



Speaking Hope to the World®

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Prayer Requests

- **Praise:** Due to a strong December, we finished the year fully funded!
- **Pray:** Sam is experiencing anxiety due to the work load he has with school this semester and trying to work part-time at TWR.
- **Pray:** Pray for John Edward to finish out his senior year strong. Pray also for guidance as he considers his future after high school.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or would like to receive it by email, please let Kathy know at knapier@twr.org. You can also contact us at (919) 460-3791, anapier@twr.org, or [facebook.com/TWRNapier](https://www.facebook.com/TWRNapier).

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things. (Romans 10:15b)



footsteps

FROM 

The Napier Family Quarterly Newsletter

March 2021

Share Your “Hope Story”

Persecution against Christians is nothing new. Many believers in Jesus live with the real possibility of imprisonment and even death. Other Christians are shut out of good jobs and needed government programs. And now, there is another, more subtle form of persecution that is noticeably on the rise—censorship. It’s becoming more common for Christian content to be blocked on digital media platforms. Should we be surprised? No. Should we step back from proclaiming the Gospel? No way! Don’t forget this passage in 1 Peter:

“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in 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, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.” (1 Peter 3:13-17, ESV)

I’ve often quoted the phrase about “being prepared to make a defense,” but I had never really considered the context. You see, even in the midst of persecution, as we “suffer for righteousness’ sake,” we should be prepared and willing to share our faith with others. I’m talking globally through a ministry like TWR as well as locally by telling a friend, neighbor, or coworker about Jesus. But how? Radio host and ministry leader Ron Hutchcraft offers this advice in an upcoming episode of *Footsteps*:

“Peter said, ‘Be ready always to give a reason for the hope that you have.’ Well apparently, it’s our hope that’s gonna create curiosity in people. So, let’s talk about hope. What is hope? ... What is hopeless? It means I’m stuck. I’m in a situation that is never going to change. Isn’t that what hopeless is? Well then, what is hope? Hope means something that I never thought could change CAN change ... because of a man named Jesus. We all have a “hope story.” Every follower of Christ is living proof that Jesus can change something nobody else could have changed. So, someone who is listening right now is living proof that a husband can change (but only because of Jesus) that a wife can change, that a mom can change, that a dad can change, that a control freak can change, that an angry man can change, that an addicted person can change. This is the Jesus who changes what nobody else can change. Your story is the best way to get into His story, so you tell how His story (what happened on that middle cross and that empty tomb) has changed your story and could change their story ... forever. You have a story. That’s the living proof that there is a living Savior, and that’s how it becomes our “hope story.”



Ron Hutchcraft and Andy at NRB 2020

May the Lord give each one of us the opportunity and courage to share our “hope story” remembering, as we say at TWR, that “hope knows no barriers.”

A Listener story from Bosnia

"I grew up in a family that hated Christians. I grew up thinking that all Christians are evil because that's what I was taught. When my aunt accepted Christ in 1999, I first questioned my feelings. She tried to portray Christianity in a gentle and interesting way, but I was only 15 at the time, and it was hard for me to accept that she had changed her faith. For me, it was a betrayal and a great sin. I didn't even think about changing my faith, but hearing it somehow made me think about everything. I thought that Christians were violent and selfish, seeking to gain material goods and hating us.

But my aunt was telling me about love, forgiveness, gentleness, about Christ who was tortured, beaten, and betrayed. She also told me that Christ suffered because of sinful people and gave His life so that people could be reconciled to God and be saved. That was weird because I didn't think about Christianity that way. For me, Christians were enemies and the ones who needed to be killed. It was hard to hear what my aunt was telling me. She saw me think about it, so she gave me the Bible and told me to read it slowly and make the decision for myself.

I started reading the Bible and couldn't stop thinking about the words I was reading. After a few years, my heart changed so much that I became a whole new person. I accepted the teaching of Christ and converted. At first, my family was astonished at my actions, but over time, as they listened to me speak from the Bible, and while explaining to them the core of Christianity and some of my thoughts, they embraced Christianity as well.

Even today, after so many years, I still serve Christ, and I have never regretted believing in Him. I continue to study the Bible regularly and listen to the *Treasures of Wisdom* radio program. I'm glad there is such a program in our language because people can hear the truth. And this is so necessary for this country. I bless all those who wish to help spread the gospel in Bosnia. God has not forgotten His people; my testimony is a true example of this. I often recommend TWR to my friends to get a real picture of who Christians are and what Christ's message is."

Family Happenings

1000 Episodes and Counting



TWR President Lauren Libby, Andy, and TWR's Radio Partnership Department colleagues Kelly Gilbert and John Summerville

On December 22, 2020, the 1000th original episode of *Footsteps* aired on Christian radio stations across the country. That's right, ONE THOUSAND episodes spotlighting what God is doing around the world and encouraging believers to get more involved in the Great Commission. At a recent staff meeting, TWR President Lauren Libby commemorated the milestone by presenting Andy with a beautiful award for his office. His colleagues gave him four pairs of colorful socks in recognition of all of the "footsteps" he had made. And, the whole staff joined in the celebration with a feast of homemade cookies. What a humbling experience! We wish you could have been there with him to receive the honor. While Andy might be the one behind the microphone, you are faithfully standing behind our family, financially supporting us, praying for us, and spurring us ahead. You are a vital part of the *Footsteps* family. We could not have done this without you! So, pat yourself on the back, eat some cookies, and join us in praising God on this special occasion.

A couple of months ago I was talking with a co-worker about how rich Romans chapter 8 was and how it would be great to memorize. She responded with, "Well, let's do it." It's very slow going for me, but my friend is making great strides and even uses what she's memorized in conversations very naturally.

We have friends who have adopted twice from different countries. Their first adoption was two brothers from Uganda. They then gave birth to a son a couple of years later. Recently they went to Taiwan to bring home their fourth son. There were sacrifices they had to make, and there was a cost involved in both adoptions. They've had to teach their adopted sons their language (one is still learning). The children are loved and cared for. They have also received the name of their father as their own. I love how adoption reflects what God has done for us. Romans 8:14-15 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father." If we belong to Jesus Christ, we have been adopted into God's family. There was a cost involved in our adoption. God gave His son, Jesus, who was fully God and fully man to pay the price for our adoption through His death on a cross. As His children, we are loved and cared for, He teaches us, and we are called by His name. That's just two verses from Romans 8. Didn't I mention how rich it was? This same chapter tells me that there is nothing that will separate me from Him. How very thankful I am that we have God's Word and the freedom to meet to worship Him.

February 26th was my birthday and I was able to spend it with my parents. John Edward and I headed home the weekend before and stayed for the week. John Edward was able to do school, and I worked remotely for a couple of the days. It's always so good to be home and spend time with Mom and Dad.

Sam has started his second semester of classes at Wake Tech Community College. Most of his classes are online, but he does have two back-to-back classes on campus on Fridays. He continues to work part-time, but not as many hours.

John Edward was able to drop his math class and begin retaking it online. He has weekly help from a tutor and is doing much better. He made the soccer team, but decided not to play so that he could focus totally on school classes. Andy and I were looking forward to watching him play, but we respect his choice. He's leaning towards working a year before going directly to college. We agree this would be a good decision as he's unsure of what he wants to study.

Andy has been faithfully walking for a number of months now. I'm so proud of his commitment to losing weight and getting in shape. As the days get longer, I'm hoping to join him. During the winter months, I have little to no motivation, and this year has been an extra hard one as I've dealt with SAD (seasonal affective disorder). I've really struggled with the gray, rainy days. The sunshine and warmer days have really lifted my spirits. Bring on spring!

Kathy Napier

