



REPAIR
BE A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION
ROCHESTER, NY / JUNE 29 - JULY 5

REPAIR: BE A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2014

That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

- Romans 8:18-25



REPAIR NECESSARY

Paul pointed out to the first Century Romans something that we know to be true in the twenty first century as well - the world is not what God meant for it to be. It's broken. It needs repair. It needs to be transformed back into what God meant for it to be - a world of goodness, health and undivided community living in harmony.

We feel the broken places in our own lives and in the lives of our loved ones. Sometimes we feel sick, lonely, depressed, useless, confused, unworthy or angry. Paul wrote that we ourselves groan inwardly waiting for the redemption of our bodies. We know that this sure doesn't feel like the goodness God intends for us and so we long for God to make things right again. We long to be transformed back into whole, healthy and harmonious people again.

This week, we will be surrounded by the brokenness of the city of Rochester. A city with the highest child poverty rate in New York state and infant mortality rates that rival those found in some third-world countries. The city's youth face a dismal economic future while the elderly struggle to make ends meet.

REPAIR PROMISED

Although we are well aware of the brokenness of our own selves and the world around us, we are also a people who have hope in the promise that God is at work to transform everything broken so that it is repaired and alive in new ways. Paul said that the sufferings of the present are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed. He also said that the children of God – that's us – will be involved in the world being freed from decay and repaired. He said that in hope, we are saved – saved from believing that things always have to be the way that they are today. We believe that things will be different. We believe that things will be repaired and transformed. We believe that we are a part of that transformation becoming a reality. We try our best to wait for it with patience.

TRANSFORMED

Throughout the week we will turn to the Transformers motion pictures to help us better connect with the daily reflections. Optimus Prime, leader of the "good guy" Autobots, has led his group of shapeshifting robot friends to earth after the destruction of their home world, Cybertron. It was destroyed by the evil Decepticon leader, Megatron, in his quest to get hold of the

All Spark, a mysterious and powerful cube that is able to bring mechanical and electronic objects to life, essentially turning mundane objects into Cybertronians. The Autobots want to find the All Spark so they can use it to rebuild Cybertron and end the war between the Autobots and the Decepticons, while the Decepticons want to use it to obliterate the Autobots and take over the universe.

There are many forces, actions and attitudes that contribute to the brokenness of people and the world. But there are also forces, actions and attitudes that can protect, repair and transform that which is broken! We have the choice – will we be an Autobot or a Decepticon? Will we be a force for destruction or a force for repair? If we allow God to help transform us, it is certain that we will be transformed transformers bringing repair!



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Why did you sign up to come on this Work Camp trip?

What do you think is the most important thing that will happen this week?

What brokenness in the world makes you most upset?

Do you believe that you can help to repair and transform the broken world? Why or why not?

THE CHOICE TO TRANSFORM

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?” Jesus said, “Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments: Don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t cheat, honor your father and mother.” He said, “Teacher, I have—from my youth—kept them all!” Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, “There’s one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me.” The man’s face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

- Mark 10:17-22

NOT QUITE READY

This young person was almost ready to live the kind of life that God meant for him to live. He was not a murderer, adulterer, thief, liar, cheat or neglectful child. He was so close to the life God made us to have, but there was still one thing holding him back. Because of his materialism, he was not quite ready. Jesus invited him to transform – not because Jesus was scolding him, but because Jesus loved him. He wanted this young man to transform. “Sell everything you don’t need and give the proceeds to the poor,” Jesus said. “Then you will be ready for the life that is waiting for you!”

NEW WHEELS

Sam Witwicky knows a little something about cars in need of repair. Early in the Transformers movie, Sam goes to a used car dealership with his father to purchase his first car. Sam ultimately chooses, with a little assistance, a faded 1975 yellow Camaro with black racing stripes that looks to be on its last legs. Unbeknownst to Sam, the Camaro is actually his Autobot protector in disguise, Bumblebee. Later in the film, Bumble-



bee feels the need to transform himself from an in-need-of-repair 1975 Camaro into a brand new version of himself. He wasn't quite ready for his life he was called to live as protector and so he transformed.

