

## Day 6 – “Living Hope,” Not “Blind Faith”

Hope is a powerful motivator. We see this in sports. Teams follow their coach’s instructions to learn plays. At first, players rely on blind faith, but once they see results, they develop greater hope, motivation, and effort.

Christians don’t have blind hope but “confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” In some religions, gurus try to guide others to eternal peace, but they seeking it themselves, and their followers can never know for sure if they successfully reached heaven. Conversely, Jesus shared first-hand knowledge of heaven and how to get there: “I am the way” (John 14:6).

Because of the resurrection, we can trust Jesus’ teachings are true. He is evidence that heaven and rewards are real. We can trust His instructions and be obedient in fulfilling our part.

*The world needs hope like never before. Pray for ProjectHELP, which emphasizes the importance of hope for those suffering from mental health issues.*

## Day 7 – The Provider of Our Living Hope is Unshakeable.

As the hymnwriter stated, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness... When all round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.”

Hope is only as solid as that on which we hope. Hope in the resurrected Christ is unshakeable because Christ himself is unshakeable:

- “Heaven and earth will pass away, [Jesus’] words shall not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35, KJV).
- “It is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ... guaranteeing what is to come” (2 Cor.1:21-22, NIV).
- God is preparing for us “a kingdom which cannot be moved” (Heb. 12:28, KJV).
- May we always be prepared to name the source of our hope: Jesus (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).

*Thank God for being unshakeable! Pray for Sisters Who Care as they host studies, prayer meetings, seminars, and service projects to reach many communities in the name of Jesus.*



# Missions & Ministries

## MISSIONS EDUCATION

Education for Preschoolers, Children, Youth & Adults

Children’s Missions Day

Prayer Partnerships

Bible Study Lending Library

Missionary Support

Monthly Resources

Tarheel Talk

## COMPASSION MINISTRIES

Pure Water, Pure Love

WorldCrafts

Mission Trips

Prison Ministry

Military Ministry

Christian Women’s Job Corps®

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

ProjectHELP: Mental Health

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WMU NC Women’s Missions Conference

ABOUND Leadership Training

Monthly Leadership Luncheons

Christian Women’s Leadership Center

Carolina Women

Youth Mission Conference

Hispanic WMU

Sisters Who Care

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During the year 2023, WMU NC is striving to keep her vision and mission statement in clear focus. WMU NC seeks to inspire and equip believers to be radically involved in the mission of God.



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“Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant and boundless mercy has caused us to be born again [that is, to be reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] to an ever-living hope and confident assurance through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

—1 Peter 1:3, Amplified

## What is “living” about our “living hope”?

### DAY 1 – Jesus is Alive!

Since our hope is in Jesus, and since Jesus is alive, our hope is alive. After his resurrection, Jesus worked on Earth for 40 days before ascending. Even today, he is alive in Heaven.

Consider the opposite. Every generation’s leaders live, inspire, and die. Though their legacy may continue, after death their direct participation is over. However, Jesus is alive and active in bringing God’s plan to fruition.

In 1922, WMU leader Kathleen Mallory promoted the watchword “Laborers Together with God.” We realize a calling to help fulfill the Great Commission. Jesus’ final words to us weren’t, “Here’s your assignment. I’ll leave you to it.” No. God leads the way in this partnership. Because our leader is alive, our hope is alive.

*Pray that people of the world will know Jesus is alive. Pray for kids to experience Jesus’ living presence through Children’s Missions Days.*

### DAY 2 – Holy Spirit Lives in Us.

In John 16:7, Jesus says it’s better that He go so the Holy Spirit can come. 1 Peter 1:3 states we are “born again,” partly through the Holy Spirit’s indwelling. This lets us personally experience God’s living presence. The Holy Spirit gives us a new nature (2 Cor 5:17), transforms us (Rom 12:2), develops godly character (Gal 5:22-23), and equips us with spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12).

The Holy Spirit lives in us, changing us and giving us living hope. It reminds us we’re not alone but have “constant assurance,” empowered by God to obey God, serve others, and live with purpose.

*Pray for Christian Women’s Job Corps. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help sites empower low-income women for a better life and income-producing opportunities through classes in life, job skills, and Bible study.*

### Day 3 – We are Alive.

John 17:3 defines eternal life as knowing God the Father and Jesus the Son. In John 10:10, Jesus proclaims He came to give abundant life. In knowing Jesus, we are spiritually “born again” to this eternal, abundant life.

How is life abundant when you’re suffering? The Christians Peter addressed endured severe persecution, but God strengthened them. God’s presence made their lives abundant both despite external circumstances and because of them. In suffering, God is all the more real.

Our relationship with God gives us hope. Non-believers don’t experience this because they don’t know Jesus. They can’t call on Jesus if they don’t believe in Him. They can’t believe if they’ve never heard of Him. They can’t hear if no one tells them. (Rom 10) Therefore, WMU is avid about missions education, missions giving, and missions support. We want everyone to know this abundant life!

*Pray that the Prison Retreat and Red Boxes will help inmates know that God wants to give them a new life in Christ. Pray that those who haven’t heard of this new life yet will soon learn of Jesus.*

### Day 4 – Life Continues Beyond the Grave.

The ancients believed hope ended at death. Christians confused society because they had hope beyond the grave!

In 1 Peter 1:4, Peter writes to persecuted Christians of “an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” Jesus’s resurrection proved the grave was not the end. If the afterlife is real, afterlife rewards must be real, too. Thus, Christians looked beyond their apparently hopeless circumstances. They desired to be found faithful and had hope that eternal life with Christ would be more than enough to compensate for their pain.

Sometimes people unfamiliar with WMU are confused when WMU members give sacrificially to missions and pray earnestly when we don’t directly benefit. However, we know that sacrifice now is worth “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” rewards later. This is our living hope.

*Pray that we live sacrificially, emphasizing the power of the resurrection to transform lives as we participate in mission trips.*

### Day 5 – Our Lives have New Purpose.

The phrase “born again” in verse 3 indicates a noticeable difference between living according to one’s sinful nature versus one’s spiritual nature. People who are free from God’s judgment may reform their lives based on God’s nature. Christians have a new motivation: glorifying God.

Emphasis on eternity moves us to faithful obedience to Christ and boldly sharing the gospel. We await our heavenly reward AND we want others to receive “His abundant and boundless mercy” too. WMU NC’s Compassion Ministries and Leadership Development efforts reflect the hope that our lives can draw people into closer relationships with God. Through WMU, believers can grow and discover God’s purpose for their lives. We can live in obedience to God, and God will be glorified.

*Pray that WMU Missions Education, Leadership Development, and Compassion Ministries help train others to live out God’s purpose in their lives: spreading the Good News!*