

The New Hope Vision

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Darryl Chadwick, Pastor

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From the Pastor's Desk

Having enjoyed family, friends, and plenty of the Thanksgiving feast, we are firmly into the 2020 holiday season. Multiple promising COVID-19 vaccines appear within reach and the election results are being finalized. My hope and prayer are that the church will enter this Christmas season with a more spiritual emphasis than a materialistic one. The shock and trauma of this past year should draw us to the foundation of our faith, Jesus Christ our Savior. When we cannot depend on what will happen next in this world, we can trust firmly in the One who made the world and everything in it. I encourage the church to not become distracted or discouraged but to realize and appreciate what is truly and eternally most important to us. God is still in control of all things and desires to bless us, may we allow Him to do so by our obedience and faithfulness.

Ephesians 3:14-21 ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

In His Service,
Pastor Darryl

1 John Owens
5 Glen McLawhorn
6 Barbara Young
10 Jim Willis
25 Jackson Hartshorn



9 John & Robin Owens



Worthy of repair

In Quito, Ecuador, Gonzalo Gallardo belongs to the Heritage Guardians, a group of traditional artisans. His specialty is restoring figurines, and near Christmas he often fixes Baby Jesus statues for nativity scenes. "People don't throw them out," he says. "The feeling is, 'This is my figure, and I will repair it.'"

Gallardo's restorative gifts don't end there. He uses the same pigments (made from vegetables, minerals and oils) to treat actual humans. People with sunburns, bruises and scars stop by Gallardo's shop for skin "treatments" that cost pennies. "We are here to help people," he says.

How much more does God, through the Christmas gift of Jesus, repair our brokenness and restore us from death to life so we, like Gallardo, can help others.



Operation Christmas Child

New Hope Baptist Church had a goal of 256 shoe boxes, We packed 294. The drop off number we collected was 1510.

Thank everyone that packed boxes, collected items all year long and those that gave money for the shipping charge. Thank you also for those that came out and helped pack the boxes during the drop-off hours.

God's heart toward us

Bryon and Ruthie were unemployed one December. Wanting their seven children to have gifts to open on Christmas morning, they took \$20 and shopped diligently at the thrift store, finding seven small items to place under a tiny tree they'd found in a field. Feeling desperate about all their other needs and guilty for praying for presents, the couple asked God to bless their kids.

On Christmas Eve, a couple they barely knew, friends of friends from church, called and asked to stop by. They pulled up in a 15-passenger van and asked if Bryon and Ruthie's kids could help carry in "a couple of things." In fact, the rear seats had been removed and the vehicle was filled with packages and groceries. The next morning, the family unwrapped goodies both practical and fun.

"We felt as if the Lord was saying, 'This is my heart toward you. I want to bless you,'" Bryon writes. "It is the Lord's heart to bless his children."

—Adapted from *Miracles: 32 True Stories*, Joanie Hileman

A tale of the candy cane



The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for "Jesus."

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; giving is better than receiving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.

Christian Symbol+



Poinsettias

This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.