THE CHOICE TO TRANSFORM

After a deep conversation with Jesus, the Rich Young Ruler walked away sad. He couldn't see that the value of a life lived according to God's design was greater than the value of all his wealth and things. The young man wanted to have it all, and was upset that he had to choose. Ultimately, he chose not to transform. Unlike Bumblebee, who was now ready for his life ahead, the young man remained not quite ready and able to live the life God had for him. We have the same choice of whether or not to transform ourselves. Our story doesn't have to end the same way as the young man. Like Bumblebee, we can get some new wheels!

As we'll discuss throughout the week, our spiritual growth and our ability to live the life that God has made for us is dependent upon ongoing transformation. By choosing to be at camp this week, we have already taken the first step down that road. This week is an opportunity to explore and evaluate our relationship with God, the life God made for us to live, and how we can transform. Like Bumblebee, maybe it's just the nudge we need to start transforming ourselves.



**MORE THAN
MEETS THE EYE**



As the week begins, what's keeping you from accepting Jesus' loving invitation to transform?

In your life, what kind of choices can you make to grow closer to God?

We have worked hard to be here and have been waiting a long time for this workcamp week to arrive. What are your expectations for this week?

God is constantly revealing his presence to us; we just need to see it! Throughout this week, we will refer to these revelations as "God Sightings." In what ways can we seek to be more aware of God's presence in and around us?

WHEN WE CAN'T TRANSFORM OURSELVES

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014

And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed. - Mark 5:20

NOT QUITE ABLE

This man is described by the Scriptures as being possessed by a demon. Modern scholars often argue that his rage, self-inflicted injury and multiple personalities could very well point to a man struggling with what we now understand as mental illness. Often, someone suffering with mental illness is just not quite able to choose the transformation to fullness and health on their own. They need the help of others to make the necessary health transformation a reality. In this story, the man was not quite able to transform on his own.

HELP ARRIVES

In the new Transformers movie, a mechanic named Cade Yeager and his daughter Tessa discover a deactivated Optimus Prime. Optimus has a very important role to play in protecting the Autobots and the human race from their common enemy, but is obviously not able to help if deactivated. It took the help of Cade for Prime to be transformed from a broken down rig into an able force for the good of all. After Cade helps Prime to transform into a place of renewed life and strength, he is able to live the life necessary for the sake of the good of all.

GOD IS OUR HELP

The man known as Legion needed help to transform. For who knows how long, he could not help himself and the people around him were not strong enough to help. He was out of luck. Finally, Legion found the help he needed to transform in



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

the healing mercy of Jesus. When no one else was able to help, Jesus was able to make the transformation a reality for this man. When we cannot transform ourselves, we must never give up – because God is able to transform us.

Sometimes, transformation is gradual—taking weeks, months, even years. But sometimes, it happens in the blink of an eye. Powerful. Memorable. Miraculous. That's the story of a lonely man trapped in isolation. As people ran away, Jesus walked toward him and turned his life around in a moment. Life for that man wasn't just better. It was amazing. Furthermore, the man now had the ability to use his life for the sake of others!

Have you ever wanted to transform, but just weren't quite able to do it on your own? What does that feel like?

Have you ever experienced God transform someone else – either gradually or in the blink of an eye? Explain.

Has God ever helped you to transform – either gradually or in the blink of an eye? How so?

Would you be willing to tell others about how God has helped you transform? Why or why not?

TRANSFORMATION IS INEVITABLE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2014

When Jesus got the message, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will become an occasion to show God's glory by glorifying God's Son." -John 11:4

