

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



turning lives around

Not by bread alone...



As I am writing this, I know that many of us are more than glad to put 2020 in our rear view mirror and move on. It was a year that challenged our entire planet. The pandemic had devastating effects on global health and the global economy. Racial tensions dramatically increased. We had all of the controversy surrounding the presidential election and then the riot at the capitol in Washington D.C. just to name a few issues.

Then the lingering questions: Will Covid-19 ever go away? Are the vaccines the answer? Can businesses recover? Will our lives ever really return to normal or is there a new normal we are all going to have to accept?

And if you believe in God, there might even be other questions roaming around in your mind such as: Where is God in all of this? Has God turned His back on America? Is God still for us? So wouldn't it be nice if we just somehow knew the future! That would probably take away a lot of our anxiety.

Kind of a light-hearted example of that for me goes like this: My wife Lorri is a UCLA basketball fanatic and for many years we went to every one of their home games. And while we were at the game, Lorri would also be recording the game at home. If they won, we could watch it again and hear all of the play by play from the announcers. But while we were at game, to be honest, I really couldn't enjoy it much because I really wanted them to win knowing how much joy that would bring Lorri.

Now thankfully back in those days UCLA won most of the time, but still I'd be anxious when they were behind or a key player was in foul trouble or got

injured. Silly as it seems, it just wasn't a fun, relaxing experience at all for me. But when we got home and watched the recording, I found that I could really enjoy the game because I already knew the outcome. I already knew that they had won, so now there wasn't any stress on me at all when the game wasn't going well.

But on a more serious note, our lives can be like a basketball game. There are times when it just isn't going well and winning doesn't look likely. And with that comes all of the anxiety instead of peace and we just wish we knew how things were going to turn out. Well, I've got some great news for you! That's where God comes in, but instead of a DVR He's given us the Bible. It actually tells us how our lives will turn out.

Throughout the Bible, God promises that there is a life beyond this life. In the famous movie "It's a Wonderful Life" Jimmy Stewart discovered that this life, even with its inevitable hardships, is still wonderful, but the Bible is full of promises of a life much more wonderful than this one for those who are willing to turn to Him seeking forgiveness for their sins. For example:

Jesus said— *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 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. For this is will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."* **John 14:1-3, 6:40**

For those who have placed their trust in Christ, this is how the game ends! —in heaven, forever, with God and with none of the hardships and challenges we face in this life.

But what about how to deal with the here and now? Again, turn to the lamp! - *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*—**Psalms 119:105** So in **John 5:17** Jesus makes this remarkable statement to those who were criticizing him for working on the Sabbath day. He said, *"My Father is always working and so am I."*

Now the Bible does say that God rested from His creative work on the seventh day of creation, but He has never stopped working in upholding and sustaining the universe or working in people's lives. Even in the midst of the pandemic we witnessed God continuing to work through Reignite Hope where we had 51 students pass their welding certification exam and saw their lives change. We've nearly finished another building project for a ministry in Angola Africa and we finished building the 18-wheeler trailer to add mobile training to our program. But most of all, we resumed our program after a long hiatus and no one got sick!

But right now you may feel like you're in foul trouble, can't make a shot to save your life and the other team can't seem to miss, but God, through His word and through your faith in Him, is telling you not to worry because in the end you win! In the meantime, remember that God is always at work in the world and in your life. Even when it's hard to see, He is never off the clock. That's His promise to you. And He's already told us how the story ends, so let's all look forward to 2021 and find joy watching the story unfold.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." **Psalms 46:1**



Second Chances

One of our recent students, Roman, grew up in a household where both parents struggled with alcohol and drug abuse and the typical criminal justice involvement that ensues. Not surprisingly, Roman eventually began abusing alcohol and drugs. Roman was referred to our program in October 2017 by a relative who had completed the welding program.

Roman continued to struggle with alcohol and drugs and was eventually asked to leave the program. The day he left the program, Roman was arrested on drug related charges and was sentenced to 3 years in county jail. Fortunately, we were successfully able to assist Roman in getting an early release date with the understanding that he would return to the program and finish his education with us. Seeing that we had not given up on him, Roman returned and completed the program and is now a AWS Certified Welder. Roman has recently been hired by Marathon Distribution Services in Compton, CA.. He is committed to staying drug free and is excited to see where his new career can take him. Psa 145:14 "The Lord sustains all who fall."

New to ReIGNITE Hope



Meet Jessica

Jessica is a recent graduate of ReIGNITE Hope. She so impressed us during the class especially with her work ethic and skill, we offered her the job of welding instructor. Jessica is replacing Jami who left last May to join her family in Texas.



Meet Brittni

Brittni is also a recent graduate of ReIGNITE Hope. Kristel, who so effectively found jobs for our graduates, is leaving for a job in Boron, California. Brittni has big shoes to fill. We are confident that Brittni will do a great job and take it new heights.



Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray for our students as we actively try and place them in good-paying jobs in the weeks ahead. Please pray for Jessica and Brittni as they settle into their new jobs helping our students change their lives.

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,



Impact Lives! Donate Now.

ReIGNITE Hope

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