

A HOPE AND A FUTURE

Jesus said in John 16:33 : ***"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."***

I have had trouble in this world, but with His help, I have found I can overcome it! At age 13 we moved to a new neighborhood and my parents divorced, I had no close friends and the world I knew and trusted fell apart, I was lonely and cried out to God to see if He was there and would answer, We had always gone to church, but God seemed far away. I thought He was there for the big important problems of the world, but not my personal problems.

Many times, my mother prayed for me and my two younger brothers and received dramatic answers to her prayers, She seemed to get strength and peace when she prayed and read the Bible at home, Seeing God help my mother overcome her troubles left a strong impression on my life. One day, as a teenager, I prayed that Jesus Christ would come into **my** heart, I prayed that He would forgive me for sinning against Him and that he would lead my life, There have been bumps in the road. At times, I have wondered where God was, but those are the times I really focus on His Word. I am encouraged when I read the Bible and pray, I've found that He really does care about my personal problems. Two promises I have found in the Bible have really been a help to me.

1 Peter 5: 7 says: ***"Cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you"***; and Proverbs 3:5,6 tells us to ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."***

The Lord has made my path straight! By his grace, I was able to get into Case Western Reserve University on a four year nursing scholarship! It was the hardest thing I ever had to do, but God was there again and He was *"a very present help in time of trouble "* After graduation, I waited and prayed for employment, but there was no answer, Many months went by and I felt like God had forgotten me again, It was another time of trouble, but the Bible says, ***"in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes."*** (Romans 8:28)

When the Lord finally opened a door for me, it came with some amazing financial advantages that I would **not** have enjoyed had I been employed earlier! He has since led me to and through graduate school and provided wonderful opportunities for me as a Nurse Practitioner at the Cleveland Clinic. Along the way trouble came again" .. I was faced with a health crisis and had to undergo biopsies to rule out cancer. Being a health care worker I knew full well what I could be in for. There were lots of tears and sleepless nights, Once again I cried to the Lord in prayer and He gave me hope from His Word, The Bible says ***"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well: the Lord will raise him up. If he is a sinner, he will be forgiven, "*** (James 5: 15). I went to the pastor for prayer, He anointed my head with oil and with the church elders, he and my mother prayed over me. Following this, not only were the biopsies negative, but also the original abnormalities were healed!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future," (Jeremiah 29: 11)

For all of those who sincerely trust in Christ there WILL come an END to ALL troubles!
The last book of the Bible promises this to us ...

" He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21 :4)

If you would like to have a **hope and a future** with God, I invite you to pray the following prayer ...

"God, I have not led a perfect life, I have made mistakes, and I have also sinned. But I believe that Jesus paid the price for all this on the cross. I want to live as a Christian. I ask you to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. Please lead me to a loving Christian church that correctly teaches the Bible. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen. "

If you were encouraged by my testimony, you may want to access our church web-site. There you will find many other such stories of men and women who have come to know the same wonderful God in the same way, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son.

May God bless you as you seek Him

Strongsville Bible Fellowship
13237 Prospect Road
Strongsville, OH 44149
(440) 572-9033

www.strongsvillebiblefellowship.org