

Elder's Note:
Is Fear Holding You Back?

By Lars Traffie p.2

HOPE IN OUR WORLD

Aslan is on the Prowl

Bob O'Brien p.5

Typhoon Outreach in the Philippines

By Kristen Traffie p.5

News from Nicaragua

By Ronnie & Tandy Seppala p.7

HOPE STUDENT MINISTRY

Brand New Parents' Email will Keep You Informed!

By Jordan Moody & Ethan Ketola p.8

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Of Goats and Lions

By Ruth Ann Moody p.13

"The Quest" Bible Study is about Questions We Ask God and God Asks Us

By Connie Somero p.13

**HOPE NEWSLETTER**
fellowship church

FALL 2017



Photo by Julia Matson

Volunteer's Viewpoint: Threads of Hope by Jessica Seppala p.9

Get to Know the 2nd Grade Sunday School Class by Laura Sauvola p.10

Get to Know a Hope Family: Ethan & Amber Ketola p.11

Stewardship Corner: True Riches fill a God-Shaped Hole by Bob O'Brien p. 15

Highlights of Hope: Pictures p. 17



Elder's Note

IS FEAR HOLDING YOU BACK? REMEMBER, YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD!

By Lars Traffie

NO LONGER SLAVES

I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God,

From my mother's womb, You have chosen me, Love has called my name
I've been born again to my family, Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God,

I am surrounded by the arms of the Father, I am surrounded by songs of deliverance
We've been liberated from our bondage, We're the sons and the daughters, let us sing our freedom

You split the sea so I could walk right through it, my fears are drowned in perfect love
You rescued me and I will stand and sing, I am a child of God!

CCLI Song # 7030123 Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helsler © 2014 Bethel Music Publishing All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2670267

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you! 1 Peter 5:6

These lyrics and scriptures have been on my mind the past few days. God doesn't allow you to go through a challenge to hurt you, but to equip you for who He has created you to be!

**What is it that I fear? Is the fear keeping me from the experience that will bring me to who I am supposed to be?
What do I consider to be a weakness?**

I recently heard the story of US Olympian swimmer Josh Davis. Josh competed in the 2000 Sydney Games after disciplining himself to chase the lifelong dream of representing his country at the highest level.

Here is his experience:

In "The Goal of Glory" Josh shares, "This Sydney race was the biggest of my life, the fastest ever Olympic final of my favorite event, the 200-meter freestyle! All the years of training, culminated in just 1 minute 46 seconds. As I prepared for the race, you can imagine the intensity of the emotions I felt as so many thoughts ran through my mind. I asked God for His grace, wisdom and strength. Purposefully, I gave my doubts, fears and worries to him and renewed my mind with God's truths...."

(Continued from page 2)

At the Games, they say that fourth place is the worst to be, whether you place fourth or last, you do not medal. When the race was over I looked up and saw that I had swum a 1:46:7, placing fourth! My time broke my own American record and would have easily won at the previous Olympic Games. In that moment, I realized my prayer had been answered, God had been with me so I could swim my best and He was with me now! The emotions of disappointment were real, missing a medal by 7 one hundredth of a second. To be honest, I cried... I could not separate my emotions from the reality of having sacrificed so much but that is the beauty of having a genuine relationship with the God. We can be totally human, vulnerable, honest and real. Although my feelings didn't line up with God's truths at the moment, I still trusted Him and experienced His joy deep down. Happiness comes and goes - as does intense sadness - but real joy is always there regardless of our circumstance. I found comfort and strength in knowing God loved me unconditionally and He was proud of me for my dependence on Him and sacrifice to Him!"

In his story, Josh Davis recognized his fears, the fear of giving up and never having the opportunity to live out his dreams, the fear of getting there and failing! He shared a testimony of a relationship with the Father, who calls him His child no matter how he measures up against other men. It is a testimony of a desire to please the Father and bring Him glory. This is a story of one of Josh's races but He praises God for several gold and silver medals earned in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

Matthew McConaughey said in an Oscar acceptance speech "There are a few things, about three things to my count that I need each day. One I need something to look up to, another something to look forward to, and another is someone to chase.

From Matthew McConaughey's speech:

"Now first of all, I want to thank God, because that's who I look up to. He has graced my life with opportunities that I know are not of my hand or of any human hand. To my family, that's who and what I look forward to. To my wife Camila, and my kids Levi, Vida, Livingston. The courage and significance you give me every day I go out the door is unparalleled. You are the four people in my life that I want to make the proudest of me, Thank you.

And to my hero, that's who I chase. Now when I was 15 years old, I had a very important person in my life come to me and say, "Who is your hero?". And I said, "I don't know. I've got to think about that, give me a couple of weeks." I come back two weeks later, this person comes up and says, "Who's your hero?" And so, I thought about it and I said, "You know who it is-it's me in 10 years."

