

APRIL 2024  
VOLUME 19  
ISSUE 5



# Pullin' Weeds Plantin' Seeds

TEMPLE LADIES NEWSLETTER

## Pitch Your Tent

Twila Jones

2 Corinthians 4:7, 10 – But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

### WHAT'S IN YOUR VESSEL?

In our Bible, the word “vessel” is the usual word to designate a wide variety of containers that are used for a wide variety of purposes. The focal point of this Bible study in 2011-2012 was “earthen vessels.”

Earthen vessels – containers of the gospel, appointed to carry the gospel – the Life of Jesus – to the world. We are called “earthen vessels” due to our weakness and frailty.

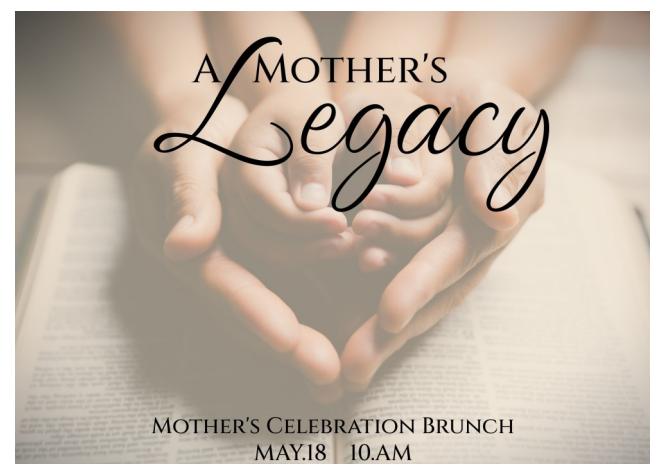
### CLAY POTS

The Jungle Indians of Ecuador make clay pots of very simple design with no ornamentation or glaze. They challenged me to try shaping them as they did...It looked rather easy, but I found that it was a highly developed skill, and my attempts to imitate it were laughable. The next step was to build a very hot fire...and bake the pot. It was then ready for use, to carry water from the river or to cook in. Nobody thought much about the pot after it was made. What mattered was what was in it. We are, Paul said, clay pots. The Potter has formed us, shaped us into a useful vessel, put us through the fire of testing that we

*Continued on Back*



Ladies Meeting  
SUN April 14 Following AM Service



MOTHER'S CELEBRATION BRUNCH  
MAY.18 10.AM

might be fit to hold what He gives us. We are useful and fit – but we are still clay pots. It's what inside that matters. It is a priceless treasure.

I can think of no clearer analogy or accurate picture of the relative merits of who we are, what we have to offer. We shall always be just pots, quite cheap, but what we carry for others is priceless.

ELISABETH ELLIOT, A LAMP FOR MY FEET, p 62

As Believers, we are vessels which contain the life of Jesus – the Holy Spirit of God dwells in us. But also present is the Old Man, the Old Nature, the Flesh. The two are always warring against each other, and we are responsible for which one dominates us. According to 2 TIMOTHY 2:19-22, God's Word tells us that in our church are vessels of all types that vary in usefulness and capacity. Each vessel must be separated from defilement and be clean and ready to be used for "every good work."

So...What's In Your Vessel? It matters not how we think we look, how we feel about the condition of our vessel. Because we are human, we tend to find ways to keep unclean things in our vessels. We become comfortable with them while ignoring the defilement, and we call ourselves clean and useful because we don't look or feel dirty to those around us. But God knows exactly what is in our vessel, every moment. He expects and has the right to expect the vessels in His House remain clean and ready for use at all times. We must get rid of whatever defiles us – we must keep ourselves clean, ready to be used by God.

Please make plans to join us on Sunday, April 14, for the last lesson in this series, PITCH YOUR TENT.

In order to pitch our tents, we must be clean vessels. I'm looking forward to being reminded of what should and should not be in our "earthen vessels" that we might be "meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." 🌱



## Pullin' Weeds Plantin' Seed VERSE CHALLENGE 2023-2024

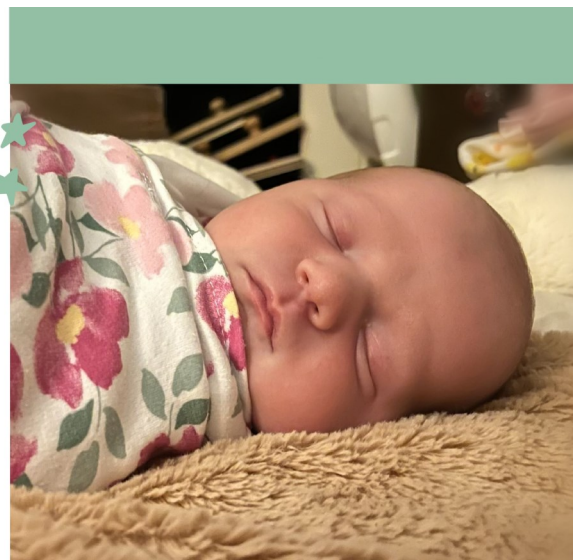
- September 2023: Psalm 119:2
- January 2024: Psalm 119:114
- February 2024: Psalm 119:160
- March 2024: Psalm 119:151
- April 2024: Psalm 119:97, 105

Completion Deadline: Sunday, April 28, 2024

### Verse Challenge

Apr 2024: Psalm 119:97, 105

O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.



# rebekah joy smith

FEBRUARY 28, 2024 3:10 PM  
7 LBS 10 OZ 20 INCHES

PROUD PARENTS: SHELDON & RACHEL  
GLEEFUL GRANDS: TIM & PAM GFELLER