



September 2023

# The Messenger



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## When we turn our eyes upon Jesus, there is no turning back!

In John 4, we read about a sacred encounter at a well between a Samaritan woman and Jesus. Seeking water to fulfill her physical needs, this Samaritan woman found something much more. After her conversation with Jesus, she left her past and even the very jar she had carried to draw water behind. With hope, she ran back to town to tell everyone about the Messiah.

Thankfully, Jesus is still meeting us at our wells today, just as he met the Samaritan woman so long ago. Our lives are forever changed when we drop our proverbial water jars in exchange for Living Water.

This year, our Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering is all about “turning points.” As Christ followers, we have all experienced jar-dropping moments. Jesus has this glorious habit of stepping in and changing everything about our lives, whether it be at the point of our salvation or through Him growing us.

As we prepare to give and pray together, we will hear stories of how God is crafting turning points right here in our own state. Kingdom work is taking place through Arkansas Baptist ministries, such as Christian Women's Job Corps, Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief, Prison Initiative, and Connect Missions Weekend. Jesus is drawing near to the broken and softening once hardened hearts. He is empowering the imprisoned and teaching the next generation to share His story.

What is your turning point? How has God changed your story? What jar did you drop and where did you run? No matter your testimony, you have the truest story to tell and the most marvelous hope to give!

Help us tell this world that is dying about the Light of His glory and grace. Be the hands that point people to Jesus and the feet that help them turn to follow Him.



### Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday  
September 14 at 9am –12pm.

### Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month.  
September 9 at 8 am

### Sr. Saints Fellowship

meets every 3rd Tuesday  
September 19 at 11:00 am



A few weeks ago, I got together with another pastor in Jacksonville. We are friends and we were meeting for lunch. I had arrived at the church office in Jacksonville early and I went in and sat with him and his son who was nine years old. We talked for a while, then he turned off the lights, set the alarm and locked the church door. We walked to our cars, I went to mine, he and his boy went to his. There was a man who was walking across the church parking lot toward us as we got to our cars.

He went up to the other pastor's car, and I heard a voice say, "Excuse me, I know you are trying to leave, but is there any way I could get one of those bags you give to people in need." I turned around and saw my friend had opened his car door and had one foot inside the car, about to sit down. He pauses, takes a deep breath, and then smiles at the stranger. He said, "Wait right here and I will see what I can find." He tossed the car keys to his son and he headed back into the church. I stayed with his son and the needy man while he ran back inside to look for something to give the man. I watched his son, seemingly unphased by his dad running back in, play with water from the fresh rain that had pooled up on the parking lot. I talked to the man about where he was living and where he was from, I asked, "Are you a believer in the Lord?" He answered, "Yes sir." A few thoughts crossed my mind at that moment.

First, I thought, "What a good pastor." Then I thought, "If I said that to him, he would just say that he is not good and that helping one struggling man pales in comparison to what Christ did." Second, I thought, "How cool is it that his son is so used to seeing this that he is unphased." It reminded me of all the times I watched my father help people that could never repay him.

I was unphased too and would not realize the magnitude of that example until much later in life.

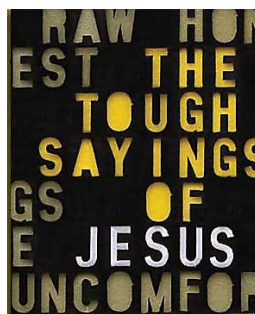
The third thought that ran through my mind was, "What if he didn't stop and help." He was busy, and if like me, hungry, and was keeping us waiting. It was not an urgent situation. No one would have blamed him if he had said "I have already locked the church. I am on my way to lunch. Can you come back in two hours?" Personally, I think it would have been completely acceptable, but he did not take the easy road. He did not say we have a committee for that. He simply met the need. No credit. No audience. No reward. Just acting like Jesus. The passage that came to mind later that night was Matthew 25:35-36. "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me." He returned after about 5 minutes, with not a sack but a box filled with groceries, and he gave it to the man in the parking lot. That man smiled with relief and said, "God bless you pastor."

I hoped that I would have done the same. A few days ago, in another parking lot at a Taco Bell, I had the chance to, as a man walked up to me as I got out of my car and asked me for money, so he could get something to eat and something to drink. He said he was from Conway and forgot to bring his money with him to work. I only had a few dollars, but I gave them all to him. You see, I believe we can have all the knowledge in the world, we can have every argument for Christianity memorized, but the best apologetic you can ever give is the way you live your life.

**Terry Fortner**

## Operation Christmas Child

Let's continue to bring items to fill the boxes. Here's the list of items requested so far: **Hair brush, comb & toothbrush, small toys, cars, coloring books & puzzles, soap and washcloths, Kids size sandals & flip flops. Tennis size balls, matchbox cars, yoyo's, harmonica's, punch balls, pony beads, old costume jewelry, and empty rx bottles. School supplies—paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, etc. New for August—Children's t-shirts & underwear (up to size 10-12), sewing needles, thread, buttons, fishing line, hooks, sinkers & bobbers.** Please place items in the box in the breezeway. Each month, there will be different items we'll be asking for to fill the boxes. It's more than just the box of gifts the children receive. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. Let's share Jesus with them!



## SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on September 10, we'll begin a new 5-session study that examines a few of Jesus' more puzzling conversations and confidently questions things Jesus said that are, in most cases, difficult to swallow. We will thoroughly study the meaning of each of these sayings and delve into the historical and cultural context of Scripture. The study offers no pat answers, but instead focuses on sparking discussion and providing fresh insight. Be sure and join us each Sunday night for this study.