So, I turn 25, 10 years later. The same person comes to me and says, "So are you a hero?" And I was like, "Not even close. No, no, no." She said "Why?" I said "Because my hero is me at age 35." So, you see every day, every week, every month and every year of my life, my hero is always 10 years away. I'm never going to beat my hero. I'm not going to obtain that, I know I'm not. And that's just fine with me because that keeps me with somebody to keep on chasing. So, to any of us, whatever those things are, whatever that is we look up to, whatever it is we look forward to, and whoever it is we are chasing to that I say amen. "

It's a good idea to play the tape of your life forward from time to time and see what it would look like and imagine what the outcome could be. Play the tape in your own life process and see, would you be happy with the outcome as you look back over your shoulder? If you wouldn't be then you have to ask yourself what changes need to be made now? If you don't make changes now, they're not going to be made in the future. Now is the opportunity to review our own pattern.

You really are not able to obey Jesus unless you take the risks of believing that what He calls us to pursue is going to be better than the world's rewards. In Scripture, there's no appeal to sacrifice without a corresponding appeal to a

(Continued from page 3)

greater gain. The concept here is that you're not just called to give up something but to actually gain something far better than what you're giving up! It's an analogy of Him taking something out of your hand, maybe tinsel, aluminum foil or some piece of garbage. He takes it from your hand, finger by finger, because you've been holding on so tightly to something you thought was so wonderful and only then, when He removes it, can He put something that is truly precious in your hand.

I believe the key to Jesus' power and ability to do this was that He understood several things. He understood all things had been put into His hand. He understood His true identity and His great dignity before God. He understood that He had come from God. He knew who He was in this world. He also had a destiny because He knew also that He was returning to God. He had a profound security. In fact, He was secure enough to serve men without actually needing the accolades of men.

He was secure in the Father's love and the more secure you are the greater you grasp that all things have been given to you. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places has been given to you. (Ephesians 1: 3) The more you grasp that you come forth from God, indeed the scriptures say the one who is born from above now has come forth from God, and the more you grasp that you're going back to God because Romans 8 and other Scriptures make it very clear that that is your destiny as well. He is preparing you to join His eternal dwelling place. I go and prepare a place and will receive you to Myself so that where I am there you may be also. (John 14: 2-3) So you too have security, dignity, identity. All these things are yours as well.

The Psalmist reminds that we can do these things when God enlarges our hearts. This is God's idea, not mine. Paul like the Olympian says he disciplines his body so that he may be able to do the will of the Father. We see the contrast in Paul's life beginning as Saul and becoming a new creation in Jesus Christ! His motivation now is born out of the heart of God!

Being alive to God is what Romans 8 instructs. The Message paraphrases "It stands to reason then, that if the alive and present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves in your life, He will do the same thing in you that He did in Jesus, bringing you alive to Himself!

AW Tozer says, "What comes to mind when you think about God is the most important thing about us." We will reflect the God we see! Is He a God we created or the God who has created us!

Heirs with Christ: *"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:11)*

Future Glory: *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18)*

I am no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God!

*Your brother in Christ,
Lars Traffie, Elder*

HOPE in our World

ASLAN IS ON THE PROWL

By Bob & Sheila O'Brien

Thank you for your prayer support while we were in Narnia. The expedition went as prayed and hoped for. During our final weekend, the second holiest Muslim holiday, Eid al-Adha was celebrated. It is also referred to as the "Sacrifice Feast"; which honors the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God's command (in the case of Islam, they believe Ishmael instead of the Christian belief Isaac).

I think the BIG idea from this recent expedition is that by the grace of God the number of indigenous believers is growing and they are becoming more deliberate in walking out their faith. The number of new believers is growing to the point where they now meet as two separate home groups each week at separate locations and on different days. Once a month they gather together corporately as one group to encourage each other, worship, pray and divide the Word.

Our drivers to and from the airport were believers that we met for the first time. Instead of paying just any cab driver, it was a blessing to be able to help the economy of a brother in Christ. We are hopeful that this strategy will continue on future expeditions.

Two years ago, we met a young family. One spouse was a believer and the other a Muslim. We were able to pray with the believer and children, and prior to leaving, we met the Muslim spouse. Shortly after our expedition we learned that the family was evicted from their apartment because the believer would not denounce his/her faith and convert to Islam.

When we visited late last year we called on the same family in their new apartment. We were able to pray for the whole family with the Muslim spouse present. This year we visited them again. They had moved to a new location. However, this time they owned the home. We prayed for the family and the Muslim spouse prayed for us. Two years ago, what seemed like a grim story of persecution has flipped totally to



One of the four villages that we visit in "Narnia"

where the Lord has blessed this family with their own home with considerably more room and a thriving vegetable garden. By the grace of God, the situation has been used for good. *(And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 ESV).*



Material donated for libraries

Your prayer and material support has made this possible. Lord willing, our plan is to return next September. We recognize that we as a body of believers play a very small role compared to many that have been in Narnia for years and are immersed daily in the fight. It is exciting, however, to know that with the role that all

we all play, the Holy Spirit can do exceedingly great things.

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 ESV

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, Ezekiel 11:19 ESV

Bob & Sheila O'Brien

HOPE in our World

TYPHOON OUTREACH IN THE PHILIPPINES

Umbrellas for the Homeless

by Kristen Traffie



Kristen Traffie is a missionary, supported by Hope, currently serving in the Philippines

Hello Everyone at Hope Fellowship!

