

## Confessions of the Pastor's Wife – Keeping the Message on Point

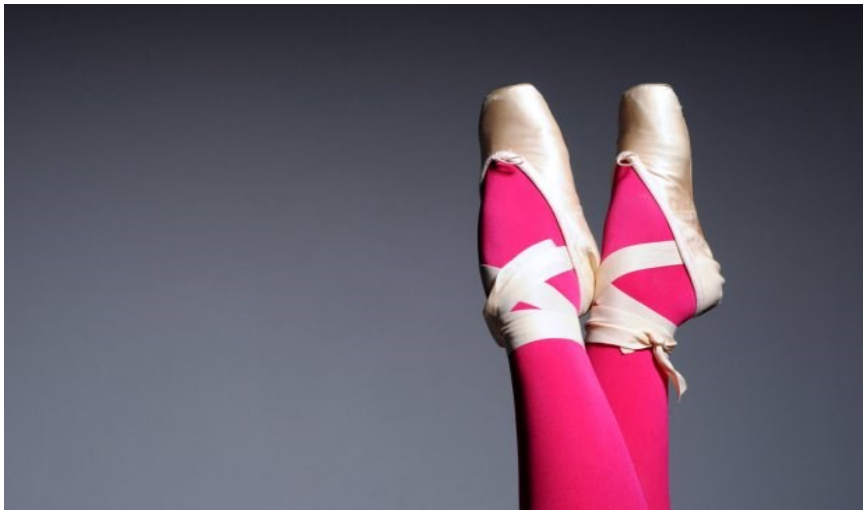
Later King Zedekiah sent for him and questioned Jeremiah secretly in the palace: “Is there a word from the Lord?”

“There is,” Jeremiah replied. “You are going to be handed over to the king of Babylon.” Then Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah, “What have I done wrong to you or your attendants or this people that you should throw me into prison?” Jeremiah 37:17-18 (CEB)

As a writer, I often skim through articles, blogs, and books about marketing. Truth be told, I can't stand marketing—the whole process smacks of disingenuousness and manipulation. I prefer to be straight-forward; [here's my book](#), you can read it or not. In all of the marketing literature I've studied and ignored, there are two key points:

*story matters*

*your message needs to be on point*



Part of developing a successful brand is maintaining a message that is “on point”. This means that the message is consistent, regardless of how it's delivered. Successful brands clearly articulate why their product matters. And, that message stays the same over time. Take Apple computers, for instance. From the very beginning, Apple's message has been that Apple products combine innovative technology and quality performance for a superior technological product. And, consumers totally bought into the message (me included!). Why pay more for an Apple computer? It's state-of-the art and top-quality. Why pay more for an iPod? It's state-of-the-art and top-quality. Why pay more for an iPhone? It's state-of-the art and top-quality. You get the idea...consistency and continuity matter when it comes to messaging.

Jeremiah understood this concept. His message was always on point, even when he was chased, beaten, and falsely imprisoned. In fact, his message was so on point that when King Zedekiah sent for him in the middle of the night

for a “secret” meeting, Jeremiah delivered the message in a seemingly offhand fashion and moved on to a different subject.

“Is there a word from the Lord?” Zedekiah asks.

“Sure. You're going to be overthrown by Babylon. Now, about my unjust imprisonment...”

Jeremiah had delivered this message so many times it was old hat. I imagine his annoyance and impatience at being asked the same question over and over and over again. It's the same way I feel when my boys ask me what time it is...every ten minutes.

Jeremiah's message was the same day-after-day, year-after-year. This is because God's message is unchanging. God's message is always on point. From Genesis 1 to Revelation 22, God's message is clear and consistent. God created us. God loves us. God wants to redeem us.

In a society that continually rejects the idea of truth, it's important to remember that God's message has (and will) always been the same. Therefore, as followers of Christ, we need to take a cue from Jeremiah. Our message, indeed, our faith walk, must be consistent with God's message. While we might differ on the finer points of faith (baptism, communion, worship style) we must maintain clarity and consistency on the key points: God created us. God loves us. God wants to redeem us.

It's important to ask ourselves the following questions when discerning messages about and from God.

Is the writer/speaker/musician's message on point with God's overall message in Scripture?

Does a writer/speaker/musician's claim about God ring true with Jesus' message in the Gospels?

Is my understanding of this message consistent with God's overall message in Scripture, especially the Gospels?

Keep in mind, you might not always agree with everyone's theology, worship style, faith traditions, or even political stances. However, that doesn't mean that believers with opposing viewpoints are wrong, as long as the message itself (God created us. God loves us. God wants to redeem us.) is on point. There are several Christian evangelists, writers, and even musicians who have opinions and positions on topics I don't agree with. However, if their overall message is on point with God's message in Scripture, I can respect that.

This week, consider the messages you are sending and receiving about God. Are you living in a way that shows others God created us, God loves us, God wants to redeem us? Are you using Scripture to discern messages about and from God? How can you work to make sure your message, like Jeremiah's, is on point?