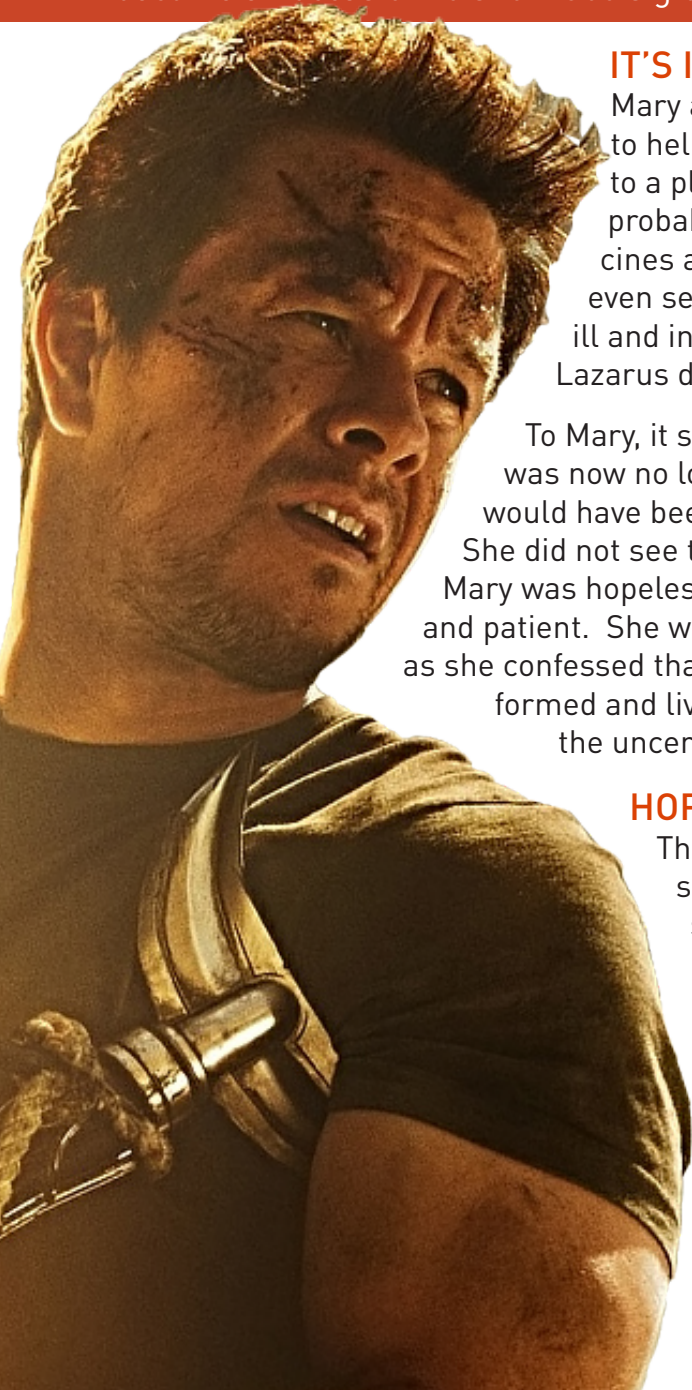
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...OR IS IT?

Mary and Martha had done everything they could to help their brother Lazarus to be transformed to a place of renewed health and life. They had probably done everything possible with the medicines and treatments of their time. They had even sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was deathly ill and in need of help. Yet, despite their efforts, Lazarus died.

To Mary, it seemed that the transformation they sought was now no longer possible. She said to Jesus, "If you would have been here, my brother would not have died." She did not see that transformation was still possible. Mary was hopeless. But Martha was a little more trusting and patient. She was a little better able to see the possibility as she confessed that she believed Lazarus would be transformed and live again...someday. Martha had hope for the uncertain future.

HOPE IN A TRANSFORMED FUTURE

The first Transformer movie's final scene shows Optimus Prime standing atop a hill in southern California, knowing that earth is the Autobots' new home. He says, "We live among its people now, hiding in plain sight but watching over them in secret, waiting, protecting. I have witnessed their capacity for courage, and though we are worlds apart, like us, there is more to them than meets the eye. I am Optimus Prime and I send this message to any surviving Autobots taking refuge among the stars. We are here. We are waiting."





sooner. But Jesus shows us that God's transformation is inevitable. We may not be able to know when it will come or just what it will look like, but it will come. When we are willing to be like Martha and Optimus, we too can say, "God, I believe that you will transform my loss into new life. No matter what. So I'll be here. I'll be waiting."

