

DJ

**DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2023**

TURNING POINTS



▶ **Planning Guide**

Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”...Then the **WOMAN LEFT HER WATER JAR**, went into town, and told the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

JOHN 4:13-14, 28-29

Every single believer in Christ has experienced a **turning point**. Jesus has this glorious habit of stepping in and changing everything about our lives, whether at the point of salvation or through growth moments.

Looking to Scripture for examples, one of the most beautiful turning points can be found in John 4 with the story of the woman at the well.

Imagine the scene. It's midday in Samaria, and a lone woman trudges to the well. Throughout history, a trip to the well has tended to be a community activity. Women make the trek together because it's a time for companionship in the middle of a long, busy day. But this particular woman has no companions. We know so little about her, not even her name. But her solitude in this moment speaks volumes, especially as the story begins to reveal the woman's past.

Interestingly enough, the woman's solitude does not last. Upon her arrival at the well, she discovers a Man resting there.

We can all finish the story. The Man is none other than Jesus Himself, waiting at the well outside of Sychar while His disciples travel into town for food. This Samaritan woman is taken aback when this Jewish Man does the unthinkable and initiates a conversation with her. In the process, Jesus not only reveals Himself as the long-awaited Messiah but also washes this woman in His grace and mercy, even knowing her past.

Can you imagine how she must have felt? This woman who knew isolation and loneliness suddenly felt seen. And yet, even as her secrets and shame were exposed, she was not rejected. Instead, she was offered Living Water.

What a turning point!

Notice the detail John provides next. As the conversation ends, the woman *leaves her water jar* and runs back to the village. She had come to the well for water. But her very purpose changed completely upon her encounter with Jesus.

Everyone in her village needed to know about this Man and the grace He had to offer, and she knew she was the one who had to tell them.

Life changed that day for this broken Samaritan woman. She hit a turning point, and her life purpose went from the simple life-sustaining task of retrieving water to the life-giving task of sharing the presence of the Messiah.

What is your turning point? Was it a moment when Christ revealed that He knew you, knew everything you had ever done, and offered you Living Water anyway? Was it a point in life when you felt useless to the Kingdom, then Jesus opened your eyes to His purpose for you?

What have you done with your turning point? When we truly encounter Jesus, turning points are inevitable. But they also leave us with a choice. Will we pick our water jars back up and continue with life as usual? Or will we drop our jars and redirect, finding new purpose as we share living water with the world around us?

As you turn the pages of this guide and discover the turning points of fellow Arkansans, realize that you, too, can be a part of this amazing journey. You can share in the work that draws others to their turning points. And who knows...you might even discover there is more in store for you than you could have ever imagined.



Summer broke cycles of economic despair with job training and discipleship through the help of CWJC.

"I did not know how great the need is until I really was the hands and feet. I thought I was involved in church work. I thought I was serving the Lord. But there is such a great need out there, and I know it's everywhere."

So many Arkansas Baptists can identify with these words spoken by Susie Everett. Like Susie, we actively serve in our local churches, and that feels like enough. But the Lord had more in store for Susie.

It all started with an introduction to Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC).

CWJC is a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) that provides opportunities to women stuck in cycles of economic despair. Through financial and job skills training, life skills development, and, most importantly, biblical mentoring, women are lifted from despair to a place of self-sufficiency. In the process, they find a Christ-centered community where spiritual healing equips mental, emotional, and physical healing.

After learning about CWJC from a friend, Susie felt the nudge to start a site in Benton. For several years, she resisted the Spirit's nudge, claiming to be too busy. Finally, the desire to be obedient to God's call overcame her fears and excuses, and she began the process of establishing a local CWJC site.

Summer is just one of the many women impacted by CWJC in Benton. With a life rooted in abuse, addiction, and deep anger, Summer never knew love or companionship. CWJC was a major factor in her journey to sobriety and peace.

In her testimony, Summer talks about the joy of being able to secure a job and get married. She shares how she learned practical skills such as budgeting and learning to use a planner which helped her buy her first car and start her own business. The true turning point in Summer's life was discovering that God loves her and is her true Father.

