

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER
2026



THE SERVANTS
KNOW



Something had gone terribly wrong at the wedding in Cana. They ran out of wine. Most of the guests didn't know because they were still celebrating with what was left. But behind the scenes, a disaster was developing that could humiliate the bridegroom and his family.

I'm not sure how, but Jesus' mother Mary knew of the situation. She told Jesus, expecting Him to do something about it. Soon, the servants knew. Mary said to those servants, "Whatever He (Jesus) says to you, do it" (John 2:5).

Jesus told the servants to fill six large stone jars with water. That must have sounded like a strange solution. The problem was wine. Jesus asked for water. But the servants did what He said. John tells us that each jar held twenty or thirty gallons. Filling all six water jars meant drawing and carrying 120 to 180 gallons of water.

The servants dutifully obeyed—bucket after bucket, trip after trip to and from the well. There was nothing miraculous about it. It was just work. The servants went the second mile and filled the jars "to the brim." Then Jesus said, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast" (John 2:8). The servants did as they were told.

The master tasted it. It was not water. It was wine. Very good wine. He was so impressed that he called the bridegroom aside and complimented him for saving the best until last.

In the middle of this story, John slips in a fascinating detail. The master of the banquet did not know where the wine had come from **"though the servants who had drawn the water knew"** (John 2:9).

The Blessing of Proximity

The master of the feast tasted the miracle. The guests enjoyed the miracle. The bridegroom received credit for the miracle. But the servants knew. They knew because they had carried the water. **Serving in ministry provides the blessing of proximity—it draws us close enough to see what Jesus is doing.**

The servants weren't important people at the wedding. They weren't seated at the head table. Nobody asked their opinion about the quality of the wine. They were simply servants. Yet when Jesus performed His first recorded miracle, they were among the few people in the room who fully understood what had happened.

They had seen the jars empty. They had filled them with water. They had carried the water themselves. So, when wine came out, they knew. Serving had given them a front-row seat to the work of Jesus.

Carrying Water

I wonder what those servants thought when Jesus told them to fill the jars. Water? We don't need water. We need wine. Sometimes serving Jesus feels like that.

We may wonder: *"Does this really matter?"* The servants at Cana could have wondered the same thing. They saw a

wine problem, but Jesus gave them a water assignment. They couldn't see the connection, but Jesus could.

This is an important lesson for anyone who serves. We don't have to understand everything Jesus is doing to faithfully do what is asked of us. The servants weren't responsible for turning the water into wine. Jesus was. Their job was to carry the water.

To the Brim

Did you notice that the servants did not do their job half-heartedly? They did not fill the jars halfway. Jesus was not this specific, but John says the servants filled the waterpots **"to the brim"** (John 2:7).

They didn't know a miracle was coming. They didn't know anyone would ever tell their story. They simply obeyed completely. To the brim. That's a picture of faithfully going the second mile, serving with your whole heart (Colossians 3:23-24).

These servants have a message for us. Whatever you do, fill that task to the brim. Teach the lesson—to the brim. Welcome the guest—to the brim. Care for a child—to the brim. Care for the hurting—to the brim. Serve behind the scenes—to the brim. Do the unnoticed job—to the brim. Do the ordinary with extraordinary passion and excellence. Remember, the Lord never called us to work a miracle. He just called us to carry water and to lovingly "fill" our ministries to the brim.

The Servants Know

Spectators see the results, but servants see the process. The servants at the wedding feast remember the strange directive, the water pots they filled to the brim, and the amazing transformation as the liquid inside turned deep red. Seeing the miracle made it worth every drop of sweat and every trip to the well. There is a special feeling that comes from working hard, being close, and watching God work. The servants know.

Serving is more than work we do for the church. Serving is where we see Jesus at work in the lives of people He loves. It puts us in situations where we must depend on Him. Volunteering in ministry lets us do things we could never accomplish alone.

Once in a while, through a lifetime of serving, we get to stand quietly in the background while someone experiences the miracle—and we smile, knowing where it came from.

Pick Up a Bucket

Come close and see what Jesus does with ordinary obedience. Do whatever He tells you. Pick up a bucket. Carry the water. Fill the jars to the brim. Then trust Jesus with what happens next. The crowd may never know your name. Someone else may receive the compliment. Others may simply enjoy the results. But that's all right, because the servants know.