## WOMEN'S Bible Study

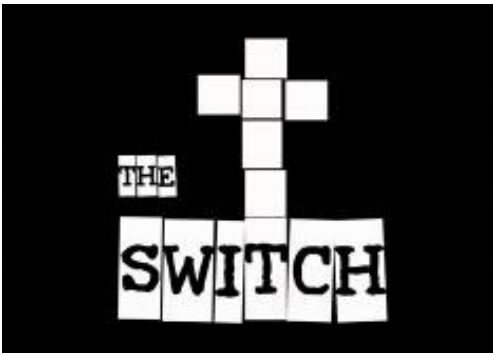
Ladies are invited to join us each month as we dig deeper into the bible study we started in February. "Calm my Anxious Heart: A Woman's Guide to Finding Contentment." The next gathering will be on **September 17 at 2 pm** and will also include a craft time. They will be making picture frames.

## Youth, Children & Other Happenings

### Weekly Youth Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services  
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

***Invite your friends and come join us!***



## Mission Outing

There is a group that has been visiting The Towers Assisted Living Center in Jacksonville. They have given out bibles, tracts and fruit so far, along with just visiting and praying with the residents.



For the next visit, they are collecting Large Print word puzzle books like crossword, word find, sudoku, etc. If you would like to contribute, please give the books to Jeremy. The next visit date has not been set yet. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information if you are interested in going along with them.

### Schools Out

- CABOT September 4
- PCSSD September 4
- JNP September 4

### Priority Planning Meeting & Potluck

September 13 @ 5:45 pm

What is God telling you? Be thinking and praying about what your most important priorities you would like to see implemented for Zion Hill Baptist Church. Whether it be building upgrades, a new mission project, a new sign, or something else. Be asking God what ideas He wants you to share. We'll also have a potluck dinner, so bring a dish of food to share.

### Wednesday Night Meals Begin September 20



5:45—6:15 pm Cost is only \$4.00 per person to help cover food costs. Plan on joining us for this fellowship meal before Bible Study each Wednesday. You'll get fed in body and in spirit!

### Young Adult Fellowship—The Jumble

September 10—5:30 pm

Come join us for The JUMBLE! Starting September 10, the young adults, married and single alike along with their kids of all ages are invited to join us in the fellowship hall each Sunday evening at 5:30 for a time of food, fellowship and Bible study.



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“Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I’ve been praying for 75 years!”



## Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times

### Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Morning Worship  
 11:30 am Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)  
 6:00 pm Growth Group (Sanctuary)  
 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

### Tuesday

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

### Wednesday

6:30 pm Mid-Week Services  
 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  
 (3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting)  
 GA's, RA's, Mission Friends,  
 Youth *Switch* Service  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice

## September Activities

3 Sunday Services—NO Evening Service  
 4 Labor Day—Office will be Closed  
 5 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study  
 6 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Midweek Services  
 9 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 10 Sunday Services  
 10 3:30 pm Grief Share Support Group  
 10 5:30 pm New Meeting—The Jumble—Young Adults & Co.  
 12 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study  
 12 6:00 pm Preschool/Children's Committee Meeting  
 13 5:45 pm Priority Planning Meeting & Potluck Dinner  
 14 9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry  
 17 8:00 am Deacon's Meeting  
 17 Sunday Services – Lord's Supper  
 17 12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting  
 17 2:00 pm Women's Bible Study  
 17 3:30 pm Grief Share Support Group  
 17 5:00 pm Caregiver Ministry Meeting  
 17 5:00 pm Parking & Grounds/Baptism Committee Meetings  
 17 7:00 pm Greeting/Usher Team & History Committee Meetings  
 18 7:00 pm Kitchen Committee Meeting  
 19 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study—Senior Saints Fellowship  
 20 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meals Begin Again  
 20 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Midweek Services—Business Meeting  
 23 Inspire Women's Conference—Russellville  
 24 Sunday Services  
 24 3:30 pm Grief Share Support Group  
 24 12:00 pm Recreation Committee Meeting  
 25 7:00 pm Transportation & Youth Committee Meetings  
 26 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study  
 27 Youth—See You at the Pole  
 27 5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal  
 27 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Midweek Services  
 27 7:30 pm Acts 1:8 Missions Committee Meeting  
 29-30 Deacons & Wives Retreat



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Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at [www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons](http://www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons)

## A Word from Jeremy

All too often, those of us who have been in a relationship with Christ for a number of years, may feel as if we know all of the Savior we should or will ever know. We may deny that, if asked. But the lives we lead betray us. We come to church and surround ourselves with church folk and church activities and are generally adept at convincing ourselves, at least, that we are doing the best anyone could and know all there is to know about the Word of God. None of us has yet arrived; and, there is always more to be learned as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Each of us should have an account of the goodness of God and a tale of how He disciplines and teaches us more and more as we humbly seek Him and His righteousness year after year. Instead, it seems that many in the church are content to berate and correct one another in contentiousness and out of self-love and a sense of self-importance rather than in a spirit of love for their brothers and sisters...or for the lost. The sideways glance or off hand comment on the way someone is dressed, or their tattoos, or even the unnatural color of their hair these days, is enough to send some who are seeking Christ and even those who are young in their faith out of the doors of the church building never to return.

Errantly, our focus is often on the trivial. All the while, the souls of people are at stake. We must remember the exhortation given in Romans 12:3 not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought. We should also remember the instruction given to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 5:13 that reminds us it is the duty of God to judge those who are not of the household of faith. While the same verse says we are to purge the evil person from among us in the church, earlier in the same chapter we are told it is done so that the man's spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. Our intentions and attitudes matter when it comes to how we walk as believers in this world. It is important that we keep this in the forefront of our minds as we seek to know God and make Him known.

If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at [zionhillbc@gmail.com](mailto:zionhillbc@gmail.com) to be added to the list.