



# the **HERE'S HOPE FAMILY** Portrait



FALL EDITION 2018

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

# LONGEVITY

Longevity has become a very popular word in recent years. An entire line of nutritional supplements was named using a play on the term, promising a long and healthy existence. People focused on longevity are typically concerned with discovering a way to extend life a significant number of years. But longevity simply means 'long duration or continuance' according to the American Heritage Dictionary.

That's not a concept foreign to Scripture, and it should be equally familiar to every believer. Time and time again God's words uses the concept to describe the nature of those people who truly follow Jesus. A number of terms are used to describe the 'continuing' nature of Jesus' disciples. 'Overcome,' 'endure,' 'abide' and 'remain' are all terms used to explain how real faith continues to stand firm even in the midst of opposition and hardship.

Whether we are talking physical or spiritual life, the reality is that longevity doesn't 'just happen'. To endure takes commitment and health. But where does that health come from? How do we foster spiritual longevity? There are a number of places that Jesus and the authors of the Old and New Testament gives us indicators, but perhaps no place gives us a better picture than in the book of Acts in chapter 2 as we see the fledgling church begin to take root.

*Acts 24:2 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

That's it. Remaining faithful over time doesn't happen by chance; it happens by commitment-- by staying connected to Jesus. And how do we do that? By devoting ourselves to His Word, His people, His worship and His power. But there's further evidence of faith longevity, and that is a transformed compassion. A healthy church comprised of faithful believers doesn't just study, worship and pray together, they sacrifice together as well.

*Acts 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.*

Just for the record, this isn't some version of Christian communism; this is believers moved by the Spirit showing compassion to those in need by voluntarily giving of themselves for the rest of the body.

At Here's Hope we exist because we know that many within the church understand and live out that reality today. And in order to continue our ministry in Belize, we need people to help support that ministry more than ever. Over the last couple of years we have seen our donations plummet and we are at risk of needing to substantially reduce our ministry. As many of you know, we have no US paid staff, so all of our resources go to supporting our work in Belize. The monthly operation of Hosanna House alone costs us more than \$10,000 for staff salaries, utilities, food,

clothing, fuel, etc. That doesn't even begin to make a dent in our need for new vehicles, a new water system, unexpected health care and counseling costs and other routine expenses that fall outside of our typical budget. Currently, our expenses exceed our income by close to half. If we are going to continue our work in Belize, not only caring for the children of Hosanna House, but also providing jobs for our full time staff and other workers that do regular labor on our behalf, and if we are to continue to build homes and provide resources for the disadvantaged of the valley in Belize, the simple truth is, we need your help now. If you would pray and see if God would have you support us at this juncture, our gratitude would be immeasurable. At our current rate of giving, we will not be able to operate at our normal level beyond the month of January. We must rebuild our donor base in order to make that happen.

If you would like Chris or one of our board members to visit your church or organization in upcoming months and share the vision and needs of our ministry, please note that on the enclosed response form. If you would like to make a monthly commitment for the next year, please indicate that as well.

We know that not everyone is called to give to Here's Hope Ministries, and we don't want everyone to do so. There are countless needs in countless places that the body of Christ is responsible for. At the same time, we have hundreds of friends who have experienced the ministry in Belize and elsewhere, and we don't think that God is done using our ministry yet. So please pray. Pray that God would raise up workers and givers, impassioned for the name and work of Christ to be exalted among the people of Belize and around the world! As always, thank you for your partnership!

*Chris*

## Some 2017 Highlights in Pictures



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**I would like to help support the efforts of Here's Hope Ministries, Inc in caring for the abused and neglected children of Hosanna House. Please accept my gift:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$500  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100                    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250                    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please remove my name from the Here's Hope Mailing List*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please change my address to that listed below*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am interested in a work team experience in:*    \_\_\_\_\_ **2019**    \_\_\_\_\_ **2020**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Undecided**

\_\_\_\_\_ *I would like someone to speak at our church/org:* \_\_\_\_\_ *(name)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to commit to support Hosanna House throughout 2019 by pledging ...**

\_\_\_\_\_ ...to pray for the staff and children of HH weekly

\_\_\_\_\_ ...a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ...a one time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ...to host a speaking opportunity for Here's Hope

\_\_\_\_\_ ... \_\_\_\_\_

*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***