While he stood on that hill, Optimus Prime did not know the fate of the Autobots. He could have been like Mary and given up all hope that new life was possible. But he was more like Martha – believing that the transformation of loss into new life was possible. He was willing to wait for that new and transformed life to come.



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

How would you feel if you asked God to transform you in a way you weren't able to do on your own, but then it didn't immediately happen?

How does Jesus respond to Mary when she expressed her disappointment and frustration? Have you ever told God how disappointed and frustrated you are? Can God handle it when we do?

How has your life not gone according to your plan? Do you believe that new and good life is possible in the future, even if it looks uncertain or very different than what we originally planned?

OUR FUTURE HOPE

If God can do anything, why doesn't God do something for me right now? That's the question Mary and Martha surely asked when their brother, Lazarus, died. If God can transform our loss into new life, why doesn't it happen as soon as we want it to? It can be hard to wait. It's easy to become impatient. Often, we have disappointment and anger with God over things we think God should have done



UNLIKELY, BUT NECESSARY TRANSFORMATION

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014

Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

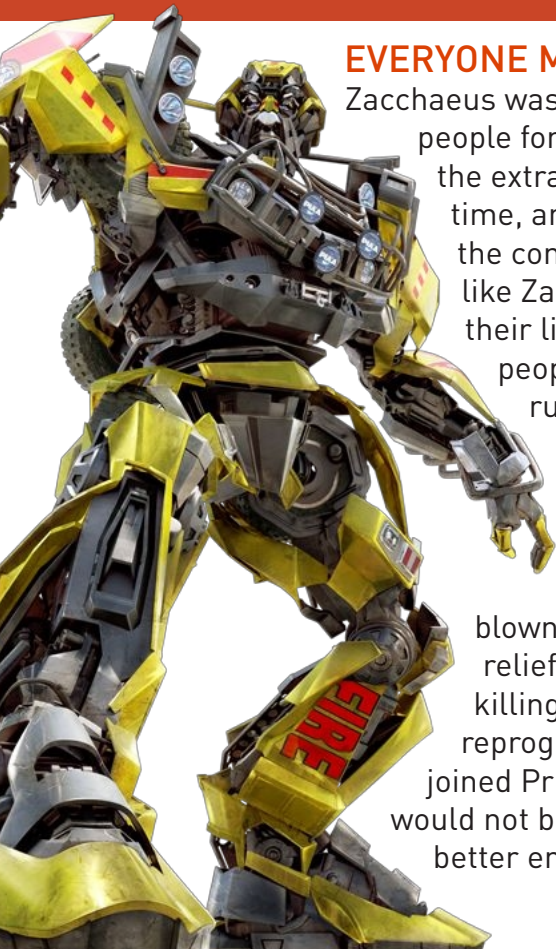
Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages." Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost." - Luke 19:1-10

EVERYONE MUST BE TRANSFORMED

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, who had cheated countless people for his own profit. He overtaxed the people and kept the extra for himself. Sadly, this was common practice at the time, and the people had no ability to change the system. If the community was going to change for the better, people like Zacchaeus needed to be transformed. It was only in their lives becoming more good, honest and true that the people would find relief from the effects of human corruption.

ALTERNATE ENDING

In the Transformer movies, we find ourselves rooting for the destruction of the Decepticons. We cheer when the "bad guy" robots are decapitated, blown up and otherwise shut down. We breathed a sigh of relief when Sam merged the All Spark with Megatron, killing him. But what if there would have been a way to reprogram Megatron and the other Decepticons so that he joined Prime in protecting the robots and the human race? It would not be as thrilling of a movie, but wouldn't it actually be a better ending?





THE ENDING JESUS WANTS

The popular culture of this world may not be much different than these movies, and it certainly is tempting to cheer for the destruction and disappearance of the bad guys. But as those who seek to be transformed and live the lives that God has meant for us to live, we have a different hope. We join Jesus in hoping that the “bad guys” are transformed, too. Anyone could have written the list of wrongs committed by Zacchaeus, but Jesus could see past the list to love the person and offer forgiveness and new life.