Blessings and Peace,

Sara



## *Be an Angel*

*Come join this amazing group of women on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10am to make needed items for our community.*

*Everyone welcome to join the fun!*

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Services 8 & 10	3	4	5 Be an Angel 10:00 Yoga 6:15	6	7	8 Recycling Extravaganza 9:-12:00pm
9 Services 8 & 10	10	11 Missions Meeting 7:00 Assosciation Meeting 7:30	12 Yoga 6:15	13	14 Fall Festival	15 Fall Festival
16 Services 8 & 10	17	18 PPRC Meeting 7:00	19 Be an Angel 10 Yoga 6:15 Women's Small Group 7:15 pm	20 Men's Small Group 7:00 pm	21	22
23 Services 8 & 10	24	25 Church Council 7:00	26 Yoga 6:15	27	28	29
30 Services 8 & 10 Breakfast 8:45						



Please sign up in the CONNECT area to help with our fundraiser at the Blue Springs Fall Fun Festival.

Shifts are for 2 hours and there are numerous openings to help out with. Come have fun helping out and then you can go eat everything fried you could ever want.

For more info please contact Jeff Moore at: 816-674-9063

#### **NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY – OUR PRESCHOOL**

All levels of involvement are available



The Heart & Soul Children's Christian Learning Center is a mission of our church, but only a few members have been involved in this mission since we took ownership of the preschool four years ago. The preschool is running smoothly and is constantly looking for ways to improve the Christian-based learning experience it is providing its students. Because increased congregational involvement is a way to help improve Heart & Soul, we are setting up a team to assist the preschool in extra activities.

The team's work will include activities that can be done during weekdays, weeknights, and weekends. If you have an interest in reading with children or being a part of other activities with children, repairing daycare equipment, or assisting teachers by preparing items the teachers need during the week, please volunteer for this team. You could volunteer weekly or on an as needed basis for special projects.

To volunteer for this team, or if you have questions, please contact Debora Hamerly at [poohhamerly@yahoo.com](mailto:poohhamerly@yahoo.com) or 816-582-7242. A signup sheet will be in the lobby also. Anyone working directly with the children will need to have Safe Sanctuary training.

## ***Lazarus Table Lunch Serving October 13, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.***

LAZARUS HAS A BOUTIQUE WHICH IS IN NEED OF NEW MEN'S UNDERWEAR, NON-ALCOHOLIC MOUTHWASH, NEW MEN'S SOCKS, BLUE JEANS, T-SHIRT BAGS, AND MATS. A DISTRIBUTION SITE FOR DONATED ITEMS WILL BE SET UP IN THE CONNECT AREA. ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT BOB METCALFE AT 816-774-8279.

## **Kids in Action**

### **NEW MISSION CLUB**

- Students ages 8-13
- Mission Experiences & Bible Study
- 10/12, 10/18, 11/06, 01/02, 01/21, 03/01
- More information to follow; direct questions to Sara Snyder or Sophie Reed



Steve Bee  
 Jeremy Brooks  
 Keith Brunsmann  
 Les Case  
 Donna Casey  
 Ron Clarke  
 Charlene Davis  
 Virginia Davis  
 Ronnie Goode  
 Bill Green  
 Michael Hatfield  
 Warren Hassler  
 Edie & Gary Ken  
 Morgan (Hatfield)  
 Fred McKinzie  
 David Parrish  
 Kris Peterson  
 Judy Peterson  
 Carl Pinkerton  
 Steve Raymond  
 Rosemary Robinson  
 Duane/Peggy Taylor  
 David Tackett  
 Elaine West  
 Mitch Williams  
 Joe Virgalla



Congregation de  
 Mellier

Heart and Soul  
 Children's Christian  
 Learning Center

All Ministries  
 of the Church



Sunday, September 30, 8:45 – 10:00: All Church Fellowship and Missions Highlights Breakfast. Enjoy a fantastic breakfast with your church family and learn about Hillcrest Transitional Living's mission to help homeless families become self-sufficient. Cotton Sivils will be our guest speaker.

September – December: Volunteer with the Heart & Soul Team to help the students and teachers in our preschool. Contact Debora Hamerly at [poohhamerly@yahoo.com](mailto:poohhamerly@yahoo.com) or 816-582-7242.

Saturday, October 13, 9:00 – 2:00: Volunteer to serve lunch to homeless individuals at Lazarus Ministries. Contact Bob Metcalfe at 816-774-8279.

September – October: Donate needed items for the Lazarus Ministries Boutique. They are in need of new men's underwear, new men's socks, non-alcoholic mouthwash, blue jeans, t-shirt bags, and mats. A collection basket is in the church lobby.



## Our 2018 Recycling Extravaganza Was Very Successful

Another successful Recycling Extravaganza was held on Saturday. We had 154 cars come donate three 20' truckloads of electronics for recycling, a 17' box truck load of clothes and household items to be sold at Hillcrest Thrift Store, more than a van load of foam for recycling or reuse, many eyeglasses to be donated to Merida Foundation at Festival of Sharing, and lots of batteries for recycling. Twenty-six of our church members worked for three hours to unload the cars and sort through the donations. Four of our younger members were a fantastic help throughout the event, Maddy Smith, Bryson Smith, Garrett Snyder, and Stephen Snyder. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and to all the people who came out in the rain to donate their unwanted goods.