Addictive behaviors were the outward manifestation of Summer's real shackle: anger. Her turning point came when she realized that freedom from addiction would never be satisfied with setting aside the drugs and holding down a job. It would only be complete when her anger was conquered by love.

That's where the mentoring and relationships of CWJC made all the difference. As Susie stepped out in obedience to establish CWJC in Benton, the Holy Spirit guided her to be present for Summer. In the process, Summer felt heard, seen, and ultimately loved.

The turning point for Summer was also a turning point for Susie. Summer felt loved, but Susie felt God's power overcoming her fears as He worked through her.

This is the beauty of Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions. Thanks to Dixie Jackson, four Arkansas CWJC sites, as well as one Christian Men's Job Corps site, make resources available to help people like Summer. As more Arkansas Baptists respond to God's nudges like Susie did, more men and women throughout the state will experience the beautiful turning points that both Susie and Summer have celebrated in their lives.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S AND CHRISTIAN MEN'S JOB CORPS
 One of numerous life-impacting ministries funded by the **DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING**





Justin Murphy discovered that helping others put their lives back together led to recovery of his own damaged heart.

We often hear about how Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief (ABDR) meets the needs of people trying to recover from natural disasters. Storm victims aren't the only ones who experience turning points in their lives. ABDR volunteers often find their lives dramatically changed as well.

Justin Murphy knows this all too well. As pastor of Beck Spur Baptist Church in Forrest City, Justin is part of an ABDR team made up heavily of fellow pastors. On March 31, Justin and his team watched as a devastating storm swept through the Little Rock area then gathered strength before descending on Wynne. As soon as they were cleared to go in, the local ABDR team was ready and able to mobilize to Wynne to offer help.

Justin had plugged into ABDR years before when a tornado hit Forrest City. Seeing the impact of yellow-shirted volunteers drove Justin to become a part of disaster relief efforts.

This time, though, would not be an ordinary deployment for Justin. Wynne was his hometown, and it was a town he had no intention of ever returning to.

Growing up in Wynne, Justin had been a miserable troublemaker. His behavior was so extreme that no one in town wanted anything to do with him. He spent his final years of high school isolated from his fellow students, ultimately being banned from the school.

Justin left Wynne as soon as he could, and it didn't take long to realize he would not be able to go back. Even years later, people in Wynne remembered him as that horrible young man, and they had no qualms about reminding him of his miserable past.

Forrest City represented a new life for Justin. God had used the prayers of his wife and her faithful prayer group to bring Justin to the point of surrendering his life to Christ. Later, he recognized God's call to preach, a call that ultimately led him to minister at Beck Spur Baptist Church.

Happy in Forrest City, Justin never had any intention of returning to Wynne, but the March 31 storms changed everything in an instant. He knew without hesitation he had to mobilize with ABDR to go help his hometown.

At first, Justin and his team were fully focused on the work at hand, and he had no time to wrestle with his past. A few days in, as he worked to clean up the very high school he had been banned from, it all hit him. His own spiritual scars were being healed even as he worked to help Wynne physically heal from the storms.

Justin returned to Forrest City to prepare for Easter at his own church, but after the morning services he felt a heavy burden for Wynne. That afternoon he drove back over to prayer walk through the city. Time spent praying over his damaged hometown continued to minister healing to his own damaged heart.

The faithfulness of Arkansas Baptists to give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and support ABDR allows hurting people to know the love of Christ. That same faithfulness brings turning points in our own lives as we set aside our hurts and fears and give our all to serve those around us.



ARKANSAS BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF

One of numerous life-impacting ministries funded by the **DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING**

How to promote Dixie Jackson in your church

RESOURCE ORDER FORM

Order printed resources for your church including Prayer Guides, posters, offering envelopes, additional Planning Guides, and DVDs of videos. Resources may also be downloaded online.