If Zacchaeus had disappeared, another crook would probably have replaced him and the life of the people would not have improved. However, because Zacchaeus was transformed, the people were repaid the money that was stolen from them, and no one in that part of town was ever overtaxed again. If our only hope for

bullies, thieves, haters, racists, the greedy, etc. is that they would disappear or were able to be ignored, does that actually make the world any better and is that really the best ending to the story? Or is their transformation actually a better ending leading to a better world?



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

What are some of the most hurtful and harmful practices and attitudes in the world?

If we long for the world to be transformed into a better place, is there any better hope than the transformation of the attitudes and the people living by the attitudes?

What was Jesus’ attitude toward Zacchaeus? How did Jesus help to transform Zacchaeus?

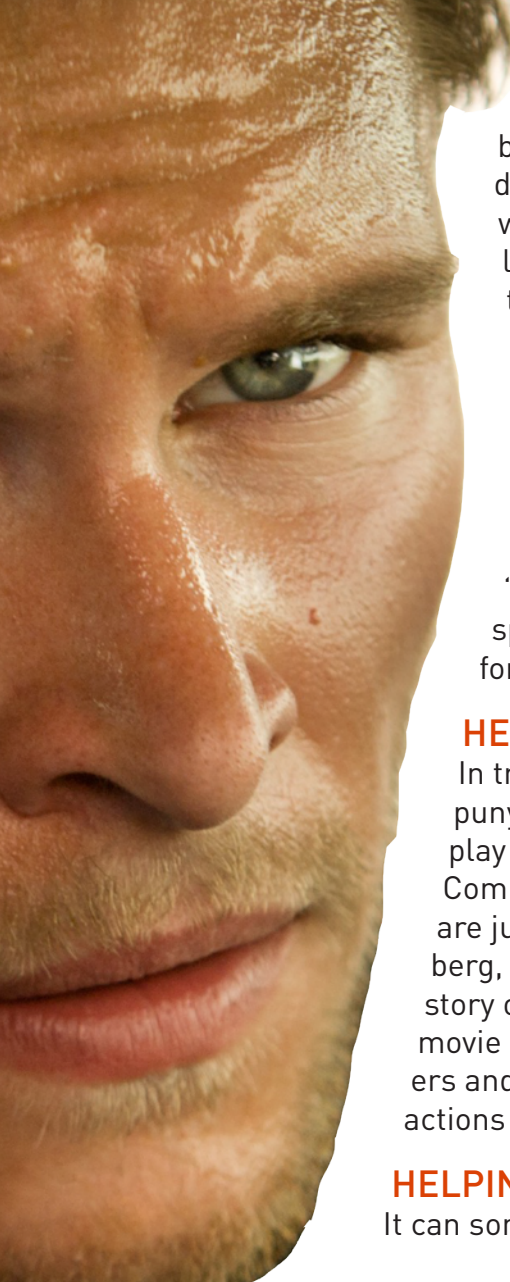
BE THE TRANSFORMATION

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2014

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go...'"

– Acts 9:10-11a

TRANSFORMING MEGATRON



Saul was feared by the earliest Christians. He was on a mission to squash the movement of Christianity before it became deeply rooted. He wasn't afraid to use deadly force in order to ensure that his religious side was the only one left standing. In many ways, he was like Megatron – stopping at nothing to make sure that the other side was defeated. It must have seemed insane to Ananias when God told him to go to find Saul. As a Christian, Ananias would have feared this to be a mission from which he might not return.

But the story ends well. It is a story of the cooperation between God and those God calls to work for the transformation of all – including the baddest of the “bad guys.” God works directly within Saul's heart and spirit, but Ananias also became an agent of that transformation.

HELPING OPTIMUS

In transformer movies, it sometimes seem unlikely that puny little human beings could have any significant role to play in the transformation and protection of the world. Compared to the size and strength of the Transformers, we are just so small! We MIGHT make a case for Mark Wahlberg, but is Shia LaBeouf really necessary in this dramatic story of good overcoming evil? Yes. Every Transformer movie is a story of the cooperative efforts of the Transformers and human beings. They both have times when their actions are essential to the work of good.

