

get hope

A daily devotional by
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Get Hope

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hope

Several years ago, I was introduced to a 24-year-old man who was losing his battle against death. He had several serious physical problems but none that would alone be life-threatening. I spoke with the doctor who was treating him and asked what was causing the threat to his life. The answer: “He has lost hope!”

The loss of hope is devastating! It can rob us of life itself. Jesus came to planet Earth to give hope – hope for the future and hope for the present.

Have you lost hope for something on someone? Tell Jesus how you feel. Ask him to instill hope in your soul and in the souls of those who are involved in the situation. Then watch: You’ll be amazed at how Jesus will begin to create light where there is darkness, opportunity from the ashes of life. Watch the light of hope dawn once again.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

“ I am a 24-year-old male. Your program brought me faith and courage to live on. I was born into a family with financial difficulties. My father’s and brother’s eyes do not see very well, and I became blind after an accident at work. Thus, my mother has to shoulder the responsibly of providing for the home. My family paid a high price to restore my sight but without any avail. So I am living in darkness and by accident tuned into your radio station and grew to like the programs broadcast. I am encouraged by the many touching programs you air. They have helped me understand how great our God is. I am thankful for your program, which gives me hope.”

A listener in China

fear

Ever woken up in the middle of the night – say, 2:30 or 3 a.m. – and begun to think about things, events or relationships, and suddenly a pervasive sense of fear begins to envelope your mind?

How do we cope with fear? The term fear is used 252 times in the bible. Fear is defined as a strong, unpleasant emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger.

Fear is a part of our society. Recently, I saw a Web page listing 486 deep-seated fears that Americans face.

Faith is the antidote for fear! Jesus' disciples feared for their lives in a storm. Jesus asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Faith empowers action; fear brings paralysis. Acknowledge your fear by telling Jesus about it. Give it to Him, and ask Him to give you faith to replace the fear. Then look for God's answers. Fear or faith: Jesus gives us a choice.

"Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ... Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. ...'"

2 Chronicles 20:15, 17

“Because I had the spirit of fear and anger, I was very much frustrated and disturbed. I have two children. I did not like to enter my house. I used to get angry when my children cried. That time I used to wander around leaving my children at home. One day I had the opportunity to listen to your program *Asha Bhari Nariyan*, after which I felt good in my heart. I did not know why so I decided to listen to this program again. As I did not have a radio, I was going to my neighbor's house to listen to this program. When you were praying I also prayed after you, and that moment I felt peace in my heart. I could sense that the spirit of fear and anger left me. Now, when my children cry I do not get angry. I enter my house without any fear. I praise God that He delivered me and filled me with peace and joy that I never experienced before.”

A listener from India

conflicts

Conflict is expensive – emotionally, financially, relationally. It diverts valuable energy essential to accomplishing normal activities we are involved in daily. A study of on-the-job issues ranked marriage and career conflicts as events that robbed people of personal peace and productivity.

Jesus came to resolve the ultimate conflict between humans and God. He is still resolving conflict today. A conflicted relationship that comes before God in prayer suddenly gives way to avenues of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Got a big conflict in your life? Tell Jesus about it in detail. Ask Him to first to impress on you what you should do to bring peace and reconciliation. Then take action on that impression. You'll be surprised at what happens.

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23-24

“ I used to have arguments with my friend that just caused confusion between us. Although we said we forgave each other, I knew that it was just from mouth not from heart; this is not real forgiveness. After I learned this lesson, I recognized that I needed to talk to her again to truly ask for her forgiveness and to ask her to forgive me. I know this will be hard to do, but I will try because I know God is pleased by this, and will help me to do it.”

A listener in Cambodia

joy

How many people do you know who consistently experience joy? My list included fewer than 10 people a little over a year ago. Joy is an emotion or state of mind evoked by well-being, future good fortune or the prospect of possessing what one desires. It is a state of happiness or gladness.

Secretly you and I hope that joy will be a large part of life. It seems the older we get the less joy we experience! Joy is evasive. It is something we love to experience, may quickly lose and find hard to recover in our everyday experience!

What is a source of joy? True joy can come only through a daily, intimate walk with Jesus. He is the only heart-level source of joy! Talk to Him daily; let Him talk to you as you read the Bible. He can restore joy. He can take years of hurt, disappointment and cynicism and turn darkness into a joyful life. Talk to Jesus. Give Him one disappointment, and ask Him to place joy in your heart!