PRAYER GUIDE

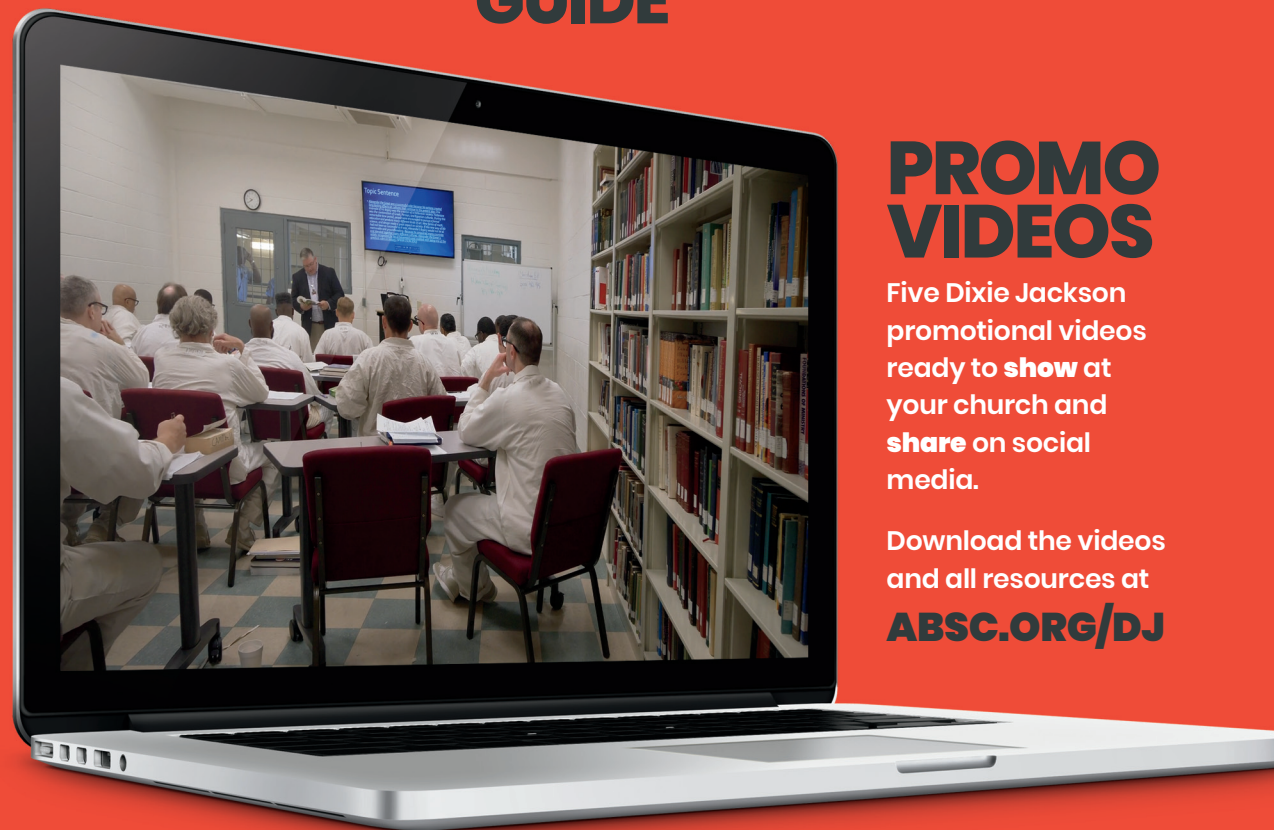
View an online version of the Prayer Guide designed for use during the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Week of Prayer, September 10–17, 2023.

TEACHING PLANS

Help your church grasp the vision of the 2023 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and encourage your church to be on mission. Tailored for Preschool, Children, Students, and Adults.

DIGITAL PLANNING GUIDE

View and download the digital version of the piece you're holding, the Planning Guide for the 2023 Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering.



PROMO VIDEOS

Five Dixie Jackson promotional videos ready to show at your church and share on social media.

Download the videos and all resources at [ABSC.ORG/DJ](https://absc.org/dj)

Use this Planning Guide to help share Dixie Jackson stories in your church

When turning points come in our lives, our responsibility is to act on the opportunities God puts in front of us. Sometimes, though, we struggle to know where to start or what action to take. Fortunately, Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions provides Arkansas Baptists with a starting point.

The purpose of this Planning Guide is to help you communicate that starting point with your church.

Discover

Your first task is to discover what opportunities are available. In this Planning Guide, you will find four stories highlighting the turning points other Arkansans have experienced. By exploring these stories, you can see just a few of the service opportunities available to Arkansas Baptists, providing a launching pad for discovering even more ways to take action.