How are you? I sure do miss you all! Due to the tragic death of a friend (the only other American on staff) the "Typhoon Outreach" project is off to a late start. Please keep our YWAM family in prayer as we continue the grieving process for our friend. The original goal was to start the project by the end of September. Instead, the past month has been spent planning a funeral, grieving and everything else that goes with it. God is still God and God is still good. Our circumstances cannot change that fact because that is just who He is.

This project got started because of something that happened on a rainy morning when I was on my way back from the market. I had an umbrella but so many others did not. I was almost home when I saw a small elderly lady sitting on a bench. She had two small plastic bags and in them most likely included everything she owned.

She was holding a small piece of cardboard over her head in an attempt to stay dry. The cardboard was so wet the rain was going right through. God told me to go give her my umbrella. So, I did. As I walked the rest of the way home in the rain, God gave me the idea to start "The Rainy-Day Fund" or as it is being called on your end, "Typhoon Outreach".

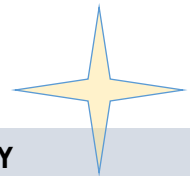


It rains here almost daily. Many of the typhoons flood streets and homes because of poor drainage. The homeless in this city have nowhere to go. Even if it's

not raining hard, everything they own gets wet. My thought was, "I wish there was a way to raise money to buy umbrellas to pass out to the homeless." In a world where they have nothing, an umbrella would at least give them a small amount of protection not only from the rain but also the scorching sun. They could open it and set it on the ground to sleep underneath.

Thanks to the \$500 that has come in from Hope Fellowship and \$50 from another donor I have enough to purchase up to 550 umbrellas! The first batch has been purchased. I have written on each umbrella "The Lord is your Safe Haven and shelter from the storms of life". I keep a few with me in my purse when I go out. If I see the need for one I have them. I also will be intentional on going out when it is raining because that is when the need is more obvious. Starting in November, I will send updates of the number of umbrellas given out and any testimonies. Thanks again for all the love, prayer and support! I love and miss you all!

*In Christ,
Kristen*



NEW IN THE NURSERY

A girl, **Claire Maryanne**, on June 28, 2017 to Josh & Rachel West, Ruthie & Silas.

A girl, **Celine Elisabet**, on July 11, 2017, to Brian & Mikaela Aho.

A boy, **Grayson Robert**, on October 19, 2017, to Robert & Corey Guichard and Morgan.

NEWS from Nicaragua

SEPPALA FAMILY PREPARES FOR DECEMBER, PRAISES GOD FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

By Ronnie & Tandy Seppala

Hello Hope Fellowship,

We've visited the new facility and met with some of you, but have missed congregating with the church body this year!

We know the VBS team gave their report, and that Jody often acts as our voice. Thank you for your continued prayers. Below are some specific updates:

We praise God for restored marriages in two couples who you were praying with us for.

Ronnie's first experience teaching a Seminary class was invigorating. He was impressed by God's grace in allowing him the chance to impact other church leaders in Nicaragua.

This past Sunday the congregation was told to 'stop being lazy!' and it caused a small stir. The church members have requested another Bible study, and are laboring over the logistics of day and time. Another woman came forward with renewed conviction that she must be about the Lord's business visiting the elderly and homebound for prayer and fellowship. Pray that where the Spirit is leading, we will be quick to obey.

We are busy preparing for the mission team's arrival in December. The Christmas Cantata affords a chance to work with both the church's adult youth and students at El Padul. We are involving mostly high



Lydia at the mission school, El Padul Christian School. A team from Hope Fellowship visits & aids the school twice a year, in June & December.



Tandy, lower left, singing with the women in the church that they pastor. Hope supports the Seppala family as missionaries in Nicaragua. (See hfcnh.com/world)

schoolers this year. You can pray with us for this special ministry.

Nathaniel is finishing his first year of pre-school and has adapted to the language and culture. He is maturing in his understanding of life as the son of missionaries. Lydia is quick to befriend people. She happily accompanies mom in the weekly assignments.

As the school and calendar year come to a close, we thank God for his provision for our ministry and for our needs as a family.

*With love and thanksgiving,
Ronnie, Tandy,
Nathaniel and Lydia*



Nathaniel, 5 yrs. & sister Lydia, 2 yrs.

HOPE SUNDAY SCHOOL SPONSORS CHILD

This October, Hope Sunday school began sponsoring first grader, **Javier Francisco Dávila Robles** through the *hopefornica* organization. This long-time dream was spurred into action with a check for \$200 gifted to the Sunday school from the New Ipswich Congregational Church and the Children's Fair. The remaining \$160 needed to support Javier for a year will be raised through a donation jar put out for the Sunday school kids. The children are praying for Javier and will be able to send letters through the teams from Hope who visit the school in Nicaragua twice a year!

HOPE STUDENT MINISTRY

BRAND NEW PARENTS' EMAIL WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED!

By Jordan Moody & Ethan Ketola

Our Student Ministry team leaders had the opportunity to attend a LEAD YOUTH conference a few weeks ago. We left completely changed in our thinking about how we approach youth ministry. One of our main takeaways was, "How sustainable is our ministry?" Youth leaders can often fall into the trap of doing "JOLT" ministry where we seek to simply "jolt" students with attractive events. Events are not bad and are necessary, but we should be seeking to build a sustainable ministry not a temporary thrill. We're thankful for committed volunteers who serve these Youth week in and week out. Thank-you Jamie Moody, Ethan Ketola, Amber Ketola, and Celia O'Brien for your dedication to the students at our church!

