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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

An Inkling of Hope

I believe people are listening. We think not. We believe the communities in which we live ignore us (I mean the church), don't hear us or don't care what we say. Many within the local church perceive our impact as limited weak or not at all. I believe, in these confused and maddening times they listen for a word. From time to time our message leaks out (heaven forbid we broadly just preach it). There is an inkling of hope that makes its way into a dry and empty world. The gospel message is simple and plain. If anyone would own their sin and repent and turn to Jesus from their lifestyle there can be another and a better life. I think they're listening (almost desperately) for something that sounds like hope.

The combined confusion of wars, economic woes and TV "wisdom" has left us hopeless. On the one hand our leaders have promised it all and paid off with nothing. On the other hand those who have a word of hope have gone silent. Is that company? Is it apathy? Or, is it more like depression? Maybe we have been "put in our place;" bludgeoned into submission by the influential voices of Hollywood and Universities and societies' movers and shakers. Perhaps there are many who don't know/ realize that what they need is deep. It is so deep that financial wealth cannot raise it. It is so pervasive that scientific knowledge doesn't understand it. It is so spiritual that logical cannot capture it. Deep within us our world needs hope. They often don't "get it" but that does change their yearning for it.

That's where you come in. You and are to light candles of hope. We are the light of the world and often it doesn't take a whole lot of light to make a really big difference. We long for and hope for a day when the United States will find its real core in the local church again. Concerts can't cut it. Teaching a Book without walking the walk is so very disappointing. The love that ought to burn within us to reach out to others is fleeting or worse absent. Then, worse than anything, the power that changes lives is noticeably missing. Do you remember that verse? It talks about having a form of godliness but denying the power. We are not to be like the world. We are to be better! We do not become like the world. The world is supposed to become like us. I long for the future days when the power will burn within us again like a bonfire of hope.

You'll know it when you see it. It sounds like joyous music. It feels warm like love and acceptance. It looks like light. It may be small but in a dark place, you can absolutely feel it.

My friend you are that light. "Let your light so shine..."

This Little Light of Mine
Jerry Rea