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

John 15:9-11

“I cannot tell you how much I am blessed by “Women of Hope” programs. They are like a ray of light shining through the clouds in the sky. The message I hear in them gives me hope and the truth of God’s Word fills my heart with joy. I recently have lost some members of my family and I have felt discouraged and lonely, but God has showed me through Isaiah 43:4 that I am precious in His sight.”

A listener in Albania

faith

As we mature in our faith in Jesus, I've noticed, it can get harder to take spiritual "risks." Stepping out into the unknown by faith! Security becomes a high value! Yet craving security can rob us of the joy of seeing God use us in greater ways. Will I entrust my children's future to God? Am I willing to change the course of my life based upon what God seems to be speaking to me? The Bible says that "without faith it is impossible to please God."

Several years ago, my wife, June, and I left a secure future with a respected organization and moved across the country to join TWR . We did it by faith, not knowing what God would do. It was a big decision, but one that God has blessed globally. We would have missed a lot if we had chosen security.

A "risking faith" is an infectious quality that God transmits to our children, family and those whom we relate to in everyday life! God is looking for people who will visualize a future not yet in existence. Faith gives life to true Hope!

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:28-33

A lady in Portugal recounted her experience when she telephoned the TWR staff. She was afraid to leave her house and for eight years would only go out for doctor's appointments. Even then she would go only if one of her sons accompanied her. Her best friend was her radio. One day while home alone, she turned it on and heard *Women of Hope*. The kind voices on the radio were talking about what fear can do to you, she recalled. Listening closely, she realized God could help her deal with her fear, so she prayed to Him. Knowing that she was not alone because God was with her, she opened her front door and went to a nearby café for a coffee.

A listener from Portugal

the holy spirit

When each of us meets Jesus, a counselor called the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our life. The Bible says that He is a teacher, comforter, and convictor and that He prays to God on our behalf. He can prompt us as we follow Jesus daily.

Recently I was on my way to a meeting. I had a large list of things that needed to be accomplished – one of which was seeing a person on an urgent issue – and I asked the Lord what He wanted me to do? As I was driving and praying, the idea of stopping at a local coffee shop entered my mind.

I walked into the coffee shop, and to my amazement, I found the very person I needed to see on an urgent matter. Had I not followed that inner prompting, I would have missed the person.

It doesn't sound logical does it?

Looking for direction? Ask the Lord and respond to the small voice of the Holy Spirit.

That's real Hope!

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:6-10

“From that half-hour program, I knew the value and power of prayer. The program inspired and encouraged me to pray for my husband. ... I prayed and prayed. After four months, I got my answer. My husband came home without any advance notice. I was so surprised and immediately thanked the Lord and told my husband everything about my life changing. ... You know, he told me that from the time I started to pray, he began dreaming about having to come home. His life had no peace until he came home. So, he came to home. We both cried and I thanked to lord.

A listener in Nepal

leadership

The Apostle Paul had something to say regarding leaders: Now a leader must be above reproach, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, a good manager of family and nurturer of obedient children, as well as having a good reputation in the community.

Looking on this list of leadership qualities, most fall on the side of having good character. However, competency also is very important, and credibility is a highly desirable trait.

Competency comes with training and credibility with time, but character comes as we live life-making decisions that others can trust over time.

Good leaders with strong character bring hope!

*He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
from following the nursing ewes he brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.
With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.*

Psalm 78:70-72

“ I am attending a house church where I have no choice but to preach during services. However, I am facing some difficulties.

“I did not finish secondary school and do not have much education, so I cannot bring out the message adequately. The members of the house church are between 50 and 70 years old, with different backgrounds and different personalities. It makes preaching difficult.

“I find it difficult to practice what I preach. An evangelist ought to reflect the image of Christ. However, I am quick-tempered and do not have much patience. If a person cannot practice what he preaches, speak what he believes or be a witness for his faith, how can he be an evangelist?

“Please give me some advice and keep me in your prayers. A preacher should not speak carelessly and ought to be able to share a word to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. However, if the well is dry, how can I satisfy the thirsty ones? Therefore, I await your help to send me materials to aid me in preaching.”

A listener in China

living in community

When we work together as believers in Jesus, we leverage our spiritual resources in the lives of those who know Jesus and those who don't.

A friend of mine, Jim, hasn't met Jesus yet. I have been praying for him for the last six years. Several years ago I began to expose him to some of my friends who know Jesus. Jim told me one day, "Lauren, there is something different about your friends. I feel so comfortable being around them."