Share

A common theme resounds each year during the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Week of Prayer: the theme of celebration as we see how God is working around the state! One of the goals of the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer is to get the word out so we can celebrate together. This Planning Guide provides the starting point by offering both the stories and suggestions for sharing those stories.

Equip

We are not all called to the same passions. Each person in this year's stories had a different experience, and their turning points led to a variety of passions. Your church will be no different. Some members of your congregation will resonate more with Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief while others will get excited about equipping youth to share the Gospel.

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION

DJ

This Planning Guide not only shares the stories of these turning points, but it also gives practical suggestions to help your congregation learn how to take action on their passions.

So, how do you use this Planning Guide to help yourself and others find these turning points?

- ▶ **Plan ahead.** It can be easy to stick a Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Week of Prayer prayer guide into the bulletin, emphasize the annual offering, and move on. Take some time to learn about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions. Realize it's a long-term investment, not just a single week of prayer and offering emphasis, and plan accordingly.
- ▶ **Learn!** Learn all you can about the stories in this guide. You can also utilize the resources online at absc.org/dj.
- ▶ **Ask questions.** Visit absc.org/ministries to discover other missions projects going on around the state. Ask questions to know how both individuals and entire congregations can get involved.
- ▶ **Recruit partners.** We are not meant to do this alone, so start by recruiting even a small group of idea people, influencers, and workers to help you get the word out to the rest of the church.
- ▶ **Use the suggestions** given in this guide to help share information. These ideas might not fit your church perfectly, but you can use them as a springboard for other ideas. This is where those partners can come in handy!

Are you ready to get started?

Visit our website to download promotional resources + discover more about Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions:

[ABSC.ORG/DJ](https://absc.org/dj)

As this year's stories reflect, turning points often start with God's people deciding to act. You can equip your congregation to be open to their own turning points by encouraging them to act. Here are some practical suggestions for accomplishing that.

Turning Points jars

Create two Turning Points jars and put them in a high-traffic area in your church.

Label the first one "Obstacles to Turning Points" and set a stack of note cards and some pens beside it. Encourage church members to jot down things that they need to leave behind just as the Samaritan woman left her jar, to experience their own turning points. Then have them put those cards in the jar as a symbol of leaving their own water jars at the well.

Label the second jar "Acting on Turning Points." Inside this jar, place note cards with ministry suggestions written on them. Encourage church members to draw out the cards to learn how they can actively participate in Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions efforts. Some suggestions include the following:

1. Create a series of cards showing how your church can participate and partner with Connect Missions Weekend. Opportunities include serving as a host church. Visit absc.org/ministries/connect to learn more.
2. Visit absc.org/ministries/cwjc to learn about the four Arkansas Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) sites and what their needs are, such as volunteer opportunities or donation needs. Write those needs on note cards and place them in your Turning Points jar.
3. Not everyone can be actively involved in ministries like the Prison Initiative. But we can all pray. Make a set of cards listing prayer emphases for The College at Mid-America at the Varner unit. Here are some suggestions:
 - ▶ Pray for new inmates to be drawn to the program.
 - ▶ Pray for current cohorts as students

progress toward graduation or begin their studies.

- ▶ Pray for all physical needs such as textbooks and supplies to be met for each new cohort of students.
- ▶ Pray for graduates with long or life sentences to have open doors for ministry to fellow inmates through field ministry in their own units or by serving as missionaries in other units.

4. Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief needs volunteers! Visit absc.org/ministries/disasterrelief to see a list of all the ways Arkansas Baptists can actively participate in disaster relief. Write each one on a separate card, then include this link for more information on how to volunteer: abscdisasterrelief.org

Additional suggestions

- ▶ Send your youth to Connect Missions Weekend! This affordable, two-day missions event happens twice each year and is geared to be accessible to youth groups ranging in size from one to dozens. Follow this up by making sure to actively include your youth in local ministry opportunities. Contact Travis McCormick at tmccormick@absc.org.
- ▶ Keep and post an updated list showing upcoming Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief training opportunities. Visit abscdisasterrelief.org.
- ▶ Find out what it might take to start a Christian Women's Job Corps site in your area. Contact Debbie Moore at dmoore@absc.org.
- ▶ Encourage church members to sign up for regular missions updates from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Contact Miracle Ringo at mringo@absc.org.
- ▶ Encourage church members to follow the Arkansas Baptist State Convention on social media. Visit absc.org/socials.

