

A REGULAR PUBLICATION FROM HERE'S HOPE MINISTRIES, INC.

For the JOY! set before Him...

Sometimes we miss amazing beautiful nuggets of truth because they are nestled amidst spectacular stories that tend to overshadow other realizations. On September 5, 1997, *Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu* died from congestive heart failure in Kolkata, India. While most of the world was still mesmerized by the premature death of Lady Diana Spencer, the Princess of Wales, just 5 days earlier, only a handful of people really paid attention to the passing of one of the great humanitarians of the modern era, known by her more common name, *Mother Theresa*.

It's really no different in God's Word. If we don't take the time to search and discover, we'll find it easy to miss certain breath-taking jewels of great worth that are easily overshadowed by what seem to be the more pressing stories surrounding them.

Matthew 26 is a prime example:

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

There's no question that the Gospel writer (and the Holy Spirit!) intends our focus to be on the event of the Last Supper. Amazing things are about to happen here. Jesus is about to be betrayed. Judas has just been identified as the ultimate deceiver. A lasting memorial has just been instituted by Jesus right after he showed the Twelve what it meant to be a servant by washing their feet. But I'd bet most of us have passed over a brilliant golden nugget at the end of this story. Before leaving the table; before heading to the garden where Jesus would agonize in prayer; before the betrayal, or the arrest, or the cutting off of Malchus' ear; before ANY of that...Jesus sang.

Did you know Jesus sang? Is that a picture of Jesus that hangs in your mind? I don't believe I've ever seen a painting of Jesus singing. And what kind of song? In spite of all that was about to happen, something tells me it was a joyful song! Maybe something from Psalm 81, "*Sing for joy to God, our Strength!*" Or maybe something reminiscent of 1 Chronicles 16, "*Splendor and majesty are before Him, strength and joy are in His place.*" Maybe Jesus just made up a song based on what Nehemiah told the Israelites in chapter 8 of his writing, "*Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength*"

We don't typically see joy and suffering joined together much in our lives, but it definitely is in Scripture.

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The disciples “rejoiced” that God counted them *worthy* to suffer for the name of Jesus! That’s the kind of song I think that Jesus sang after celebrating this last passover meal with His disciples. I think it was a song intended to remind them that no matter what lies *ahead*, the Joy of God remains in *the heart*. Do you know why I think that? Because of this beautiful treasure tucked away in the book of Hebrews,

*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who **for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

If you want to reach people with the Joyful Gospel of Jesus Christ, it’s going to take some suffering. If you want to demonstrate what it looks like to follow Jesus faithfully by serving others, then it’s going to require some sacrifice and struggle along the way! But there always needs to be

some perspective maintained; a vantage point that keeps our sight centered on an indispensable truth: a *greater* joy awaits us! Paul said it this way,

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul knew what was coming, but his focus wasn’t on the current struggle. Instead he saw the future glory. Don’t live your life for some fading crown now, but pursue God’s unfading Crown of Glory that will be yours for all eternity. It’s a joy that’s worth some momentary sacrifice!

Building a Secure Home

We’re in the business of Hope. That’s who we are; that’s what we do. But let’s be clear, we are not the providers of hope; we are simply the conveyors. We are conduits. In supplying a refuge for abused and neglected children in Belize, we are simply demonstrating what real hope looks like. In building homes for families who can not afford reliable housing to keep their families safe and dry, we simply point people in the direction of true security.

In a climate of political chaos as is plaguing both Belize and America currently, it is easy to think that our security becomes dependent upon electing the right politician. But we know that’s not true, don’t we? I love the reassuring words that Jesus tells his followers in John 10,

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

It seems our problem sometimes is that we forget to listen to the right voice. We watch news coverage 24/7, and check facebook religiously; we follow voices on Twitter



and see memes posted on Instagram. But

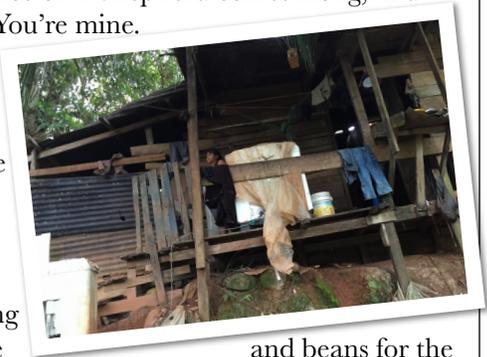
rarely do those voices remind us of reality. More often than not, those voices simply instill a sense of dejection, hopelessness and confusion.

But then the voice of a Shepherd comes along, and reminds us that, “You’re mine. I’ve bought you with a price. And what I’ve secured, NO ONE can take from my hand!”

When we provide shelter for children, or housing for families, or rice and beans for the hungry, or worship for the thirsty, we are ultimately reminding people that, in all of life, there is only one unfailing source of security and safety, and that is found in the stretched arms of Jesus, being held firmly in his nail-pierced hands. THAT is security. No alarm system...no nanny-cam...no election...no weapon can ever provide that.

So when we build homes, what we are ultimately doing is reminding people that there’s a better voice to listen to than ours; there’s a voice that, if we follow it, will only lead us to the place where hope will one day be perfectly fulfilled!

If you’d like to play a role in helping to spread that voice, make sure you take time to fill out the enclosed response card. Let us know you’re praying. Let us know you’re joining in the call!



IT'S AN HONOR!