Jim helped me open my eyes to the value of community. Jesus lived in community – one that consisted of His disciples, some women and others involved with Him.

A community of believers in Jesus can encourage and bring light in the darkest of situations. There is real Hope in Community!

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 24-26

“Now I am getting old and therefore my eyesight is becoming weak, so reading the Bible is also a problem. I have to depend only on radio to listen to the Word of God. ... When my husband was alive we both used to share the Gospel with our neighbors and friends. Because of that, many turned to the Lord and accepted Jesus as personal savior. We started a Sunday school in our house. God was blessing us. Now my husband is with the Lord, and still there are some people who come to my house for counsel. What I learn from your program I share with them and help them. This way many people are getting blessings from the *Women of Hope* program, and I, too, receive blessing from the Lord through this program.

A listener in India

a life of destiny

People of destiny are born every day . Jesus was a man born with a destiny. The prophet Jeremiah was a person born with a destiny.

I'd like to suggest you were born into a life of destiny!

That prophet, Jeremiah, said, “For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord, ‘plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope!’”

What are your aspirations? Jot down 1, 2 or 3 things you'd love to see accomplished through your life . Then ask Jesus to make these aspirations become reality. And we can pray destiny into the lives of others as we ask God to orchestrate events to shape the destiny of our family or friends.

A life of destiny gives Hope!

*The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.*

Psalm 138:8

“**M**y sinful life has brought me to jail. I was a cruel man, full of hate and rage. I simply took pleasure in wronging people. ... Here in this specific place something unthinkable happened: Jesus knocked at the door of my heart. There was something so powerful in His love that the ice which had been chaining my heart – just melted away. ... The Word of God inspired me and brought a lot of energy to fight the evil and hardships. There has been a great breakthrough since Jesus entered my life. Prayer is giving me joy, and so is reading the Bible and Christian literature. I gladly attend the meetings of the Christian group here. I am trying to follow Jesus’ teaching. He delivered me from addiction to danger, and I am praying for deliverance from smoking. Praying fervently, I am making first steps in being patient and humble. I have been blessed with a paid job in the kitchen. In this way, I can send a modest support to my fiancé and son. Recently I have been interviewed by television and had the opportunity to share about how Jesus changed my life. It is my dream to be able to tell people about God, to bring hope to those who most need it, for example in hospices.

A listener in eastern Poland

life influencers

If I were to ask you who are the 10 most influential people throughout your life, who would you list?

One person on my list was a man named Lorne Sanny. The first time I met Lorne, I walked up his driveway and said, “You don’t know me, but I am your new assistant!” After greeting me, he invited me to get into his car and go to a store to pick up some aspirin. For the next dozen years, I did everything with him, including becoming almost a part of his family. In fact, he and his wife Lucy became almost second parents to me . What a privilege to have a life mentor!

Who would you list as one of the most influential people in your life? Would you like to have someone mentor you in life?

To this day I have a list of people who I can trust and call to bounce ideas and situations off of. People like that give us Hope!

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ... Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.

1 Peter 5:1-5

“ I have been to church meetings this year, and know a lot of brothers and sisters in Christ. I believe that this is a healthy church. This church puts a lot of emphasis on spreading the gospel. Besides going to church, I do not have any Christian friends around me. None of my colleagues here are Christian, so sometimes I will feel quite lonely. I pray to have a couple of spiritual friends whom we can share, encourage and pray for each another. I need a mentor like Paul to guide me in my spiritual growth.

A listener in China

true spirituality

George Gallup, the famous pollster, said Americans are very “religious.” Religion takes a lot of forms, and spirituality is vogue .

Spirituality was vogue in ancient Athens. The Apostle Paul made this observation: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ... I even found an altar with this inscription: “To an Unknown God.” He then explained that Jesus was that unknown God.

I know a number of people who are “spiritual” but have not met the unknown God.

Jesus wants to meet spiritual people! We can transmit Hope by centering on Jesus with our friends. He gives true lasting Hope.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:5-6

“**M**y house was under the oppression of Satan. To be free of that, we went to several doctors, religious priests and resorted to witchcraft. We did everything they suggested, sacrificing our animal for peace, but there was no change. We didn’t know about Jesus Christ then. One evening, we switched on the radio and heard a message about Jesus Christ in the Gujarati language. We listened attentively. Convinced about the living God, we trusted in the power of Jesus and we began listening to the program regularly. Within a few weeks there was a change in my family. We learnt more about the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted Him as our personal savior.