Visual displays around the church offer tangible and consistent reminders of the amazing turning points happening throughout the state of Arkansas through Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions.

While some people may have a natural gift for creating amazing visual displays, it is helpful to remember that even a simple poster can go a long way toward keeping information in front of people, reminding them of the importance of Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions.

Ordering and downloading resources

You can download picture sets online at absc.org/dj. Print and use these images to create additional posters and displays showing the work of Arkansas Baptists around the state.

Thematic ideas

When the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus at the well, she experienced a life-changing turning point. She came to the well to fill a jar with water, but then she left the jar at the well so she could freely go and tell the people of her village about Jesus.

Use this visual image to create displays promoting the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Here are some suggestions:

- ▶ Create a poster with a picture of a well on it. Either draw a well or do an online search of pictures of wells, choose one to print, then tape or glue the printed well on a piece of poster board.

Draw or print small water jars. Write percentages or dollar amounts on the jars to represent progress toward your Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering goal. Every time you make progress toward your goal, tape or glue a new water jar onto the poster to celebrate progress.

- ▶ Decorate a small bucket to look like a well. Using brown paper, cut out water jars and write prayer needs on the jars. This could be as simple as writing the names of this year's featured ministries: Connect Missions Weekend, Christian Women's Job Corps, Arkansas Prison Initiative, and Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief.

Encourage church members to draw a prayer "jar" out of the well and keep it in their Bible as a reminder to pray for turning points in the lives of the people these ministries are serving. Encourage them to pray that they, also, will be open to becoming an active part of these ministries.

- ▶ Divide a piece of poster board into three sections. In the center panel, write "Pray for Turning Points" at the top and "Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions" at the bottom. In the middle, draw a jar turned on its side. Another option is to affix a Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering promotional poster featuring the overturned jar and this year's Turning Points theme.

In the left panel, create a to-do list of everyday tasks such as grocery shopping, taking a pet to the vet, going to the post office, etc. In the right panel, create another to-do list showing how these tasks might change after a turning point. For instance, grocery shopping might change to asking how you might pray for the cashier as you check out. Taking a pet to the vet might become praying for God to point out someone at the clinic who needs prayer, encouragement, or the Gospel. Make this display a tangible reflection of how turning points completely change our perspective on life.

SOCIAL MEDIA IDEAS

As people scroll through social media, stories of positive encounters tend to make them pause and watch. We want to see kindness, love, and beauty in our world. What could be more beautiful than the story of a turning point encounter with Jesus Christ?

By using social media to share the stories of how Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions efforts impact the lives of Arkansans, you can both get the message out to church members and share beauty with others who are simply scrolling to find something positive.

Download the Dixie Jackson Social Media Kit

When you visit absc.org/dj, you will find a wealth of resources available to you, including a special social media kit. This downloadable kit includes a variety of tips and suggestions, special hashtags to draw attention to Dixie Jackson, sample posts that you can copy and paste, and much more.

If you aren't confident about creating social media posts, don't worry! The kit also provides a list of Arkansas Baptist social media accounts. Simply follow those accounts and share the posts related to Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.

Share video stories

There are several video stories available online at absc.org/djvideos. If you prefer to use a DVD, you may order one by contacting mringo@absc.org. Sharing these during a worship service or small group session is wonderful. But did you know you can also share these videos on social media?

One option is to post a video each day during the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Week of Prayer, along with the prayer emphasis for that day. But don't stop there! Set up reminders to repost the videos throughout the year to share the encouragement of these turning points.

For an even more personal touch, you might consider recording turning point testimonies from

your own church members and posting those as well.

Create a prayer group

Virtual prayer groups, while awkward for some, can offer an ideal opportunity for building relationships with people who are used to virtual interactions. Platforms such as Facebook, Group Me, and Discord provide space for closed groups to meet and share prayer requests and praises.

