

## ***“JBF Love Jar”*** by Nyla Fox

As I sit reminiscing over the last few days and years past the memories of how our family has celebrated the birth of Jesus and the amazing grace this event brings to our lives – many thoughts flood my mind. How this celebration has changed over the years, yet stayed the same. Traditions for instance; the receiving of holiday greeting cards, oyster stew on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day the opening of gifts and family game night (with prizes no less), and the list goes on... Then it is how our celebrating has changed; the first Christmas after losing a loved one, the addition of new “family” members and extended family, and unity in changing a past tradition. All our Christmas’ have memories, some enjoyable, some challenging- yet all with memories and what we do with those memories is what can affect our future choices and relationships.

This year for Mother’s Day my daughter gave me something that has meant so much to me that I have shared it with many others and I have been asked to extend her thoughtfulness church wide – thus the reason for this blog. What she gave me was a jar, yes a plain glass jar, but what was inside the jar is what made it special. The jar is filled with slips of paper, by color coding I am able to tell what I will find written on any given piece of paper. If I pull out a green slip of paper I will find a “memory”, if it is red, she has written “reasons why I love you”, and if I pull out a purple slip of paper I will find an “inspirational quote”. The jar has about 100 pieces of paper, all color coded. It is not something that I sit down and read all at once, but as I pass by the jar I decide what I am in need of that day and pull out a slip that color and read it. It has amazed me on how this little exercise has made a difference in my day. It has added an “extra” personal additive to my daily devotion.

On January 7, 2018 we will begin a “JBF Love Jar” by collecting some of your *favorite* JBF memories, Bible verses, and encouragement/inspirational quotes. Here are some examples of what we are looking to collect. A memory: **When Jesup Bible Fellowship was being built at this location all church attenders were invited to write something on the bare studs. It was fun to write verses, thoughts and prayers on a stud, but even more fun walking around and reading what others had written. Writings which are still within the walls of this facility today.** A verse: **Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 (NAS)** A quote: **“Keeping consistent in God's word will lift you up and encourage you!”-Andrew Farland.**

We might not know the people that will walk through our doors and even if we do, we may never know what they are going through or what they may be willing to share with others. Having the JBF love jar available may provide an opportunity for them to be blessed without even having to speak to another person. By selecting a random topic slip from the jar, we might spark an interest in them to look further into the church and why JBF exists, get them interested in programs the church offers, or it could be just what they needed to hear{read}.

In order to make the love jar work we need your assistance. Please begin sharing your memories of Jesup Bible Fellowship, favorite verses, and encouragement/inspirational quotes with us by writing them on any piece of paper and placing them in the white box at the Held by Him table, name optional. Once we have typed them onto color coded paper they will be placed in the jar that will then be available for others. On days when there is need or interest, they may pull out a slip, read it, and then place it back in the jar for someone else to possibly be blessed by that same slip.

The love jar instigator