A listener in India

be a giver, not a taker

Last week a friend said, "I'm asking God to make me into a giver and not a taker for the rest of my life!" He went on to say that givers multiply Hope into countless other lives, while takers diminish the impact of their lives and suck Hope out of relationships.

June and I drove home the other day reflecting how many of our friends are hurting. One, a single mom trying to get dental work for her son, has no money! We can provide Hope for that family by giving to real needs.

A spirit of empathy allows us to be givers through the hurts of others even if we have never experienced what they are going through. Prayer can develop a spirit of empathy.

Takers reduce encouragement. Givers bring Hope!

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ... But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:1, 3-4

“ I would like to ask you for a CD with recordings of the programs *The Word Today*. I know that you have a difficult ministry. I would like to pray for you. Please excuse me, I have no money to send to you. I would love to, but I am an invalid at 20 years of age, live on the earnings of my parents. Thank you very much.”

A listener in Ukraine

flying information

Last March I was driving across Nebraska. I glanced up to see flocks of geese flying northward for the summer. The geese were flying in neat V's – the leader in front, followed by individual geese lined up behind.

When we know Jesus, we are designed to fly in formation, with Jesus in the lead and groups of believers in formation following Him.

The book of Hebrews in the Bible says, “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some people.”

Hurting, broken people need the exposure to caring, loving fellow believers in Jesus. Hope comes through flying in formation.

“If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”

John 12:26

“**W**e’ve been through some trials during the preparation for my husband’s travel to Bujumbura [Burundi]. He was sick, so he traveled while not feeling well. On his way to Bujumbura, passing via Ethiopia, he lost his luggage. I mean that things were tough, and I, for some reason, really needed prayer. So I asked the prayer group at TWR to pray for us, and this was a great help for us. After some days, by the grace of God, my husband was feeling better and finally accomplished all that he had to do. With the support of the group, I finally got encouragement and strength, and the joy of the Lord was full inside of me. I felt the power of prayer and told myself that we should persevere. It was a good idea, I thought, to start this prayer group.”

A listener in Ivory Coast

integrity brings hope

Several weeks ago I participated in a late-night discussion on “integrity.”

Integrity goes beyond just being honest. Integrity implies an “integrated life”—a whole or complete life. In the vernacular, “what you see is what you get.” An integrated life of integrity is the same in private or in public.

Life in the 21st century tends to be compartmentalized, lacking an integration of personal, business, social and family life.

We all live with an audience of one – Jesus ! When we live lives of integrity, we bring Hope!

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

John 12:26 [NIV]

“ I have been changed a lot through listening to the program. I feel very relaxed and joyful when I finish my work and have time to listen to the program. My nature is changed. Now I am happy to share to other people who are in need and I can forgive others when they hurt me.”

A listener in Vietnam

blessing others

One of the least understood areas of living life is “blessing others.”

The greatest thing we can do for others is to bless them. Blessing sets a positive environment at home, in the office or with others. Blessing can instill confidence or peace in our children, our co-workers. People remember an environment like that for years!

I still remember my first employer when I was 16 years old. He was not a believer in Jesus, but he blessed me with his words and actions. To this day, I respect the positive outlook on life he exhibited.

Blessing others brings Hope!

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

“Before I listened to the *Women of Hope* program, I was a bad mother because when I got angry with my children I always hit them and said bad things. But after I listened to the program, I changed. I learned to be patient and I told myself, “You should talk to the children in soft words.” Honestly, the program really helps me.

A listener in Cambodia

mentoring

Every six months I like to evaluate my relationship with Jesus and ask the question, “Am I investing my life so it pays eternal dividends?”

A friend of mine used to say there are two things to invest your life in that pay off for all eternity: first, your relationship with Jesus; and second, helping the people we influence to come closer to Christ and truly know Him. People are eternal beings.

What young man or woman has God meshed you with in the last month? Perhaps the Lord wants to use you in their lives! The question is are you available or willing to invest in someone in the next generation?

Bringing Hope to the next generation will last forever!

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

“Besides going to church, I do not have any Christian friends around me. None of my colleagues here are Christian, so sometimes I will feel quite lonely. I pray to have a couple of spiritual friends so we can share, encourage and pray for one another. I need a mentor like Paul to guide me in my spiritual growth.”