Consider creating at least one virtual prayer group for the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer. Post the daily prayer emphasis, then encourage group members to "voice" prayers, either through text or short video or audio recordings.

Encourage group members to post as they can throughout each day but also to schedule a couple of times during the week to be online at the same time to share and pray together.

Recruit tech-savvy partners

There are probably members of your congregation who use social media or other virtual connection points on a daily basis. But they might have never thought about how this natural part of their lives could be a ministry outlet. Draw them in to help with social media and virtual prayer groups as you promote the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering and Week of Prayer.

You never know who might experience their own turning point simply by discovering that their skills can be used in unexpected ways.

Share Dixie Jackson on social media with these hashtags:

#TurningPoints

#JarDroppingMoment

#DixieJackson2023

MINISTRY IMPACT

13

Graduates

Christian Women's Job Corps

▶ PLUS, 4 ministry center sites and 4 salvations so far this year.

18

Graduates

Arkansas Prison Initiative

▶ PLUS, 18 current students and 2 salvations so far this year.

46

Professions of faith

Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief

▶ PLUS, 376 Gospel presentations, 94 days deployed, 34,089 meals prepared, and 29,160 work hours so far this year.

40

Ministry projects

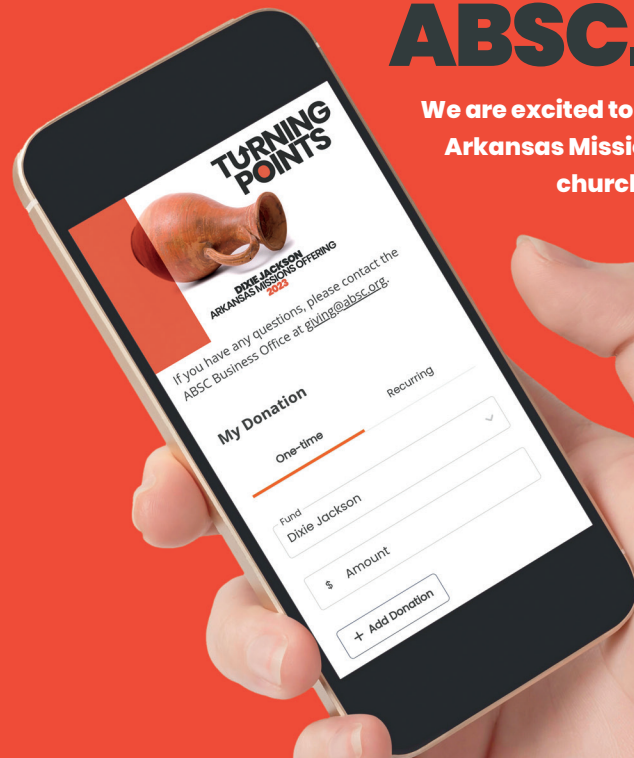
Connect Missions Weekend

▶ PLUS, 226 participants, 100 Gospel presentations, 9 called to missions/ministry, and 3 salvation decisions in April of this year.

ONLINE GIVING OPTION AT ABSC.ORG/GIVEDJ

We are excited to continue offering a new online resource for the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering that accepts gifts online! Designed for individual church members, this tool allows anyone to give to state missions through the Dixie Jackson offering and connects the giving records to local churches. If your church needs an online giving option for this year's Dixie Jackson offering, visit absc.org/GiveDJ.

Online gifts with identifying church information will be included on annual church giving statements provided at the end of the year. We hope this easy-to-use tool will provide even more flexibility as your church plans for 2023! It's important to note this tool is designed for individuals to give. Churches still need to send their gifts by mailing a check to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention office as in the past.





Robert Rockett veered off course early in life, but prison didn't bar him from soaring to new heights.

Four years ago, Arkansas Baptists celebrated the beginning of a partnership with Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis and the Arkansas Department of Corrections. This partnership allowed a seminary extension center to open in the Varner unit, a maximum-security prison in Lincoln County.

This year, the first cohort of students celebrated their graduation, earning their Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies from The College at Mid-America. One of those graduates is a man by the name of Robert Rockett, who goes by Rockett.

