

Loves Gives Hope

I recently read a heartbreaking story about a family who was adopting an infant. When the man and his wife arrived at the orphanage, the nursery had eerie silence. There was no crying from any of the babies there. Babies cry when they are in need of something. The children of the orphanage needed attention. There was no shortage of needs from the children awaiting adoption, but apparently, they weren't getting the attention they needed. There was no crying because the babies had learned that no one cared enough to answer. At that point in their lives, they were without hope. To put it simply, no one cried because no one cared. Imagine starting your life journey knowing no one cared about you.

The same morning that I read this story, one of my sons' family was waking up after staying overnight at our home. There were warm embraces and cuddling time for our 2nd and 3rd-grade granddaughters when they got up in the morning. There was no question about their mutual love with their parents and grandparents. When the morning embraces were over, the granddaughters immediately showed their parents the Lego projects they had been working on the night before. The girls were proud of their accomplishments and knew we all cared about them.

What a dramatic contrast to the disheartening situation at the orphanage. For the babies at the orphanage, hope seemed non-existent. Hope *might come* if they were adopted into a loving family that would care for them, but they had never experienced love in their lives to date.

Hope is what Christians have for their eternal future. We give thanks as believers who are adopted into the Family of God. It doesn't happen on its own. At birth, we introduce our children to the love of caring adults. If they are fortunate, children grow up in a loving home based on God's love for all His children. Love is a gift from God and isn't restricted to children. We can share the love of God with people of any age, especially with anyone who hasn't heard about Jesus Christ. Many people in this world are "sleep-walking" through life, never having experienced acceptance and love from others. They live a life with no hope for a better future.

People who feel no one cares about them will seek acknowledgment in some way. Seeking attention may not come in a good way. Our caring and love for others can put them on an entirely different path than people who are ignored as meaningless and unloved. They may not even cry for help.

We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). Share God's love with others and give them hope.

Question: How can you show others that you care about them?

Closing Prayer: Loving Heavenly Father. Let us be a person who is responsive to the needs of others. Let us show others that we care about them. Amen.

