

Shep: We are going to start with a word of prayer then if no one has any questions ---

Harold: Father, the thing we need most tonight -- we do not have the ability to produce. We need the anointing of Your Holy Spirit and that only comes from You. We need your Spirit to speak to our hearts. We want to exalt Jesus and minister to needs. Only YOU can do this, and so we are relying on You. Thank you Jesus, Amen

Harold: This I recall to my mind, "Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." - Lamentations 3:21-25

Harold: Israel was a people with a promised land and they were commanded to possess that land. But in this passage, everything was going wrong: Israel was physically being taken to another country, their kings were removed, God's temple had been destroyed, the "holy place" where God met with his people was now being lost, and there was NO outward sign that what God promised could happen. Yet Jeremiah says "His mercies are renewed every day..... Great is Thy Faithfulness." Jeremiah chose to put his faith in the promise of God rather than "obvious circumstances."

As Christians, we don't have a 'land' to possess but rather, in John Chapter 18:36 Jesus told Pilate "My Kingdom is not of this world." The Christian is not here to acquire a promised land or possessions. Jesus commanded us "As the Father has sent me, so send I you." When we look at Jesus, we see him doing many things; He was healing the sick, he had compassion on the multitudes; He said he came to seek and to save the lost ... Jesus is our example. Today we see the Christian church healing people through both the gift of healing and through the gifts of medicine; we see the church having compassion on multitudes through feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and clothing the needy. Today, after the recent earthquake it's popular to send help to Haiti ... But for years, before the earthquake, the church was there, meeting the needs of people -- ten years or more ago, my daughter went there and helped dig a well for a town. The church was doing this long before it was popular. The true church has been continually, by all means, trying to save some, leading people to a personal relationship with Jesus.

As we think of ThereIsHope (Hope) tonight, we can see many of these same characteristics. Later, Shep will probably share a note from someone who just this last Christmas season was desperate and came to Shepherd of Hope looking for help. With Hope's help, Shepherd of Hope was instrumental in leading this person into a relationship with Jesus and then helping her get established in her walk. ThereIsHope was laying up treasure in Heaven. I know that many people with chronic illness have a hard time functioning in the "working world," and it may look like they are not really accomplishing a lot of things. But Hope understood what was of eternal worth: She came to Shepherd of Hope, both to be ministered TO and to MINISTER. She was blessed of God to do both.

Going back to our opening example, the one main difference between the nation of Israel and the Christian Church is found in John 14:1-3 where Jesus says "I go to prepare a place for you. That where I am, You may be also." You see, the Israelites had a promised land, but the Christian has a promised place -- and we are living for that place. For Jeremiah, when outwardly, it looked

like none of God's promises could happen, He chose to put his confidence in the faithfulness of God. In Hope's life, when there was discouraging times and circumstances she continued to put her faith in the promise of Jesus "I go to prepare a place for you." Israel has not received the land yet, but one day, Father Abraham will walk in Israel, and it will be from the Euphrates River to Egypt, and a Son of David named Jesus Christ, will sit on the throne and rule Israel. It hasn't happened yet, but it will, and one day, all those whose name is in the Lamb's Book of Life are going to receive the place that Jesus went to prepare for them. Abraham hasn't received Israel yet, Hope hasn't received her mansion yet, but we know to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Therefore, we know she is now with the Lord because of God's promises Jeremiah could say "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and because of Jesus' promises we can say "There Is Hope"

Shep: Let's pray

Harold: Jesus, our minds are open for you to speak to our hearts. We thank you for the precious promises you have given us; sometimes we need reassurance, but we put our faith and our confidence in You. We thank you for those who have gone before us who have left an example; we thank you for Hope's example to us. We ask now, that you will be with Dennis and her family. You did not take Hope home to desert her family. You are going to be faithful to them and meet their needs. We know this is a hard time, and we don't have all the answers, but we put our confidence in You and we Thank You for Your Faithfulness. Amen

Shep: I would like to thank Harold for sharing with us --- I had not heard this before hand, and I have to tell you --- I have to type through tears now, so I hope you are brushed up in your typoeze! What a true testimony of our dear sister!

Dennis: I spoke with Shep today and asked her a question. "Did Hope ever tell you I sang in a Gospel group?" She replied no. We had to stop the group due to illness of other members. There were five of us and we were called the Victory Singers. It was one of the most touching times in my life. I just called the other members of the group that is remaining which is four of us. I asked if we could think about starting the group back. They replied yes so fast I did not know what to say. They asked what we will call our group since it has changed. I did not think about that one. I said we should sleep on it some and talk again. Sometime during the night it came to me that there could be no other name for our new group. "There is Hope." We will start singing again soon and releasing on CD maybe around May or June. I am honored to use this name to spread the word of the Lord as she did. I only regret I waited so long to do this again as she loved to hear us sing. I know she touched many lives and you in this room and ones who could not be here touched Hope as well. I welcome any comments. Thank you all.