The Student Ministry at Hope has gone through many changes over the past year and as we continue to grow, we'll reevaluate the effectiveness of Youth Group and other student initiatives. Through much prayer, study, and training, we've come to recognize that we have 3 main needs for Youth Group which we're working hard to resolve. Here are the three needs:

1. Long Term Strategy (not a short-term Jolt): We're currently implementing a year-long discipleship strategy to educate and mentor students. This Christmas, we're starting a mini-teaching series on the topic of what Christmas is all about. Monthly, we'll have a different mini-series focusing on a relevant topic that the teens need most. Our teaching material is already planned out for the entire year of 2018!

2. Greater Parental Involvement: We know that if parents aren't informed and on board than neither are the students. We can't do student ministry without you! We'll be sending out a brand new weekly PARENT EMAIL. Please go to Hope's website Student Ministry page to sign up. Also, please pray about volunteering and helping if you feel led.

3. Deeper Mentoring and Role Models: We've renewed our commitment to small groups, which we call "conversation groups". We don't want the students to come to Student Ministry and feel lost. We desire for them to get plugged in and feel open to share their hearts with one another. We also want to put positive role models in their lives and so in order to do that we have added a "Date Night" event taking place every couple of months.

Introducing "Date Night" to Hope Student

Ministries! Scripture teaches that there is power in Christian testimonies. We are dedicating an evening in a month to invite a Christian couple to come and share their testimonies. They will be encouraged to share their dating, marriage and life experiences. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight from the guests' experiences. A variety of guests will be invited to speak throughout the year, so students can gain a well-rounded perspective of relationships and life. We would like to point out that students do not need to be dating in order to attend these events. We believe that the knowledge gained from these sessions will be very valuable and diverse. As these guests are our precious resources, we plan to treat them like royalty. As a token of our appreciation we'll give them "date boxes" with a collection of gift cards that the couple can enjoy together. Stay tuned!

HOLIDAY RECIPE

FAVORITE CRANBERRY SAUCE

2 bags of cranberries, washed and picked over.

The grated rind of 1 and 1/2 oranges

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup white sugar

1/2 cup fresh squeezed orange juice

Combine all ingredients in medium saucepan. Cook the cranberries until the berries burst. Push through fine mesh strainer. Keep refrigerated.

SUBMITTED BY LACEY AHO

Volunteer's Viewpoint

THREADS OF HOPE



Jessica Seppala & husband Jeremy live in Rindge & have 4 children.

GREETING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE, SORTING DONATIONS NEVER GETS OLD

By Jessica Seppala

The mission statement of **Threads of Hope** is:
"To genuinely invest in community relationships, to generously love our neighbors through resale clothing, and to graciously share the hope of the gospel."

For those of you that haven't heard of **Threads of Hope**, please let me tell you about it and share a little of my story. The resale store is located in the Monadnock Plaza in Jaffrey. I started volunteering one year ago.

Greeting customers with a smile, sorting through donations and organizing shelves never gets old to me. I have truly been blessed by meeting people from the community. We have some "regulars" who come every week to search for new treasures. Donations are received each day that we are open and the customers say it sure makes shopping fun! That's not forgetting to mention, most items are only \$1.

Each time I am at the store, I see new customers who come for their first time. Kids love to come play in the kid's corner in the back, filled with toys, puzzles and books. We like to give the children a lollipop on their way out.

Right now, we have Fall and Winter clothing on the racks and shelves. You can find adult boots and coats for \$3. Our generous community donates really wonderful clothing and items for all ages and sizes. Please spread the word to those who are in need and also, we would love to accept your gently used items.

This store offers a lot more than used clothing. We get to show God's love to all the people who visit the store, listen to their hearts when they need a lending ear, and encourage them with the hope of the gospel. After all, we each have a story. We each come from different backgrounds, families and upbringings. God calls us to be a light in this world.

I would just ask that if you feel led to volunteer at **Threads of Hope**, please let us know! There's always plenty to be done, but honestly it doesn't feel like work when the Lord calls you to it. Contact Ruth Ann Moody, (603) 759-5451. I will close with our store verse, Colossians 3:17. *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus."*

*In Christ's love,
Jessica Seppala*

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

O Heavenly Father:
We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends
and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom
and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service.
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.

Amen.

