

We're back with a devotional and our latest news.



Not by bread alone...

"Acceptable losses" is a term often used in a military context where, for a greater good, some lives are inevitably going to be lost in battle. For example, over 4,000 Allied soldiers died during the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. And while it's hard to imagine the loss of any life as being "acceptable", that battle led to the eventual liberation of France and western Europe from the control of Hitler and Nazi Germany.

Now the idea of acceptable losses comes up in other contexts too. I saw it in an article the other day, which described some of the training that first-responders go through in preparation for mass-casualty events where the first-arriving units will be confronted by large numbers of injured people. The author went on to say that, "Instead of the worst being treated first, the firefighters, EMS workers and other first-responders must now look at all patients and treat the most viable first. Those patients who in all probability will die must be written off so that the rescuers can attend to patients who might have a chance to survive."

In order to categorize the injured, a red ribbon is tied around a person's ankle who needs immediate treatment. A yellow ribbon is tied to those who need treatment, but can wait as they are not in a life-threatening condition. Sadly, they tie a black ribbon to those who are probably going to die no matter what they attempt to do for them. Therefore, it is deemed best for the rescuers to put their energy towards those whom they think will likely benefit from treatment. The ones with a black ribbon are considered to be beyond treatment, so they have no choice but to accept them as a loss. It's like being on a battle-field and you just have to accept that not everyone is going to make it and you move on to those that can be helped.

You can only imagine what it must be like for our first-responders to have to make such decisions and figure out which color they are going to assign to each person.

As I reflected on the weight of all this, I couldn't help but think of all the hurting people that pour into Reignite Hope each week and how, in some ways, we too are dealing with mass casualties. People coming out of incarceration or out of gangs or trapped in poverty or homeless or from very broken families.

All of them looking for some hope to cling to. Just hoping for a future that's somehow better than their past. It's been said that, "To live without hope is to cease to live."

But then my thoughts turned to thankfulness because at Reignite Hope we don't have to tie a black ribbon on anybody. We don't have to write anyone off. Nobody is beyond God's help. We count nobody as hopeless because Reignite Hope is God's ministry and God is called the *God of Hope* in **Romans 15:13**.

So, beyond giving them the hope of having a real career, we also share with them every day the greatest hope of all--the hope of forgiveness and eternal life that God freely offers to everyone. And as we open the Bible with them each day they learn that no matter what their life has been like, we're all in the same boat.

The truth is that, apart from God, we are all wearing a black ribbon because our sins have separated us from God (**Isaiah 59:2**). And, in one way or another, we have all used our freewill to turn our back on God and go our own way (**Isaiah 53:6**). But there are no acceptable losses to God, so He sets out to restore us to Himself; to get rid of the black ribbon.

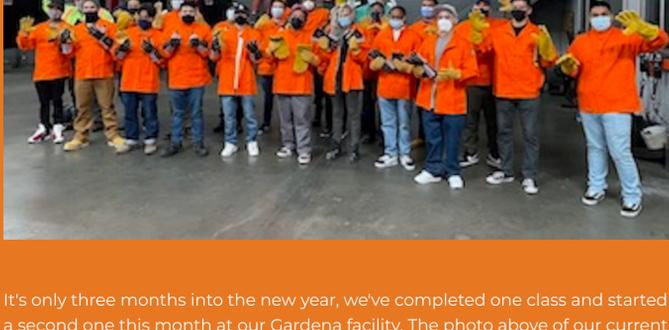
In **Luke 15:4-7**, Jesus used the illustration of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep and, when one of them became lost, he immediately went searching for it until He found it. And one of the many lessons we can learn from that parable is that God is like that shepherd; that even 99% isn't good enough for God and that losing even one is not an acceptable loss—"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." (**Matthew 18:14**) Then all that's left for us to do is to turn around, turn from our sins, turn back to God and receive His forgiveness and restoration. That's what God is like! A God with whom there are no acceptable losses, not even one.

But what about you? Is there anyone in your life that you've tied a black ribbon to? A relationship that you've written off? Maybe you've tied a black ribbon around your marriage? Or a former friendship? You say, "They'll never change. They'll never listen. They'll never ____?" "If I forgive them, they'll just hurt me again, so I'm just going to tie a black ribbon around that relationship and consider it an acceptable loss.

But I want to encourage you that Jesus is telling you to take the black ribbon off, put a red ribbon on it and start working to bring healing. Take off the black ribbon and just keep trying. After all, that's what God does for us.

Impact Lives! Donate Now.

2022 - Off to a Great Start



It's only three months into the new year, we've completed one class and started a second one this month at our Gardena facility. The photo above of our current class shows 23 excited students eager to change their lives. They are all working hard; their skills are blossoming fast and they'll soon be certified welders.

As often happens, a student from a class last year came back to speak to the new group of students. He's employed by SpaceX and loves his welding job. He told the class how much he enjoys working there, how much overtime he's able to work and how great the benefits are.

God on the Move



Our Mobile Training schedule is very busy. Our dear volunteers, Dan and Jan Charlin, are teaching our first mobile class of the year in the parking lot of Rolling Hills Covenant Church. Jan says "it's the best class ever." Even though the class is just at its mid point, two students have already found welding jobs. But more importantly, two have put trust in Christ. Hallelujah!

In April, three more mobile classes will begin. One in San Bernardino County reaching out to at-risk high school students. The county was so excited about the last class they filmed the last class. The video is available to view on YouTube, click [here](#). Also in April, two classes will begin in Orange County. We're looking forward to share the Gospel with all these new students.

Student Stories

Here's just a few of the many success stories we could share with you. You can view the short videos on our website at [student stories](#) or view our YouTube channel [here](#).



Never too Late for a Second Chance

Rafa was in prison for 20 years. "I joined Healthright and got into I got out. I applied and got into ReIGNITE Hope but dropped out after a week and got a job as a welder helper. I realized my mistake and applied again. Here I am. I left my job to come here. It was a worth it. It's a loving, caring environment--not just a school. I plan to volunteer and help the next class of students because I take that to heart. You have to give to receive." Rafa is now employed as a full-fledged welder.



Brought Me Closer to God

Max is from Compton, the youngest of three kids. "My brother and father are welders so I knew I would follow in their footsteps. ReIGNITE Hope was a Godsend because I got certified in MIG and TIG. It's a four-week program with real hands-on experience. It's really life-changing. Not only did I get certified but I've become closer to God. I wasn't really excited about the God stuff at the start of class but it really had an impact on me." His future is bright.

“ Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray our students keep their eyes on Jesus. ”

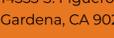
I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at steve@reignitehope.com or by phone at (310) 847-0593. Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Love you All,

ReIGNITE Hope

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