Beth: Before I paste what I prepared before, I just want to say that I'm so glad you shared this with us Dennis. How very wonderful! It was early in the life of the Shepherd of Hope chat room that I met Hope. The first thing that struck me was the great user name she had ("There is Hope"). It showed me her attitude as a Christian mother with big challenges to deal with. She cared deeply for her family. I can remember her many requests for prayer for her brother who served in Iraq. I prayed for him and was thankful when he came home safe. Her faith in God shone through, even when she was going through rougher times. Hope was an encouragement to me and I was always

glad when we were in the room together. Dennis, my prayers include you, the boys, and the rest of the family. May God guide and comfort you as you carry on without this dear one. Remember, with God, there is always hope. I say this last sentence for us all!

Shep: I will share one from something Harold mentioned – If you recall, he mentioned a person who came to the room --- and she got my email about Hope's death, and asked me if I would please forward her mail on to Dennis -- i think it is worth sharing with all of you as well -- Dennis has already heard it. “Hi Shep, I am so sorry to hear about Hope. I've had a lot going on lately and haven't checked my email in ages. However, if you could just relay a message for me, it would really mean a lot...You and Hope have made a tremendous impact in my life. I logged on that website, not having any idea what I was stepping (or logging) into. The two of you listened to me and talked me through my first prayer asking Jesus to come into my life. I am a completely different person and I owe you two the world for it, and I know she's living the life now! The words of spirit and encouragement you guys shared with me will never, ever be forgotten and I'm passing them on too. Of course I know her family must feel blessed to have had Hope in their lives, but I'm forever grateful. Please share with Hope's husband what an impact she made on a small town college girl, living in all the wrong ways, all the way from North Carolina. The two of you together could probably change the world-I know that may be a little extreme, but who knows where I'd be had you and Hope not talked with me, I was laying face down on rock bottom that night. I just can't explain enough how what you and Hope said to me threw me in a (much needed) 360. And by the way, for an update.. I told you how my parents were big church goers and I had moved to Greenville and gone completely downhill. Well I started going to a church there and made some AMAZING friends in a college-age group that met on Friday evenings. (which was great cause my party-going friends did that whole deal on Friday and Saturday nights..) Well, a few months back I made the decision to move back home and transfer to a school here in Winston Salem. My sister is letting me live with her and help take care of my two nephews and I'm always busy! (in a good way!) I'm gettin through school and working at a country club to help pay my way. But it's amazing to me the way God can turn everything around for you. This totally beats the way I was headin' before. So thanks again Shep. And I'll be sending some prayers up for Hope's family. :)
-Kristen”

Free2BMee: The opportunities that I had to speak with Hope were wonderful; every once in a while she would pop in and it would just be her and me in the room and we would chat a bit. If I had a rough day, she would offer a word of encouragement - definitely a person set out to uplift the spirits of others. I am very blessed as I think of the times that I talked with her and got to know her. I remember her as a wonderful person with a heart of ministry and love for so many people no matter what their struggles might have been. She put others before herself many times when I saw her, and I was always blessed by her presence, for she was an inspiration.

Shep: This is an email from onepuredreamer, who is unable to get into the room: “I want you to know that I feel privilege to know Hope. I do know that God brought us together through Shepherd Of Hope Ministries. When I was down she always had the right words to say to make me feel better.

She was so full of life, love and kindness. She was so very gracious and beautiful. I will always keep a piece of her in my heart. I love and miss her tremendously. She truly was my kindred Spirit.”

- onepuredreamer

GlorytoGod: Occasionally we are graced with the presence of an earthbound angel. Hope brought unprecedented joy and happiness to all. She was always so full of laughter and often made me smile. I will always remember her for her kindness and love. When anyone worried or was depressed or facing an issue, she was sure to take care of it. She often overlooked her own suffering in order to help others. That always amazed me about her. It made a difference in my life and I am sure many others. God has a special place for Hope in Heaven. She will always be in my heart and I will never forget what she taught me. We talked about many things but one thing that we talked about was music. She introduced me to some southern Gospel that I had not known. Her love for music was something we often talked about. We as well talked about family a lot. She lit up when talking of her family. One thing that Hope did was she brought my brother back in my life. I was always close to my brother but because of his bipolar he drifted from me. She talked to me about it and how to bring him back to me. I thank Hope for this and I now have my brother back. I am forever grateful. I now have a very special bond with my brother and it truly is all because of what Hope said to me. I told my brother that Hope passed and we cried together. He wishes to have thanked her. She will continue to live within the hearts of many. She was loved, because Hope knew how to love. She did so with open arms, just like her beloved Father taught her to. She left us with so much, she has touched my life. Hope has earned her wings ... The earth bound angels are not ours to keep. They are ours to enjoy, learn from, and behold until they return home.

yorkie71: First Dennis I want you to know you and the boys and your family are in my heart and in my prayers daily ... I came into SOH and Hope was the first one that I really started chatting with ... She wrapped her arms around me, and just loved me where I was at! It was always about making me feel better no matter what she was facing. She wanted me to never feel alone, and she made sure that I knew she was always there... She had such a gentle spirit, and was full of love and compassion; she just always knew what to say, and if she didn't, she would just pray ... Shas left such a huge imprint in my heart and life ... I will never be the same, since the Lord blessed me with her friendship, even if for only a short time, I will always carry her in my heart! She was a GIFT!