- "Dear Abby" Columnist

GET TO KNOW the 2nd Grade Sunday School Class

By Laura Sauvola



Second Grade Class from L to R: Grady Krook, Josie Seppala, Olivia Morin, Elle Gibson, Victoria Ojala, Madison Farrey, Iris Traffie

Elle May Gibson

Age: 7

My Favorite Food: Chinese Food

My Favorite Bible Story: Jonah

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Football

My Best Memory: Going to Great Wolf Lodge

Madison Farrey

Age: 7

My Favorite Food: Chicken

My Favorite Bible Story: Samuel

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Ball

My Best Memory: Making Cats and Birds

Grady Krook

Age: 8

My Favorite Food: Steak

My Favorite Bible Story: Daniel in the Lion's Den

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Baseball

My Best Memory: Falling into a River

Olivia Morin

Age: 8

My Favorite Food: Tacos

My Favorite Bible Story: Jonah

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Soccer

My Best Memory: Going to Cape Cod

Victoria Ojala

Age: 7

My Favorite Food: Tacos

My Favorite Bible Story: David and Goliath

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Volleyball

My Best Memory: My Family

Myles Sauvola

Age: 7

My Favorite Food: Steak

My Favorite Bible Story: Daniel and the Lions.

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Soccer

My Best Memory: Going to my first Red Sox game.

Josie Seppala

Age: 7

My Favorite Food: Pizza

My Favorite Bible Story: Samuel

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Baseball

My Best Memory: My Birthday

Iris Traffie

Age: 8

My Favorite Food: Pizza

My Favorite Bible Story: Jonah

My Favorite Hobby or Sport: Football

My Best Memory: Great Wolf Lodge & God

Joke Jar

Q: What do you call a pig that's no fun to be around?

A: A boar!

Q: When does the road get angry?

A: When someone crosses it.

Q: Why did the hamburger always lose the race?

A: It could never ketchup!

Q: Why couldn't the goats get along?

A: They kept butting heads!

Q: How do you stop a bull from charging?

A: Take away its credit card!

GET TO KNOW A HOPE FAMILY

Ethan & Amber Ketola



1. What town do you live in?

We live in Jaffrey, NH.

2. Where did you grow up?

Ethan: I grew up in Rindge, NH.

Amber: grew up in New Ipswich, NH.

3. How did you meet your spouse?

Ethan: We met in person at "volleyball." We would often chat on AOL instant messenger. We then started texting each other. After I graduated from boot camp, the texts eventually turned into long phone conversations. Our first little date happened when we went for a ride, got lost and ended up at "Lord's Valley" in New Ipswich, the Hillfest place.

Amber: I first "met" him at church. I knew all about him but he didn't know I existed. I finally talked to him on AOL instant messenger. His screen name was AmericanFinn87 and I thought he was the coolest person ever. I had my cousin (who went to school with him) communicate with him for me through little notes here and there. It wasn't until we bumped into each other at a New Year's party when I was 17 that we actually started talking. Once we started

talking we realized we had a lot to talk about and would stay up most of the night on the phone before we even started dating. Ethan asked me out (finally) two weeks before he deployed to Iraq. I guess he wanted somebody to miss him while he was gone.

4. What is something that you appreciate about your spouse?

Ethan: There are many things to appreciate about Amber; she is beautiful, caring and creative. What I most appreciate about her, however, is her relationship with Christ. She puts Him at the center of her life and seeks his will. Sometimes this means she calls me out when I need to align with God (which isn't really that fun) but it also means she supports me when I feel that God has given me a burning desire to work for Him even if it means a life change.

Amber: One of the first things I ever learned about Ethan way back when he was 16 was that he wanted to be a Marine. He follows through with what he feels called to and I remember admiring that so much in him. He's always carried himself with confidence which is what first attracted me to him. He also can do any impression in the book and he really nails George W. Bush, who was one of my heroes. But seriously, he's had to overcome many obstacles and times of isolation in his life and has always grown closer to the Lord it. He lives with conviction and is gifted in so many ways. I love that fact that he wants to use his gifts to further the Kingdom here on earth. I admire his personality and his ability to make friends with anyone and I wish I was more open like he is.

5. How many children do you have and what are their names/ages?

We have two boys. Ellis, our eldest is going to be six in November. El is caring and observing; he loves asking questions and learning. Because of his observance, I need to be careful because he'll turn some of my methods of teasing back on me. Hayes, our second son is three. He is laid-back and has the accent of someone who grew up in Massachusetts.

(Continued from page 10)

6. What are your favorite things to do as a family?

Ethan: We love trips. Driving south to the Carolinas and then to Florida in the winter is our favorite. Recently, we stopped to visit various historical sights on the east coast. We have enjoyed some really cool educational experiences.

Amber: Yes, I would say road trips are a special time for us to bond as a family. Our son is into fishing so we've spent many evenings together this summer on the ponds of NH. We love being together. No matter if we are playing ball in the yard or going for ice cream, it's a treat to spend time together as a family.

7. What is your current job?

As of October 1st I am the Hope Fellowship Church Administrator. My role is to encourage, enable and equip the Ministries and leadership of Hope to carry out their unique methods of advancing the Gospel.

8. Can you tell us a little about your past education & work experience & how it prepared you for this new role?

I believe that God has used many different experiences to prepare me for this role. Most recently I worked at a great company, Triumph Interior Inc. I served in various roles there. The role I gained the most from was a salesman. Perhaps the most important skill that I learned at Triumph was how to communicate effectively. I learned that good communication isn't just about speaking or writing well; it's more about listening well. I learned the value of 'follow up' and to 'follow through'. My experience as a U.S Marine also prepared me. As a Marine, I served in a support role. I was part of a unit whose job was to ensure that our Marines had the necessary gear and supplies to carry out their mission. I've also had the opportunity to further my education. I have an Associate's degree in Communication and am working on a Bachelor's in Christian Counseling.

