

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



Not by bread alone...

Like many of you, I spend a fair amount of time on my laptop each week even though I'm not really into computers. But they are a wonderful tool to help us get things done much quicker than we could otherwise. And one of my favorite features on my laptop is the function Control Z. You just hold the Control key and then hit the Z key. It undoes whatever you just did. Maybe it's a word or a sentence or even a paragraph that you didn't like. Just do Control Z and it's gone! You instantly get a do-over. You get to start again and I love that feature and I use it a lot. In fact, I've already used it a couple of times in just what I've written here so far. And I don't know who came up with that, but whoever it is, they are one of my heroes for sure!

In golf they have version of this called a "mulligan." You get a second chance to replay a stroke without it counting on your scorecard. Wow! If only life worked that way. If only we could just hit Control Z every time that we did or said something that we wish we hadn't.

Well, even though we can't hit a couple of keys and erase our past, God does give all of us the chance to have a fresh start no matter where our life has led us. By God's grace, we can have a do-over.

Many people in the Bible got to do just that--the Twelve Disciples, King David, Jonah, the apostle Paul, Zacchaeus—God gave them all a second chance; a chance to start again. The disciples deserted Jesus after He was arrested, King David committed adultery and was an accessory to murder. Jonah hated the people of Nineveh and refused God's command to go and tell them about God so that they might be saved. The great apostle Paul once persecuted Christians and would later look back on his life and call himself "the worst of sinners." And Zacchaeus, the famous tax collector, frequently cheated people. Yet God graciously worked in all of them to turn their lives around and they all became great people in spite of their past failures.

So it's no wonder that one of God's titles in the Bible is the "God of Hope" in **Romans 15:13**. He truly gives second chances; a chance to do it over. And we all need that. We all have the "if only's" in in our lives--If only we'd had done this instead of that.

And I too have many regrets, but there is one that goes all the way back to the sixth grade. There was a really overweight kid in our class and every day the kids would make fun of him. And, unfortunately, I would just watch him sit there and take it and not say a word. I can still remember the embarrassment on his face. I can still remember him eating his lunch alone each day. And to this day I often wonder how his life turned out. I'd give anything to go back to the sixth grade and be his friend. I'd instantly go and visit him if I just knew where he was. I just want to tell him that I'm sorry. If only I could somehow go back to the sixth grade hit Control Z.

Maybe, for some of you, you wish your entire life could be a do-over. Wishing you could just hit Control Z and start over again; wipe the slate clean and start fresh.

I think many of our students at Reignite Hope feel like their lives have fallen apart; much like Humpty Dumpty in the famous English nursery rhyme--*"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. And Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. And all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again. Four-score Men and four-score more, could not make Humpty Dumpty where he was before."*

Well, the king's horses and the king's men may be useless, but God can put them back together again. He can put you back together again. He can put anyone back together.

We can't hit Control Z on anything in our life, but God can. And for God, Control Z isn't found on a keyboard, it's found in a person--His Son, Jesus Christ. With Jesus, it is possible to start a whole new life. That's what Jesus meant when He told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again (**John 3:3**). Not a physical rebirth, but a spiritual rebirth that would give him a new mind and new heart. A whole new way of thinking and living. And when you turn to Jesus and put your trust in Him for the forgiveness of your sins, God hits Control Z on your past. In fact, the Bible, in many places, says that He won't even remember our sin.

"For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." **Hebrews 8:12**

"He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." **Micah 7:19**

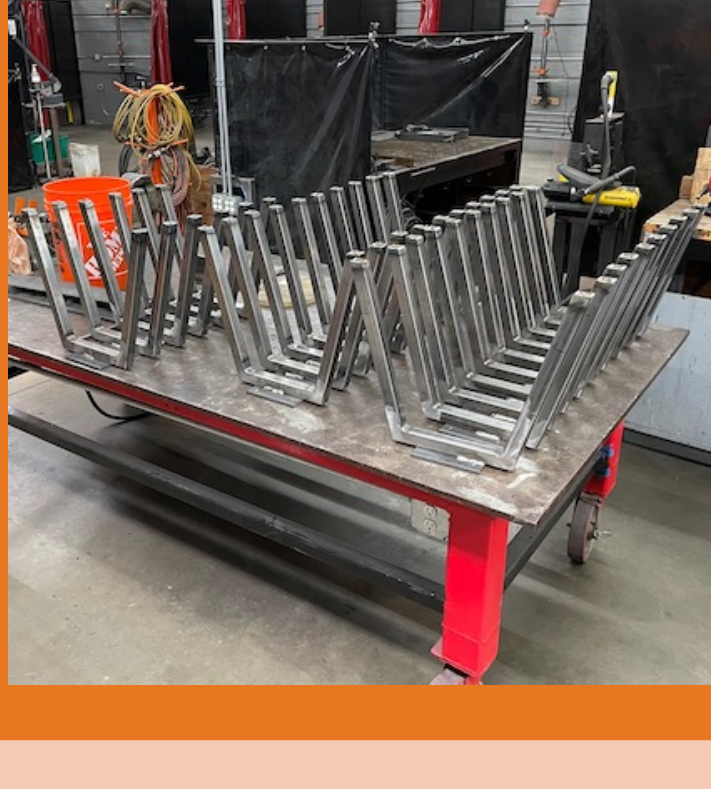
So whatever your life is in need of, God is the answer. Whether you're in need of salvation or haunted by your past or struggling in the present, He can give you a new beginning. And now I hope that each time you're on your laptop you'll enjoy using Control Z and that it will remind you of God's kindness. God, and God alone, can put you back together again. Then He graciously hits Control Z!

Impact Lives! Donate Now.



Dr. Tim, a doctor in Angola, says he "had a woman arrive today in a Bicycle Ambulance after three days of labor. It was a tough and long delivery, but both mom and baby survived. See photos above. Your work carries on saving lives... Just beautiful."

Our students built Bicycle Ambulances in 2016 for use in remote villages in Angola where access to medical care is many miles away. Often a wheelbarrow is used to transport the critically ill to the nearest clinic. The Bicycle Ambulance can travel the distance in a fraction of the time often saving lives. It's heart-warming to know these ambulances are still in use years later.



Our students recently built metal supports for pews for newly erected churches in the rural villages of Angola. Pictured above is a church in construction and the metal supports our students made. While constructing the church the metal supports also function as scaffolding until the pews are installed.

Hallelujah another Christian Church in Angola soon to be open!



Two classes, one in Gardena and one Mobile, completed in April. 70 welding certifications were awarded. Steve likes to say "It's better to be saved than certified." Thank the Lord that 9 students accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Restoration Life Church located in Lawndale baptized two of our students during their Sunday services. Steve was interviewed during the service to explain and promote ReIGNITE Hope to their congregants. What a wonderful day!

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Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray our students experience the saving Grace of our Lord and Savior.

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,

Steve

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