A Special Visit

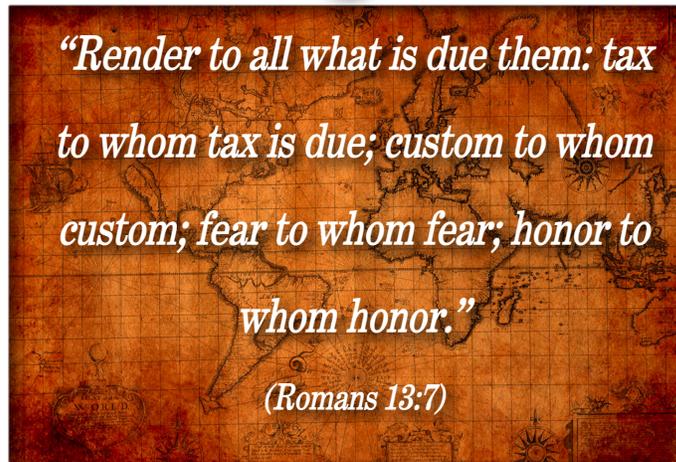
On September 1, the residents and staff of Hosanna House were treated to a very special visit as Kim Barrow, Belize's First Lady and wife of Prime Ministry, Dean Barrow, dropped by to encourage the children as they prepared to begin a new school year. The very gracious Ms. Barrow brought school supplies, backpacks, and a special message of hard work and perseverance in studies as she spent nearly an hour with us. We are very appreciative that the First Lady took time out of her schedule to be with us!

A Special Work!

When visiting Belize it's easy to simply drive up and down the Hummingbird Highway, rarely venturing into the homes and lives of those who live 'off the beaten path'. There is great treasure and reward for those who choose to explore, though! Earlier this year, I met Ms. Marie who lives about 6 miles off the Hummingbird by mile 6 (close to the turn-off for the Marie Sharps factory for those who have visited), where she cares for her blind father. With no transportation, Marie takes a walking "shortcut" to get to the main road in order to find transportation to Dangriga when she needs groceries,



Ms. Marie's former home where she cared for her blind father



"Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

(Romans 13:7)

supplies, etc. Besides a lack of transportation, Marie and her father are also hampered by a lack of electricity, no running water, and a small, leaking shack for a house.

In July, a new partnering team from the Parkview Church in Iowa City came and worked with Tony in order to build a new home for Marie.

Though we can't solve the problem of no electricity, the team was able to give her a brand new home with a solid roof!



On September 1, we were honored with a very special visit by Belize's First lady

Additionally, the team led a fantastic VBS, partnering with the people of Light of the Valley Church at Mile 18. The team impact a huge number of children as they challenged them to know and faithfully follow Jesus in every area of life.

A Special Encounter!

For years we have been praying that the people of the valley--where Hosanna House resides--to begin to encounter God in a very real way, walking in faithfulness and joy. While most in Belize have at



Some of the faithful men of Light of the Valley Church praying, studying and working to model Christlikeness to their fellow Belizeans

least some awareness of the teachings of Scripture, few have actually been consistently taught what it

continued on back

means to be a disciple of Christ. Talk OF Jesus in the churches remains plentiful, but passion FOR Him remains rare.

Earlier this year it became very apparent that God has been answering our prayers to His glory in a very profound way. At Light of the Valley Church, a group of men began meeting nightly for a time of Biblical study and prayer, asking that God would begin His work by changing their hearts first. Though they have scaled back to meeting three times/week, these men still remain faithful to praying for their community and reaching their neighbors with the transforming gospel of Christ. They are encouraging other men to take responsibility in being faithful to their families, in their work, and to their church. It is pure joy to see God work like this in our valley!



Some Special Partners

For several years now, we have had two wonderful ministry partners that have served and supported Here's Hope and Hosanna House, as well as our work in the Valley. The LifeHouse Church from Hagerstown, MD and the Franklinton LAMBS team have taken time in February/March the last few years to invest in the lives of the people of Belize. This year, they each constructed homes in the Village of Steadfast, replacing very dilapidated structures that were unsafe for the families living there. This work has really helped create a presence of God's people in that village, and is helping create opportunities for the local church to continue ministry with those families. We are SO grateful for the ongoing commitment each of these teams have made to Here's Hope. Were it not for faithful partners like them, we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Both teams will be returning this coming Spring in order to continue their fantastic work among the Belizean people of the Valley!

Nov. 1, 2016
 Dear friends of Here's Hope-
 Thank you for continuing to support Here's Hope. These lives are forever changed by God's work through your partnership. Together we work to fulfill the Great Commission. Together we work together as the people of God to strive for the glory of God! We offer our thanks both for and to you!
 Chris Moore



Here's Hope board Pres, Paul Bitner, and member, Kurt Uhen, stand with our good friend Ursula in front of her home with a new roof provided by our good friends from Mt Pleasant UB Church of PA.



The team from LifeHouse Church took a crumbling home, fixed the flooring, and build a brand new home for this family in Steadfast



One of our newest friends and ministry partners, the Parkview Church group from Iowa City, enjoys a fun photo moment with our kids and staff!



The Parkview Team leading VBS @ Light of the Valley



One of two homes completed by the Franklinton LAMBS group

I would like to help underwrite the cost of packing and shipping the school bus to Belize City, BZ:

_____ \$25

_____ \$250

_____ \$50

_____ \$500

_____ \$100

Other: \$ _____

I would like to help fund the monthly operating costs of Hosanna House with a gift to help cover:

_____ Maintenance

_____ Resident Expenses

_____ Transportation

_____ Food

_____ Other (Please Specify) \$ _____

_____ *I would be interested in helping to organize a Servant Team from our local Church.*

_____ *I would be interested in having a representative from Here's Hope speak at our Church.*

_____ *Please remove my name from the Here's Hope Mailing List.*

_____ *Please change my address to that listed below.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Please remit your tax-deductible donation and/or correspondence to:

Here's Hope Ministries, Inc.

P O Box 505,

Roanoke, IN 46783

God's Heart...Revealed through Our Hands