9. What are your goals for the first six months as Administrator?

My goals for the first half year in this are to get acquainted with the various processes and protocols that help this church function. More importantly, I want to be in sync with the people of Hope. I want to identify our needs and work with the body to find solutions. I've also recently realized that I need to spend more time in prayer. Taking more time to spend time and speak with God has been on my heart. There are so many things only He can take care of. If I don't accomplish any other goal but to pray more we will still benefit as a body. We have a great staff here at Hope. Jordan and the Elders do a great job in giving us direction. Jody Ojala (our secretary) has done a good job establishing order in the office. She continues to serve the church in a capacity that allows others to do their jobs well. Phyllis Sauvola, our treasurer has been awesome too as she has been a good steward with the church's funds. Without her we probably wouldn't have running water or electricity.

10. What part of this new job are you most enjoying so far? Find the most challenging?

I wake up and feel like I've won the lottery. I can't believe that I get to serve the church as a vocation. Sunday mornings are my favorite, though they can get crazy. I love when people start showing up for Sunday school and Church. It's awesome to engage the Church family in conversation and encouragement. Now for the most challenging... keeping the coffee pumps full on Sundays has been a little rough, but seriously folks! The most challenging aspect of this role is balance. There is so much you can do. As Dennis Rainey says, "ministry can be a mistress."

11. How can we as a church be praying for you and your family?

We ask that you pray for clear direction as we serve the church. We are also taking foster care classes so we need prayer for energy and discernment. We value your encouragement and prayers!

WORDS of Encouragement

OF GOATS AND LIONS

Fears misplaced can rob us of our peace

By Ruth Ann Moody



Ruth Ann and Kevin Moody

What images come to mind when you think of Houston, Puerto Rico, Mexico City, Las Vegas, or Sonoma County, CA? It is hard to forget the vivid images of death and heartbreak caused by senseless violence or the staggering losses brought about by the devastating power of natural disasters. For many, these recent events inspired profound fear. After

the Las Vegas shooting, a survivor sobbed, "No place is safe anymore."

People are desperate for answers. The world longs for peace. But the peace God provides does not mean "no trouble", in the way that world peace means "no war". God's peace is not related to circumstances. It is a "fruit" in the life of believers as Galatians 5: 22 reminds us, " the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control". The verb form of this word for peace suggests the idea of binding together, the way we might describe a person who is very calm and composed as "having it all together." Even in the midst of the troubles of life, the knowledge that God is good and He is always in control provides the Christian with an unshakeable inner peace.

Our daughter worked as a nanny during her high school and college years. She took care of two young children whose family came to Dublin for the summers. They spent many hours at the Friendly Farm. The older child loved all the animals. The younger one was terrified of the goats. She refused to get down on the ground and screamed if they came near her. Some of our fears are like those goats. The

truth is, they are misplaced and have no actual power to harm us. Yet like those goats, they can rob us of our peace. But other circumstances pose genuine danger---how do we respond to terrible events with the very real power to harm or destroy?

Scripture encourages us with the accounts of how two men faced down lions---and this was no Friendly Farm! We all know how God protected Daniel and miraculously shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent a peaceful night in a literal den of hungry lions. When David was running for his life from King Saul, he says in Ps. 57, "My soul is in the midst of lions". These were not physical lions, but an accurate picture of the wicked men stalking David like predators, seeking to kill him. Even as he hid in a cave, David concluded in v. 7, "My heart is fixed, O God...I will sing and give praise." This is God's peace.

Peace comes for us in the same way it came for Daniel and David---recognizing who we are and who we serve. Rather than wondering why God allows His children to face trouble or tragedy, we need to remember that His thoughts are not my thoughts and His ways are not mine. (Isaiah 55:8) We cannot understand the ways of an infinite God. Thankfully, peace does not depend on understanding. In fact, Proverbs 3:5 tells us not to lean on our own understanding. God gave us hearts that care, and we rightfully grieve the brokenness of this world. Whether we're facing goats or lions, there is great comfort in Phil. 4:7, "the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." I don't need to know "why"---I just need to know "Who". For the believer, this is having it all together.

"THE QUEST" STUDY IS ABOUT QUESTIONS WE ASK GOD AND GOD ASKS US

By Connie Somero

Hello All,

I've been doing the Wednesday morning Bible study "The Quest" at Hope. I love the fellowship with the women and this spiritual adventure with God, an excursion towards intimacy with Him. This is in perfect timing for me as I start a



(Continued from page 12)

new chapter with our kids moving away and the house growing quieter. The mystery of God's Word is fascinating and sometimes hard for me to fully soak in. There are times when I don't understand what I'm reading; I ask God to open my eyes and help me understand and see His truth in light of the scriptures as I study and walk with Him.

I like how Beth Moore said, "Nothing creates a dialogue more than a question. The miles ahead of you on this excursion will take the shape of curves, straight lines, gaps and points. When you trace the shape of a question mark with your finger you would have a curve, straight line, gap and point. Your journey begins where the assumption ends. That question means you're on the wrong track. To take this trip you'll need to be willing at times to face gaps from the teetering edge of what appear to be cliffs, or worse yet dead ends." The most eye-opening questions are the ones that man asks God, and God asks man.