A listener in China

maintaining hope in impossible situations

The apostle Paul was imprisoned, demeaned by his antagonists, isolated from the very people who loved him most and forced to watch others share the Good News of Jesus from false motives. Not a great life by most of our standards.

Yet he knew four secrets for happiness:

He prayed, committing people and circumstances to the Lord.

He reflected on the person of Christ.

He set right priorities; everything he did, he did for the cause of Christ.

He experienced the peace of God by committing all he had and was to Jesus.

Paul found Hope through Jesus – the only true source of Lasting Hope!

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:2-5

“ I was born into a family with financial difficulties. My father's and brother's eyes do not see very well and I became blind after an accident at work. Thus, my mother has to shoulder the responsibly of providing for the home. My family paid a high price to restore my sight but without any avail. So I am living in darkness and by accident I tuned into your radio station and grew to like the programs broadcast. I am encouraged by the many touching programs you air. They have helped me understand how great our God is. ... I am thankful for your program which gives me hope.

A listener in China

hope in death

On the Fourth of July several years ago, I flew to Chicago to attend the funeral of Larry Ebert, a close friend who lost his life in an auto accident in Ghana, West Africa. Few people have had such an impact for the cause of Jesus.

As I peered out the airplane window, the Lord brought to mind the words of the Bible, “the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

More than 1,000 people attended that memorial service, many of whom were introduced to Christ or were helped spiritually by Larry, a dentist, who lived a life committed to bringing Hope to others.

It’s amazing what a committed life involved in everyday activities in the name of Jesus can do, bringing Hope to everyday people!

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Philippians 1:21-24

“**L**ike my friend whose wife died two months ago. He loved her so much that he almost died himself from a heart attack. His wife – Valentina – accepted the way of faith a year ago, and I am sure she is now with the Lord. He works as a truck driver, and until the death of his wife was a fierce atheist. He cursed and swore seeing me recording the transmissions from the radio. Today he is asking me for them; he wants to listen. He left drinking and swearing and is on his way to leaving smoking. I could never imagine for a person to change so drastically. Praise God!”

A listener of Russian *Thru the Bible* broadcasts

an appointment in heaven

In 1998 a close friend related that he had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and, unless there was a miracle cure, he would cease to live in about 26 months.

Several weeks later I gave my friend a copy of a modern version of the Bible, called The Message. As my friend read and we talked every couple of weeks, he came to embrace Jesus as his best friend.

In the next year and a half, it was clear that my friend was not going to remain alive and one sunny winter day in Colorado we made an appointment to meet in heaven – my first appointment after I check in with the Lord.

Just knowing that I will see my friend again and having an appointment to do so give me Hope!

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

John 14:2-4

“ In the meantime we are 76 years old. It is with great longing that we go to bed to listen to your program every evening. This wonderful clear Word of God is our strength for every day. It was at an early age that my father taught me from the Word of God. He was a living example of God's love for me. My spouse and I live in a small village. We look forward to our home in heaven, but we walk with Him and talk with Him. Even if it still difficult on this earth, we are encouraged and strengthened. In Christian love we are bound together.”

A listener in Germany

the listening ear

Fifteen years ago I read a book that was worth the price for the title alone, “The Power of the Listening Ear.”

My grandfather used to say, “There is a reason God gave you two ears and one mouth.” Sage advice learned over many years.

Hurting people, people separated from the love of Jesus, need a listening ear. Several well-timed questions, followed by an intense period of listening, can have a profound effect on someone hurting, broken or desperate with life itself.

I’d be willing to bet that God has placed around you anxious, frustrated people who desperately need a listening ear.

A listening ear – coupled with a few appropriate words – can bring profound Hope!

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person
be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;*

James 1:19

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law
of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend
is as sweet as perfume and incense.*

Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)

“ I have met with deep disappointments and hopeless situations in my life. In those times of difficulty, I feel so alone and so weary of it all. I am lucky to have caring parents and friends to stand by me to encourage me and give me the strength to carry on. I’d like to encourage everybody to gather good friends to lean on in difficult times.”

A listener in Thailand

hope in the midst of worry

Several weeks ago I was up at 3 a.m. worrying in the middle of the night.

Worry robs us of Hope! Worry about a child or family member, worry about finances, worry about circumstances over which we have no control. Worry is like a low-grade toothache.

The Bible says, “Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. ... It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life” (Philippians 4:6-7, The Message).

