morning, you received the news that that place, and all the people who were there lives tragically taken? These are actually "Near Death Experiences." My daughter Jade, who is 30, was ten back then in 06/11/2006 as we brought my nephew Kevin (18) and niece Angelica (16) with their mom from Nashville from the Shreveport bus station. Kevin and Angelica were to spend the summer with their dad, my brother, Terry Moses Sr. My daughter, Jade, had begged and begged me to stay all night. I kept saying, "No, let them enjoy their parents and each other, and we will pick them up tomorrow." Exactly six hours after dropping them off at my brother's house, which was 12:00 AM on 06/12/2006 after their return from Subway on from Hwy 6 from taking their mom to the bus station, where she was going back home to Tennessee where my 14-year-old nephew David, was left with her friends because he had another two weeks of football camp before he could come. My brother Terry Sr., Kevin, and Angelica's lives were tragically lost in a house fire. But they were all saved, because they had already received Christ in their lives and were already water baptized. Smoke inhalation had taken them out before their bodies began to burn. Today, my daughter is very grateful that I told her "No"! And David, who is now 33, confessed Christ in my vehicle on 06/16/2006, after I talked to him about how that could've been him too. He accepted Christ into his life as his personal Savior and was baptized the morning after the funerals on 06/18/2006. Jade accepted Christ and was baptized on 01/26/2007.

Let us not forget about the passage in Job 1:8 when Jesus spoke to Satan, saying: "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, that feared God, and avoid evil?"

During these near-death experiences, like with Job, think back over your life on the numerous times that Jesus has spoken on your behalf to Satan, like with his servant Job, saying: "Very well, he is in thy hands, and you can go ahead and do what you want, but spare his life". Job 2:6 . Amen. Be blessed and Happy Holidays.

## Mama Shug would always say...

You don't have to go to see a fortune teller or a psychic in seeking the right person in life for you, just: 1) Pay attention to how they treat their own mother. 2) Proverbs 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord".

## CONTACT US

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