The five questions we are studying are: "Where are you? Who told you that? What are you seeking? Why are you afraid? And how much more?" It's amazing to see how many times in the Bible God questions man. We know He already knows the answers, so why does He ask? He knows our thoughts before we even think them (Psalm 139) He asks us questions to test us and to help us stop and think "Where are we going and who are we seeking?" (In Matthew 7, it says, ask, seek and knock.)

The most rewarding thought is the hope of His promise for Eternal life, a perfect life with Jesus that will have no end. In His presence there will be love, joy and perfect peace! Beth Moore quotes, "On any arduous trip, destination is motivation, the anticipation of joy becomes its own joy. It's like making a withdrawal from your inheritance without subtracting a cent from your balance." Psalm 84 says "Blessed are those whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage." I pray that you can go on your own quest with God, freely talk to Him, ask Him questions that are on your heart, and that He will bless you with answers and direct you in His word.

His word says that when you seek Him with your whole heart, you'll find Him. Jeremiah 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

Here are a few more quotes that I loved from Beth Moore: "If you walk with Him, you cannot remain the same person." and "Remember, condemnation has no place in intimacy with God." And "A quest is no quest without questions."

I also want to share song lyrics with you, "Walk with Me" by Jesus Culture. I hope these words will touch you and encourage you. Every time I listen to this song it brings me into His presence and tears flow, what joy we can have in His presence!

*In His sweet and tender love,
Connie Somero*

WALK WITH ME

Author of the world, walk with me,
Ruler of the earth, walk with me,
Calmer of the storm, walk with me,
Healer of my heart, walk with me
How I need You, How I need You,
Oh Jesus, walk with me

Light for every step, walk with me
Giver of each breath, walk with me
How I need You, How I need You
Oh Jesus, walk with me
How I need You, How I need You
Oh Jesus, walk with me

In Your presence Lord there is peace, there is rest
In Your presence Lord there is life that never ends
In Your presence Lord there is joy there is joy
In Your presence Lord there is life that never ends
How I need You, How I need You
Oh Jesus, walk with me

In Your presence Lord there is peace, there is rest
In Your presence Lord there is life that never ends
In Your presence Lord there is joy there is joy
In Your presence Lord there is life that never ends

Songwriters: Jason Ingram / Jon Thatcher / Paul M

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

By Bob O'Brien

TRUE RICHES FILL A GOD-SHAPED HOLE



“If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?”

Jesus equates how we handle money with the quality of our spiritual life. In Luke 16:11

above, Jesus makes reference to “unrighteous wealth” and “true riches”. When researching commentaries, many interpret unrighteous wealth as worldly wealth that is ultimately a gift from God, which in itself is neither good nor bad, it is neutral. The unrighteous wealth benefits us here on earth in our daily spiritual walk but does not come with us into eternity. You don’t see any hearses pulling a U-Haul trailer. True riches are understood to be spiritual wealth or heavenly reward, which benefits our daily walk as maturing believers on earth and continues with us into eternity.

The focus of the verse seems to be addressing the benefits and consequences related to our priorities as they relate to wealth (small, medium or large). How we use it illuminates the influence we allow it in our daily walk and the future path we are headed. If we allow it to become our master, it takes us down a dangerous path where the user inevitably worships wealth and by default is drawn away from the Lord or sets a lower priority on their relationship with the Lord. As one becomes further separated from Christ, and relies less and less on the Holy Spirit, the spiritual walks atrophy. We have often times heard that material gain cannot fill a God-shaped hole. The only one that suffers in this scenario is the one that drifts from the Lord because of a changed heart.

Conversely, if a relationship with the Lord remains the highest priority, by default everything else remains a lower priority. Wealth simply serves as a tool, like the many other tools in life (clothing, food, home, car, etc.). Like the many other tools, wealth is not a stumbling block and therefore does not impair the spiritual walk. In this scenario, the believer has placed the highest value on a relationship with the Lord and by default views it as the most prized possession (true riches). A prized spiritual walk unhindered would flourish and continue growing from our daily walk into eternal life. You take it with you! It is best stated in 1Peter 1:9 NCV *“And you are receiving the goal of your faith—the salvation of your souls”*.

When we have BIG decisions we often lay that decision at the feet of Jesus. When we encounter one of life's many challenges, we often times bring it to the Lord in order to seek wisdom and discernment. The main point being, do we do the same thing when it comes to establishing our lifelong stewardship philosophy? Do we bring it to the feet of Jesus and do we look to see what His Word has to say on the topic?

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Matthew 6:24 ESV

This information is found in the Bible and “Crown Biblical Financial Study”. If you would like to learn more about Biblical stewardship please contact Bob O'Brien.