Growing up, Rockett was a smart student, often singled out to be promoted to higher grades because of his intelligence. But that did not stop him from making poor life decisions leading to his first conviction at the age of 16. Within three years of his first arrest, Rockett had racked up multiple convictions and an automatic life sentence.

Over time, Rockett began a process of seeking and learning, especially striving to learn about the character of God. The seeking process led him to a wide variety of religions, including nine years of practicing a major world religion. Rockett still had no one, however, who could truly answer his questions about God. Disillusioned and desperate for answers, he directly asked God to reveal Himself.

And God did! He told Rockett to get rid of everything that tied him to his

previous religion. Rockett struggled to surrender; obedience was not easy.

But Rockett continued to seek, and God not only protected him from threats from other inmates but also provided a pathway for him to find answers to his questions. One of those pathways came through Dr. Mark Thompson, director of the Arkansas Prison Initiative and a professor at Mid-America Seminary who taught Rockett and his fellow inmates.

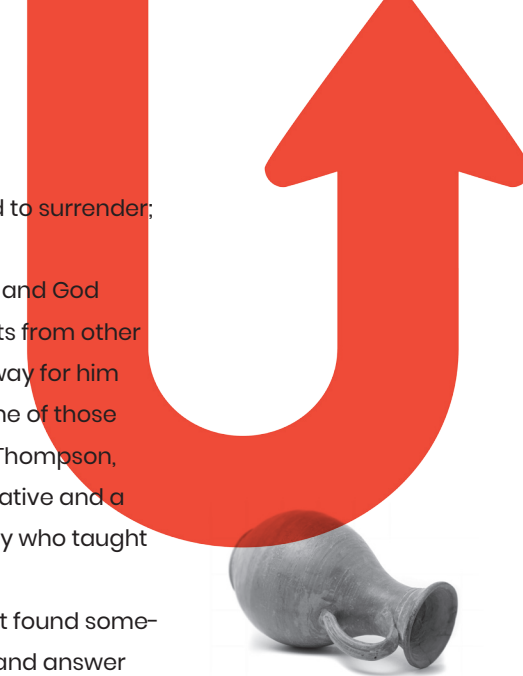
Through Dr. Thompson, Rockett found someone who would willingly welcome and answer questions. He found the opportunity to learn and grow. He found the God he had been seeking.

Now a graduate, Rockett is ready to share the truths he has learned with his fellow inmates. He is excited about the possibility of field work and the opportunity to bring hope, answers, and a miraculous turning point to others in Varner and other units around the state.

Rockett isn't the only one who experienced a turning point. Mark Thompson also saw his own faith challenged and stretched by the questions, learning processes, and shared experiences of Rockett and his fellow students.

Most of us do not have the ability to go into Varner and other prisons around the state to teach like Mark Thompson. But, thanks to Arkansas Baptists who give to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering, Rockett and other students have had every textbook, supply, and resource they needed to experience incredible turning points, earn their degrees, and be prepared to minister within their prison community.

As The College at Mid-America seeks to begin its third cohort this year, Varner inmates can anticipate more opportunities to learn, grow in their relationship with Christ, and equip others to experience turning points, even in Arkansas prisons.



PRISON INITIATIVE
One of numerous life-impacting ministries funded by the **DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING**



Emma didn't let initial discouragement deter her from letting the Spirit flow and sharing the Living Water.

What does it take to confidently share the Gospel with those around us?

Often, we want to wait until we feel truly "ready" to share our faith. But what does it mean to be ready?

Emma, a 13-year-old from First Baptist Church in Clinton, discovered sometimes being ready is less about a feeling and more about being willing to act. Thanks to a Connect Missions Weekend, Emma found that willingness to step up and take action.

This two-day weekend missions event helps Arkansas Baptist churches train youth to serve their communities and share the Gospel with those they encounter while serving.

Students arrive at the host church on a Friday evening, enjoy a worship service and hear a Gospel presentation, then spend the night at the church, camping out in Sunday school rooms. On Saturday morning, teams of youth go out into the community, completing service projects such as minor home repairs or yard work. The teams are trained to be aware of opportunities to share the Gospel with those with whom they come in contact. Saturday evening is a time of celebration with teams returning to worship together and sharing testimonies about their day.