September Birthdays

1 Camelia Courtright Judah Greene Patrick Shope Payton Boyd Chika Eziakor Sean Henry Heather Livingston	14 Phil Massey Jacque Hortenstine Bianca Talbot-Mason Mindy Frazier David Hudgens	24 Emilly Namakonzi Brooks Derickson
2 Jerrod Runkel Michelle Upchurch	16 Donna Strouse Gus Mariona Rebecca Waters	25 Shawn Scott Janette Crowder Shaun Beckles Adalynn Manley Theo Rowland
3 Alexis Norris Jake Grayson Tarrence Berry	17 Angel Townsend Mason Boyd Sylvia Harrylal Barrett Robinson Claudette Watson Richard Evens	26 Juanita Barberi Jill Barnes
4 Statia Gbendah	18 Donald Douglas Charity Evans Penny Newborn Angela Dudley Lakelynn Key Len Tuttle	27 Crystal Flowers Rocio Sundberg Jeanie Nelson
5 Desmond Rowland Paulette Bennett Keagan Frazier	19 Sis. Jerri Ann Manley Alex Szecsey Joel Grant Londyn Derickson	28 Kortez Allen Theron Richardson Doug Barberi Angela Backmon
6 Dennis Johnson	20 Khyri Jones Julius Adams	29 Stephanie Willey David Charles Cheek Donna Turner Jon Cude
7 Bro. Don Morris Wesley Forrest Eli Pineda Sadisha Clarke	21 Sis. Dana Fain Andrew Barnett Roy Austin Luke Cottrell Deacon Carwell	30 David Turner Angela Cheek Brooke Thorne Elle Livingston
9 Tiffany Stubelt Janice Abernathy Donald (Don) Mason Ethelind Calderon	22 Landyn Lynn	
10 Emma Cole Cali Fuentes	23 Ashlyn Austin Carolyn Fryza Tate Cole	
11 Cheryl Roe Jordan Fuentes Josh Carwell		
12 Dayo Oshinnaiye		
13 Santiago Martinez		

September Anniversaries

7	Dayo & Inumidun Oshinnaiye
9	Jason & Amanda Brown
9	David & Annalia Hudgens
10	Jacob & Lyssa Nunn
12	Josh & Lisa Carwell
12	Michael & Jennieve Amore
12	Kortez & Kelly Allen
14	Josh & Jennifer Austin Sr.
16	Joseph & Stacy Dixon
17	Chris & Len Tuttle
18	Luis & Vanessa Colin
20	Beau & Morgan Johnson
22	Jared & Tabitha Grayon
22	Bro. Marvin & Cecilia Reyes
22	Jake & Amy Hobbs
23	Richard & Brenda Wells
24	Bro. Don & Colleen Morris
24	Joey & Kristy Grant
24	Jose & Gloria Moreno
25	Dylan & Charity Evans
26	Andrew & Kimberly Marsh
27	Brian & Sis. Debbie Miller
29	Scott & Jana Floyd
29	Ethan & Brook Miller
30	Anthony & Angela Dudley

What's With the Party?
July 20 - August 23

Filled with the Holy Ghost

Debbie Collins
Noah Lamb
Benjamin Recinos
Bradley Taylor
Angel Gomez Vasquez
Diego Gomez Vasquez

Baptized in Jesus' Name

Treverion Paige Blanding
Kamari Bliss
Scottie Caldwell
Rhaina Ramsay
David Rhodes
Calvin Richmond
Angel Gomez Vasquez
Diego Gomez Vasquez



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 301 Meeting	2 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm CrossOver	3	4 AWPC 65 th Anniversary	5 6 am HOPE 7 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 1
6 Missions Sunday Small Groups Semester Begins Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	7 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	8	9 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm HYPHEN	10	11	12 6 am HOPE 7 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 2
13 Volunteer Sunday Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	14	15 7 pm Ladies' Prayer	16 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm CrossOver	17	18	19 6 am HOPE 7 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 3
					GA District Men's Conference	
20 IMAGINE Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	21	22	23 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm HYPHEN	24	25	26 6 am HOPE 7 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners Team 4
27 Ch.I.P.Z. 9 am Welcome to the Family	28	29	30 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	SEPTEMBER 2026 Ch.I.P.Z. - Children in the Power Zone		
		General Conference - Salt Lake City, UT				