

June 14, 2019  
Here's Hope  
By Rev. Jerry Rea

## An Old Hope

In Jesus we have an old hope for a new world. Almost every day the world of technology changes. We upgrade often. We shop online and think nothing of it. Many, if not most have disconnected their land lines opting for a quicker easier way to talk on a cell phone. That being said, we don't talk as much as we text. Sound and voice have given way to fingers and typing (with an occasional emoji for clarification). Our phones and our automobiles are "smarter" than we are. The innovations and inventions have made us more secure, quicker, and more enlightened. There are daily inventions that we simply must have. With each new invention, a gateway is opened for newer and better inventions. Who would have predicted the age of drones, and satellite warfare? Who could ever even imagine the day when police and rescue workers could find people with a "ping" from the phone? This is the day of instant information and G.P.S. systems that guide us without even looking at a map. Things have certainly changed. However, some things have not changed.

People are still people. People have daily needs just like always. People have the need to connect with others. Sometimes that's done on Facebook, and sometimes that's done in transit on smart phones, but the need is still there to connect. Loneliness is still a prevalent problem and with it the plague of suicide. People still need and crave love just like always. People still desire something for which to live. Significance and meaning are quite elusive, but they've always been so. We still ask the gnawing question "Is this all there is?" We want to know: Is there more to life than these material things that give joy, but only for a moment? Inside of all of mankind is the search for meaning and a reason to get out of bed in the morning. Across the ages Paul, and before him Jonah, and before him Moses, all needed faith and hope to live by. Mankind in America, Europe, Asia, and even Africa all are similar. We need meaning. We need something inside. We need Jesus. On my first mission trip, I came away with a profound, even if simple, realization. The folks in Venezuela are just like me. Just as we all need water to drink, we all need Jesus to live. If we were to travel by time machine to the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, I really believe it would be the same. The same hope that you and I crave has always been there. I understand that to be because people have really not changed. Our clothing has changed. Our modes of travel have changed. Even our way of thinking has changed. However, deep inside (where it matters most) mankind still craves a relationship with his creator. The only thing that will give deep satisfaction in our soul of souls is relationship with God Almighty.

There is a way to "connect" with God. That way was invented by the supreme innovator, God Himself. He made a way, through Jesus, that we might commune with Him, live with Him, and find in Him our reason to live. I want to lay that hope before you today. Your clothes have changed, but you have not.

I love you,  
Jerry Rea

