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Here's Hope  
by Rev. Jerry Rea

Is Your Soul Dry?

It is easy to despair in our world. Our leadership seems confused both in Washington and in God's church. Having lived in dry economic and cultural climates we almost give up on water. The psychologists who catch our attention seem content to live in a kind of "no-man's-land." We feel directionless and adrift. We weather a daily barrage of problems with very few safe havens of hope. The temptation is to become cynical. I mean, as cynical as the sit-coms and news media. We are like cynical and sarcastic old men, sitting on a park bench pining for the "good ole days" then admitting to themselves that they are "gone forever." Many of the "comedies" on television are sarcastic and cynical. They would be funny if it were funny. To get a laugh, all you have to do is become a critic.

The most optimistic thing I know is the New Testament gospel. First, it has an optimistic view of man and mankind. When men and women receive Christ as Savior they are able to leave the past behind and build a new future. That means that you can never be so far gone, that there is no hope. God is bigger than our problems and our proclivities. He saves us from ourselves, and our wandering and our selfishness. Then, if man can be changed the world he lives in can change. Schools can become places of knowledge and the hope that the knowledge we possess can make future lives even than present ones. Churches filled with "new" people, can blossom again into fruitful forces of good, instead of places to attend and be hopeless. They can be launching pads for new works, and great joy. When new men and women invade the workforce, the commonplace day-to-day attitudes change into positive daily homes for us to produce new life and new lives.

Here's one more thing. To make these changes and to live in vision again requires a certain "power." The ability to think up instead of down doesn't just happen. It is easier and requires so very little to fall into and fall prey to our common attitudes and culture. The power we need to think different and be different can come from a day-to-day relationship with Jesus Christ. Being with Him warms our cold cynical hearts. Being with Him opens our cloudy despairing eyes. Being around Jesus helps us truly believe in what we truly believe in. To make a difference, one must believe we can make a difference. So, the key is to be around Jesus. He'll feed the need down deep in your soul because He's the bread of life. He'll quench the thirst of our dry soul. He'll help you to see; after all He is the Light of the World.

The solution is Jesus  
Jerry Rea