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS

JUSTIN & ABBY (ESTOLA) BERTRAM
June 24, 2017

DEXTER & TARAN (STENERSEN) SOMERO
August 5, 2017

JOHN & KAYLA (NISKANEN) STREICHER
September 16, 2017

RUSSELL & CHEYANNE (SAUVOLA) NISKANEN
October 7, 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**SEPTEMBER**

1-Julia Sauvola
 2-Adam Seppala
 3-Halle Sauvola
 5-Phyllis Sauvola
 6-Austin Somero
 7-Heidi Somero
 8-Payton Sauvola
 8-Ashton Somero
 9-William Gardiner
 9-Karen Kangas
 12-Ruth West
 13-Elle Gibson
 15-Mark Holombo
 16-Bob O'brien
 16-Nathan Somero
 16-Iris Traffie
 16-Dash Traffie
 18-Hans Ojala
 19-Aaron Seppala
 20-Emma Knisley
 20-Danielle Popham
 21-Jennifer Sauvola
 21-Oren Traffie
 23-Birgit Barbre
 24-Greg Somero
 25-Chelsea Holombo
 25-Tim Kangas
 26-Walter Aho
 28-Bria Seppala
 29-Austin Aho

OCTOBER

1-Carisa Lehtonen
 1-Eleanor Marceau
 2-Markus Anderson
 2-Danielle Gardiner
 2-Robert O'Brien
 3-Alden Gibson
 4-Ken Sauvola
 5-Zachary Seppala
 6-Zahriah Sikkila

OCTOBER (Cont.)

7-David Kangas
 7-Griffin Matson
 8-Ezra Hodgson
 8-Joshua West
 9-Jeremy Seppala
 10-Ginny Bradley
 11-Lars Sauvola
 12-Alexis Broome
 14-Zane Broome
 14-Hadley Nordahl
 14-Kenzie Seppala
 15-Addison Ketola
 15-Zara Saari
 16-Ashlyn Martel
 17-Owen Krook
 17-Eden Traffie
 18-Kiahna Farrey
 18-Amanda Ketola
 21-Mikaela Aho
 22-Roman Ojala
 24-Loriana Ojala
 25-Lola Anderson
 26-Karen Gibson
 26-Bryn Rautiola
 28-Bev Salo
 28-Destiny Somero
 28-Sharon Somero
 28-Jestin Somero
 29-Casey Gibson
 29-Carolena Ojala
 29-Weston Saari
 30-Andrew Martel

NOVEMBER

2-Rachel Seppala
 5-Krista Saari
 5-Paige Wooster
 8-Bethany Sauvola
 9-Logan Somero
 11-Ellis Ketola
 13-Lincoln Ketola
 14-Amber Wooster
 15-Jaak Aho
 16-Brianna Holombo

NOVEMBER (Cont.)

17-Parker Bertram
 17-Diane Seppala
 19-Chad Rautiola
 21-Brian Barbre
 2-Griffin Seppala
 24-Lois Verduin
 26-Mylan Ojala
 29-Valeris Castro
 30-Judy Ketola

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**SEPTEMBER**

5TH-MR. & MRS. MARK HOLOMBO
 6TH-MR. & MRS. BENJAMIN KROOK
 11TH-MR. & MRS. RON STENERSEN
 13TH-MR. & MRS. NICK SOMERO
 27TH-MR. & MRS. SHANE MATSON
 27TH-MR. & MRS. LYLE RAUTIOLA
 29TH-MR. & MRS. AARON SEPPALA

OCTOBER

2ND-MR. & MRS. MIKE HAASE
 2ND-MR. & MRS. TALEN WHITE
 5TH-MR. & MRS. KYLE HOLOMBO
 6TH-MR. & MRS. KENNETH LEHTONEN
 8TH-MR. & MRS. MICHAEL SAUVOLA
 9TH-MR. & MRS. BENJAMIN OLSON
 10TH-MR. & MRS. ANDERS SOMERO
 12TH-MR. & MRS. CALE SIKKILA
 13TH-MR. & MRS. BOB O'BRIEN
 13TH-MR. & MRS. ADAM SEPPALA
 14TH-MR. & MRS. JARRETT SIKKALA
 15TH-MR. & MRS. TIMOTHY ANDERSON
 22ND-MR. & MRS. ARTIE GARDINER

NOVEMBER

4TH-MR. & MRS. DAVID BRADLEY
 7TH-MR. & MRS. DUSTIN HILL
 24TH-MR. & MRS. AUSTIN AHO
 26TH-MR. & MRS. ZACHARY SEPPALA

KEY VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Galatians 6:8, 9 ESV

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOPE



October 2017: Kids and families enjoyed the "Trunk or Treat" event in Hope's Parking lot.



July 27-29th: "Fearless" was the theme for Camp Winamac Youth Camp in Greenfield, NH this year.



Oct. 25th: Jaffrey native, Joel Rousseau, & Carrollton held a concert at Hope.



Hope Elders blessing Celia O'Brien and her mission trip into the Horn of Africa.



Hope's Building Dedication Service was held in September with a special Message, prayer of dedication, pizza and time of fellowship.



Oct. 7th: First wedding at HFC of Jaffrey, Russell & Cheyanne Niskanen. Photo by Tiahna Somero.



Storage shed goes up in October thanks to generous guys who donated time and labor!



Oct. 15th: New people are blessed in as Hope members.



Oct. 14th: "Mini Mac" day at Camp Winamac, a first-time, follow-up event to Youth Camp.