HELPING GOD

It can sometimes seem unlikely that we human beings could

have any significant role to play in the transformation and protection of this world. Compared to the size and strength of God, we are just so small. But the Scriptures and the story of the Church throughout all history, are stories of the cooperative efforts of God and human beings. Both God and us have actions that are essential to God's good work of bringing transformation to the world.

God and Ananias cooperated together in transforming Saul. Because Ananias was able to overcome his fear, we see one of the biggest adversaries against God's work for the transformation of the world become one of God's most important allies in all of human history. Ananias did not threaten Saul with force and he did not lay guilt upon Saul because of his past actions and attitudes. He called Saul "Brother." He reassured Saul of the promises of God – that God would give him eyes to see the world anew, and that God's very Spirit would take up residence within him. Essentially, Ananias told Paul that God loved him.

The combination of God's awesome and mysterious work and our reassurance that God is loving is a powerful one-two punch for good. Imagine seeing Optimus Prime for the first time. Everything within us would tell us to fear and run away. But what if Shia LaBeouf was there to say, "It's okay, he is good. His awesome strength is at work for our good. I can tell you how this has been true for me." That would change everything. With our reassurance that God is good and loving, others will not just be fearful and run the other way. They will be transformed.



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Ananias trusted Jesus more than he trusted his own fear. Will you?

How can we be a part of this transformation? How can we actively transform these hurtful and harmful attitudes?

Are we willing to befriend the "bad guys" in hopes that it might help their transformation?

Are we willing to be people who play our part in transformation – not by threatening or by laying guilt on others, but by considering others to be "brothers and sisters" and reassuring them that God is lovingly powerful?

THE KEY TO TRANSFORMATION

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2014

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Matthew 28:19-20



TRANSFORMED TRANSFORMERS

The first followers of Jesus were a rag-tag bunch of normal people. They had various skills, various backgrounds and various tempers. They made different kinds of mistakes. They were men and women of different ages. The thing they shared in common was that they all made the choice to transform into the kinds of people Jesus taught them to be. Jesus helped to transform and shape their lives into lives that were real, good and powerful.

This was good for their own sakes. They lived with more joy and a greater sense of purpose. They had less fear and greater knowledge of what was really important. But their transformation was never just about their own lives. They were transformed so that they would be transformers – people who helped others to find the transformation that God hoped for them, as well.

BAPTISM AND TEACHING

The key to the transformation of individuals, which ultimately leads to the transformation of the world, is baptizing and teaching. Baptism is the celebration of the promise that God’s Spirit is freely given to us so that we might forever know God’s love, forgiveness and transformative guidance. We are called to help others know that God’s Spirit is already with them. We are also called to teach others everything that Jesus taught – because we trust that if everyone lived according to the example



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

and teachings of Jesus, we would see the world transformed from brokenness to restored health, harmony and life.

We may feel small compared to the awesomeness of God, but our willingness and ability to baptize and to teach the way of Jesus is essential in the transformation of all people and the world as a whole.

**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE!**

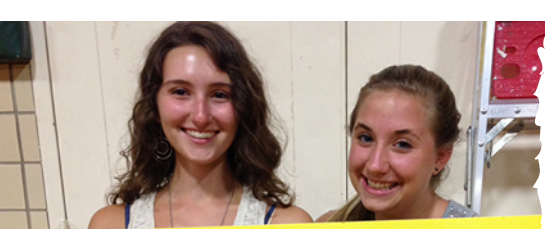
In what ways have you chosen to transform this week?

In what ways has God transformed you this week?

How have you been transformers this week?

How have you helped others to know God's love and the way of Jesus?

**What people and attitudes do you hope find transformation in the future?
What will you do differently to be a part of that transformation?**



WELCOME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Faith Workcamps is thrilled to be attending its 23rd camp this year in Rochester, NY! Be sure to stay up-to-date with all of the workcamp happenings by checking out our daily video blog, photos, and twitter feeds at FaithWorkcamps.com. We'd love to hear from you, so please feel free to leave us a comment on the blogs or reply to us via Facebook or Twitter. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you both online and after we return!

2014 / ROCHESTER, NY

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FAITH WORKCAMPS

23 YEARS - 110 CAMPERs