LRac: Hope was one of the ladies I first got to know. I was always impressed with her heart and tenderness. She always showed compassion and love to me. As someone who struggles with depression, I was always grateful that she could understand me when I was struggling with it. She always provided encouragement and support. I have a very special memory of her helping me one day when I was particularly low and couldn't seem to get anything done. She "held my hand" from afar and helped me get a few things done in manageable chunks. It was such a blessing to me and an encouragement that someone would do that with me. That just exemplifies how she always did what she could to be there for us. I'm forever grateful for her friendship and the way she always expressed her heart toward me. She was a special treasure and she will be missed

LJ: Dennis, I'm keeping you and your family in my prayers. Many times those of us in the room would be hanging on, searching, praying and wondering what to do next, and then in she would

come - ThereIsHope - often how timely that would be. Hope is definitely an encourager - I'm sure when we think of her, it makes us want to keep going. We also had some great times of laughter ... Hope - I miss you, and still sort of expect you to sign in any time. Until we see you again, rest in His love and peace.

cakrejci: When I think of Hope, I remember feeling warm and loved by someone I had never met. That sense seemed to reach deep inside of my spirit. My most impressive memory though, is that she often had to leave before too long because of her family's needs. I remember her saying, "it's time to get the boys ready for bed, it's time for the pool or it's time to get out of the pool, time for a picnic, a barbecue, etc." I quickly realized her deep devotion to Dennis and the children and thought how blessed they were. When I was traveling to California by car in 2008, we had discussed the possibility to getting together when I reached the area where she lived. I did call her and got to hear that sweet southern little accent, but unfortunately, we weren't able to meet. I am sad to say that it was my loss to have never met her. God bless you, Dennis and children, whom she loved so dearly.

Anne_in_Vermont: Hope was always encouraging all of us despite how she felt that day. I will miss this. She loved her family and often left to be with them but if you needed encouraging she was always there for you. God now has a wonderful angel. My love and prayers to Dennis and the children

Shep: Well, Dennis, we have talked and you know how deeply I loved your wife --- and as with everyone else, I have you and your children in my prayers --- I would like to share a little something: Hope, When you walk into the chat room, I always say "ThereIsHope"! (I have heard MANY others say the same thing!) And, in saying it, I am reminded that indeed, with Jesus, There IS Hope! You lived your name, you shared hope, you encouraged and you strengthened others with the reminder that Jesus is always there! I have watched you talk to someone who was 'hopeless and down in the dumps' and lift them up with scriptures, encouraging words, and the promise that if they have placed their trust in Jesus – They are His! On a personal level, you were like a 'grown up' daughter to me – I would have been honored to be your mom! I loved your calls, I enjoyed our talks on the phone and you always made me smile when I picked up the phone and heard "Haa (Hi)... howayyaa? (how are ya?)" Your southern drawl was enough to make me feel better.

You were a Southern wife and mother, always busy taking care of others needs, and always giving – I know I could not do all you did!! You loved people regardless of their ability to give back – you reached out to everyone equally – you changed lives – you loved the unlovable! You always wanted "more of Jesus!" and your desire was to be certain that everyone you came in contact with 'met Jesus' because you truly knew HE was the Way the Truth and the Life and that no one would come to the Father except by Him ... I regret that we will not get to meet as we planned, on this side of Heaven, but I eagerly look forward to seeing you on that happy, golden shore – what a day, glorious day, that will be! When we serve Jesus together again! You are loved... you will not be forgotten... you left a mark on Shepherd of Hope Christian Chat – you left a mark on the world! May God's perfect peace keep you until we meet again! Love, Shep

Shep: Now ... I have one more thing --- HOPE'S own words, that I think would be fitting to share with everyone here. In response to being asked "what is your favorite scripture" here's what Hope had to say: "This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." - Lamentations 3: 21-25 ...

Hope. What a powerful word. Hope is what sustains me daily. Hope to see my Savior. Hope to see my children grow up happy and healthy. Hope to find a balance for my mood as I am bipolar. I could go on and on, but I am sure you get the point. If I have no hope, then I have nothing at all.

ThereIsHope 4/22/2008

Shep: I would like to close in a word of prayer ---