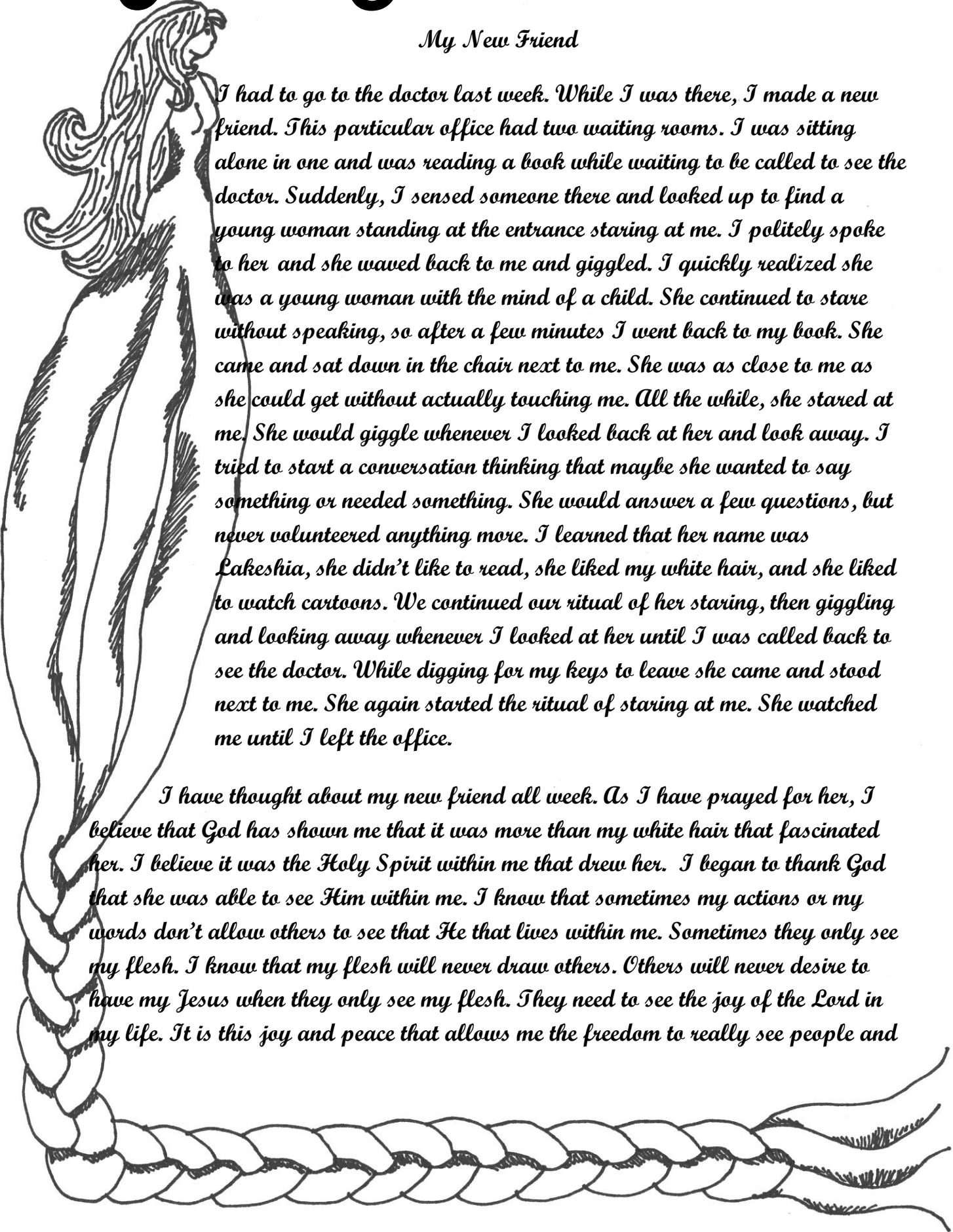


# Three Strand Woman


## *My New Friend*



*I had to go to the doctor last week. While I was there, I made a new friend. This particular office had two waiting rooms. I was sitting alone in one and was reading a book while waiting to be called to see the doctor. Suddenly, I sensed someone there and looked up to find a young woman standing at the entrance staring at me. I politely spoke to her and she waved back to me and giggled. I quickly realized she was a young woman with the mind of a child. She continued to stare without speaking, so after a few minutes I went back to my book. She came and sat down in the chair next to me. She was as close to me as she could get without actually touching me. All the while, she stared at me. She would giggle whenever I looked back at her and look away. I tried to start a conversation thinking that maybe she wanted to say something or needed something. She would answer a few questions, but never volunteered anything more. I learned that her name was Lakeshia, she didn't like to read, she liked my white hair, and she liked to watch cartoons. We continued our ritual of her staring, then giggling and looking away whenever I looked at her until I was called back to see the doctor. While digging for my keys to leave she came and stood next to me. She again started the ritual of staring at me. She watched me until I left the office.*

*I have thought about my new friend all week. As I have prayed for her, I believe that God has shown me that it was more than my white hair that fascinated her. I believe it was the Holy Spirit within me that drew her. I began to thank God that she was able to see Him within me. I know that sometimes my actions or my words don't allow others to see that He that lives within me. Sometimes they only see my flesh. I know that my flesh will never draw others. Others will never desire to have my Jesus when they only see my flesh. They need to see the joy of the Lord in my life. It is this joy and peace that allows me the freedom to really see people and*

# Three Strand Woman



*the love that God has for them. It is the Holy Spirit within me that allows me to love them too. So many people are hurting and looking for what only God can give. God can give love, peace, joy, comfort, and healing. God really can fill all of our needs. He really can turn our sorrow into joy and our mourning into dancing as described by King David in Psalms. In these uncertain times people are searching as never before. They will turn to something to fill that "God-hole" or emptiness that is in their hearts. We have many opportunities to share our Jesus if we allow ourselves to be open to the people we meet each day. We have many opportunities to be used by God to help change lives if we allow ourselves to be open to the people we meet each day. Many times we may never realize that we have sown a seed by a kind word or a simple smile.*

*God has been sending me a strong, undiluted message that I must allow Him to be a light within me. I need to be open and approachable. I need to be more loving towards those I meet. I need to let the joy of the Lord shine through. I need to be ready and willing to engage with those that He brings into my life. It may be the woman at the doctor's office, the clerk at the gas station, a co-worker, a sister or brother in Christ, or a non-believer. I need to really see the people I pass during my day. I need to really hear people when they talk to me, or even stare and giggle. I need to smile at people. This is what makes me approachable. This is what can help someone to open up to me and to my Jesus.*

*Be Blessed !!!*

*Cheryl*

# *Three Strand Woman*