When we pray, God settles us down. He replaces worry with Hope and a profound sense of peace. Tell Jesus your concerns in detail. Then expect Him to give you Hope!

And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ...Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:27-30, 34

“My son and I listened to your broadcast, [the radio program] *Mangiar Ulagam*. Some time ago, my son lived a sinful life. When he went missing for several days, I panicked and cried bitterly. God then spoke to me through your message on anxiety. I was greatly encouraged and was able to pray earnestly. I am happy to say that God answered my prayers. My son came back home and was relieved from that particular situation.”

A listener in India

helping others get hope

You can be an “Insider for Jesus,” helping people get hope in life .

Insiders live high-impact lives, not perfect lives.

How? It begins with letting Jesus flow through our existence. Be vulnerable with people. Share what Jesus has been doing. That overflow of relationship touches people deeply and can give them Hope.

Recently, as I was sharing about a relationship that I was dealing with, someone told me, “If Jesus can do that in that situation, it gives me Hope!” Like a good infection, Jesus can use us to be a carrier of Hope. God wants to use you in the lives of your family, neighbors, friends and colleagues lives to Get Hope!

*[I]n your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to
anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that
is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ...*

1 Peter 3:15

“ I have learned to have hope in the Lord, even in the most difficult situations. It has helped me to lift up my self-esteem. And I have the opportunity to witness this great blessing to many unbeliever women in my community, and now many of them are also listening to the programs. And I turn on my radio very loud so that my neighbors that don’t have a radio can listen to them also. You know what? Many men and leaders also listen to them and tell me that they are of help to them.”

A listener in northern South America

hope comes through loving others

A good friend of mine recently said, “Don’t think about what you can do to expose others to Jesus. Instead, we should ask ourselves, ‘How can I love more and more and more?’”

How can we bring Hope to those who haven’t encountered Jesus? *Acceptance* is a powerful spiritual dynamic. Then *love* coupled with *concern* produce a three-way dynamic that draws people to Jesus as a person.

Jesus can to give folks Hope. He loved people beyond accepted social norms. He had dinner with a tax collector and showed grace toward a woman caught in adultery.

The world is a rough place to live! When people sense love, they Get Hope!

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:19-21

“**Y**es, some fanatics [of another religion in this region] are violent. We testify the forgiveness and the love of Jesus to them. They are astonished about this fact. They say, “What happened to these Christians? When we insult them, they bless us!” Between themselves they say: “Are they madmen, these Christians, or are we the madmen?” ... This is the word of Jesus that is accomplished. The work of God is the lunacy to the world.”

A listener in North Africa

hope brings transformation

Four of us were talking recently about how personal transformation comes about. Transformation is a changing of established life perspectives and patterns.

In the Bible, Paul says that the good news “came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction.” Knowing Jesus is far more than a message, far more than just a decision; it is allowing Jesus to live through our life!

How can we allow Jesus to live through us? By asking Jesus to control our lives, by spending time reading the Bible and by allowing His Spirit to wash and change our attitudes, words and actions.

As we transform, God plants Hope in lives. And that’s true Hope!

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person by
changing the way you think. Then you will learn to
know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing
and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

“ I am 30 years old and used to sleep around, drink too much alcohol and smoke cigarettes. At night, when I got home, I would beat my wife and children. In the meantime, my wife kept on praying for me. I don’t know what happened, but the fact is that I began to see some transformation in me four months ago. My old-time friends became my enemies. To God be the praise, for today I am a transformed person.”

A listener in Angola

answered prayer

There is nothing that brings Hope like seeing God answer prayer!

I'm convinced that prayer – persistent prayer – is something to cultivate in our daily talks with the Lord.

Jesus told a story about a judge who was anything but a spiritual man. A widow in his city kept coming to him asking for remedy against someone who had wronged her. In the end, because of her persistence, the judge ruled in her favor.

Why do you and I need to be persistent in praying? Write down the request; check it from time to time to see if God has answered. Persistent, answered prayers bring Hope!

"Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this— though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Luke 11:5-9

“When the PH members started the ministry in the prison that I am in charge of, I didn't believe anything or anyone could change those criminals. But now, I have seen and testify that God's Word and prayers are powerful and transform people. I admire the ladies' persistence and courage to invest in people we thought were hopeless. Your ministry is making a difference in the prisoner's lives."