When Emma went out on Saturday morning, she had the evangelism tool she received the night before. She knew techniques for witnessing. Having grown up actively involved in church, she knew the

truth of what it meant to be a child of God. Even with all of this, she still didn't feel ready to share her faith. The entire day of service passed, and no opportunities seemed to present themselves.

Emma was discouraged and felt like she had failed. But instead of giving up, she became more determined. On the way back to their host church, Emma's team stopped at a convenience store for drinks. She saw a man standing nearby and decided to talk to him and share the Gospel with him. That moment of action was all it took! Emma felt as if she had come alive, with the Spirit flowing through her in a new way, awakening her to all the opportunities around her.

Later that evening, Emma and her sponsor returned with more resources for the man, but he was gone. Disappointed but determined, Emma noticed a store employee who was struggling with discouragement. Emma shared the Gospel with the woman, and the woman's response was so strong that she decided to take her work break to hear more of this encouraging truth.

The whole experience opened Emma's eyes to opportunities all around her, even in her own hometown. Witnessing at home had never even occurred to her before, but the simple act of moving from "getting ready" to saying, "I am ready," was a turning point that completely changed Emma's life and perspective. She is now hungry to share the Gospel whenever she can. And, thanks to Connect Missions Weekend, she has the tools and experience she needs to do just that.

The Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering partially funds Connect Missions Weekends to keep the cost low for participating churches. When Arkansas Baptists give and participate, they equip youth, youth volunteers, and other Arkansans around the state to experience their own turning points.



CONNECT MISSIONS WEEKEND
One of numerous life-impacting ministries funded by the **DIXIE JACKSON ARKANSAS MISSIONS OFFERING**





A message from Dr. Rex Horne, Interim Executive Director, about the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

An encounter with Jesus is our most pivotal turning point. When we surrender our lives to Him, we have no choice but to change. From the inside out, He renews us. Because of Him, we drop our proverbial water jars. In turn, we cling to His helping hands. We are all like the woman at the well. We all need His Living Water. We all need to speak with our Savior and then go tell the world about His grace.

It is my privilege to play a part in this year's Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Through your faithful giving, God is encountering the next generation and prompting turning point after turning point through Arkansas Baptist ministries. In this Planning Guide, you have read about how God is writing His faithfulness into the stories of students who attend Connect Missions Weekend, those who volunteer with Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief, women involved with Christian Women's Job Corps, and graduates of our Prison Initiative.

Our Lord is using your obedience to fuel these ministries. I have been more encouraged, hearing these stories firsthand, by the Gospel-sharing work of Arkansas Baptists. These stories are

being repeated, again and again, because faithful people like you are giving through this offering.

Thank you for being a part of this special emphasis. I am reminded in times like these of the importance of working together. We were not meant to do Christ's work alone. Together, we can do more. Through Jesus, our ministry will have an impact that we could never even imagine.

Just like the Samaritan woman, I encourage you to tell these stories to your friends and family. Make sure your church is involved in Arkansas missions by giving through the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering. Sign up for our Dixie Jackson Week of Prayer at absc.org/dj and utilize all the resources housed on this web page. Give our lesson plans to your Sunday School teachers and hang the Dixie Jackson poster on a bulletin board. Especially in this digital age, share as we post these stories through social media videos.

Most of all, I ask you to pray and serve like never before. Be the hands and feet of Jesus to Arkansans in need. Let's do more than give; let's love like Jesus.

DJ

**DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2023**

How your giving funds Arkansas Missions through the Dixie Jackson Offering

Every dollar given to the Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering helps **RESOURCE** and **MOBILIZE** Arkansas Baptists to **SERVE** and **REACH** people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



 **Arkansas**
BAPTISTS

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
10 Remington Drive ■ Little Rock, AR 72204
501-376-4791 ■ absc.org

▶ **RESOURCE**

We utilize experienced leadership to enable Arkansas Baptists to respond to needs across our state in Jesus' name.

▶ **MOBILIZE**

We equip Arkansas Baptists for strategic Great Commission engagement.

▶ **SERVE**

We provide opportunities for Arkansas Baptists to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities and across our state.

▶ **REACH**

We prepare Arkansas Baptists to share the hope of Jesus and His saving grace with everyone.