

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



Recently during class at Reignite Hope I shared an illustration with the students that seemed to really connect with them, so I thought I'd share with you as well. I held up a glass of water which had about 8 ounces of water in it and asked them to guess how much it weighed. Now 8 ounces of water weighs about ½ of a pound and all of their guesses were in the ballpark.

But as I held up the glass of water, I told them that it really doesn't matter how much it weighs. What matters is how long I try to hold it up. If I try to hold it up for a couple of minutes that won't be a big deal at all. But after 5 minutes I'll start to feel it. After 10 minutes my arm will probably start to ache. And if I keep trying to hold it up, at some point, I just won't be able to take it any longer. Now the glass of water hasn't actually gotten any heavier, but what started out feeling like a glass of water now feels like a 16 lb. bowling ball!!! The longer I hold it, the heavier it feels.

Now here is point of the illustration—at some point I just have to put the glass down! Then I told them that burdens in our life are just like that glass of water. Whatever the burden is—worry, fear, anger, jealousy, sadness, illness, grief, guilt, etc.—at some point you just need to put the glass down. If you don't, the weight of it becomes more than you can take. But here is the great news. There is someone who can take it—God! There is no burden we have that's too heavy for Him.

Psalms 55:22 says—“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” **Philippians 4:6-7** says—“Do not

be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Maybe the lyrics from one of the most famous hymns of all time sums this up best:

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Sometimes you just have to put the glass down. Better yet, hand it to Jesus!

And remember, He's not just a 911 operator that we only call when we need help. We should rely on Him at all times. But mostly remember, He died on a cross to pay for our sins that we might have God's forgiveness which relieves us of our greatest burden.

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Graduation Ceremony at Harbor Hills



LA County Supervisor, Janice Hahn, celebrates with Harbor Hills Graduates

Residents of the Harbor Hills Public Housing were the first graduates in our new Mobile Training Center.

Tears of joy and words of gratitude poured out from our graduates. One of the things we most commonly hear is "I don't want this to be over" as they express how loved and cared for they felt throughout the program and how much they appreciated the lessons from the Bible.

Harbor Hills hosted the graduation with our mobile training center on display. Many thanks to Ebony Jones and Jerroll Rodgers, Harbor Hills staff, for organizing this wonderful event.



Recent Grad, Reva Mendez, speaks at the Ceremony

Reva explains what the program meant to her in between tears of joy. Steve gives her encouragement as she struggles through her tears.



Rafael Mondragon demonstrates his newfound welding skill

Janice Hahn watches as a recent graduate shows his off his welding chops inside the trailer.

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Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray as we are working hard to select the next slate of students for our Fall class in Gardena and for the Mobile Training Center.

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](tel:(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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