A listener in Angola

hope from trust

Trust is very fragile! It's something earned over a long period of time and can be lost in a fraction of a second. Trust is won by living a life of integrity and vulnerability before God and others.

Ever had your child say to you, "You don't trust me!" It's a common phrase for children in the maturing process. As a parent you know trust is built from demonstrated actions over time.

Trust – a fragile commodity – is one of the most powerful forces God can use to bring hope to a relationship or a delicate situation. In a generation that has stopped trusting, let's be people who bring Hope through trust!

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"

Luke 16:10-12

“ I am separated from my husband because I was caught in adultery and my husband wanted me to leave because he did not trust me anymore. I have three children. After listening to [your radio] program, I have realized my mistake and am totally broken from within. I have a repentant heart. I am sure it must have been very difficult for my husband as he is an evangelist. Now I want to live a new life. Please pray for my situation and especially for the children.”

A listener in India

hope in the midst of life's storms

Life can be like a huge storm.

Several weeks ago I met a student who said, "My whole world is collapsing around me during exams!"

Or the owner of a small business who said, "I see storm clouds on the horizon, the winds coming up, and the waves are getting higher. I hope the business doesn't capsize!"

Jesus' followers found themselves in a life-threatening storm. He calmed the winds and did so to the disciples' amazement.

Just pray and say, "Jesus, will you calm this storm in my life for your glory?" See what He does, and see Hope return!

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Matthew 8:24-27

"Since the [social unrest], I lost the rest that was my inner calm. I panic, and I have become vulnerable to all. You have said that Jesus gives such a rest. ... I decided to repent and to abandon my life in the hands of God. Ever since, my life has been very calm and I have an inner rest that I had never felt before. I also started to go back to church I abandoned 20 years ago – that on your advice."

A listener in Ivory Coast

hope for direction in life

Last year, a student said to me with exasperation in his voice, “I just want to know what next steps God wants me to take in life!” We all secretly want the Lord’s guidance as we move forward in life.

A friend of mine once explained that when the Spirit of God is leading, it is usually with a gentle tug or nudge in a particular direction. When we feel beat up, twisted, pushed, or without peace, it probably isn’t God’s direction.

More than 15 years ago, I started keeping a journal of the events of my life. God leads with gentle pushes over a period of time. If we write them down, they become identifiable patterns of guidance.

When we have a sure direction, we Get Hope!

*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.*

Psalm 25:9-10

“I come from a broken home. Before my parents separated, there was quarreling and violence. Without the Lord I would never have known peace or hope. I didn’t have any role models to follow, but now Jesus is my example. He has given me peace, hope and direction in my life. With His help, I can show love and respect to my elders and stay on the right path for my life.”

A listener in Thailand

hope for the nonbeliever

The doorbell rang at our home one Tuesday afternoon. A neighbor was standing on the front step with tears in her eyes. She asked for a ride to the attorney's office because she was filing for divorce.

My wife June brewed a pot of coffee, sat down and talked with her. In the weeks that followed, this Navy pilot's wife did visit an attorney, but the pilot and his wife decided against divorce. That afternoon this talented wife met Jesus!

Every one of us has relationships with neighbors who are living in quiet desperation. Helping them meet Jesus sets a lifetime DNA of Hope!

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?¹ And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Romans 10:13-14

“Every time I listen to your program I would tell all my neighbors to listen because this program is so good and it will help them. Even the non-believers love to listen to your program. Please pray for my neighbors to come to know the Lord. I am now sharing the Good News with them.”

A listener in Cambodia

hope for our children

The day we packed up our son for college was one of the saddest days of my life. I cried for 500 of the 1,000 miles to the college he was to attend. I sensed our relationship would change radically – and it did! But not for the worse; it actually got stronger. We moved from a relationship of dependence to a relationship of interdependence.

The psalmist tells us that “the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Hope rides upon the next generation, grasping a sense of destiny and moving into roles that will *hopefully* promote good for society. Want to Get Hope? Invest in the most important mentees you will ever have, your children.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

“Your program has taught me so much such as how to be a good mother; how to discipline my children in a loving way instead of using anger; and how to use good words with my children. Now I am trying to change a little at a time to be a good mother. At first it was so hard for me to do, but I kept praying and asking God to help me. I continue to listen to your program because you have so many good lessons for me and for women just like me. Now I can talk to my children in a nice way whenever I am correcting them. They know that I have changed a lot, and they listen to me now, which was not the case before.”

A listener in Cambodia