

From
Pastor Hal



I receive a daily devotional from Turning Point Ministries in my email 6 days a week. The thought this morning was such a blessing that I thought I would share it with you. If you are someone who gets electronic mail, let me encourage you to add these spiritual nuggets to your daily Bible reading schedule next year. They can be obtained by signing up at www.turningpoint.org.

The Anchor of Hope

That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12

Modern dictionaries define hope as a “feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen”: We hope it won’t rain on Saturday; we hope we will get the promotion at work; we hope to get accepted into the college of our choice. None of those things is certain. Rather, such hope is based on a feeling of desire. We want something to happen but are not sure it will.

The Bible, on the other hand, says hope is “an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:19), based on what God has done for us in Christ. Turning that thought around, without Christ coming into the world, we would have no hope. His life, death, and resurrection are God’s seal of promise that what we hope for—forgiveness and eternal life—are ours. At Christmas, we celebrate the Source and Object of our hope, Jesus Christ.

Is Christ the Anchor of your soul, “both sure and steadfast”? Don’t let this Christmas pass without putting your faith in Him.

“Let thy hope of Heaven master thy fear of death” William Gurnall



This past week has been a very exciting week. Members in our church have hosted the teen Christmas party, the college and career Christmas party, family gatherings, and other Christmas celebrations in their homes. Thinking about the genuine hospitality of our wonderful church family compels me to lift my hands in praise to a giving God working through a giving church. YES, HE GAVE HIS SON (EMMANUEL). We celebrate His birthday this week. But it doesn’t stop there! The Lord continues to pour blessings into our lives every single day. A huge blessing is our amazing church family that we get to fellowship with every week. Thank you to everyone who hosted parties, worked at the church, and made special meals for the Sunday evening social. You’re awesome! It has been a tough year for most families in America. But seeing the smiles, hugs, and joy in our church this past week offers hope as we round the corner into 2022.

*From the
Pastor*

I want to apologize for having to cancel the midweek service this week. The doctor told me Tuesday that I have the flu. It’s been a rough two days. Thank you for all the prayers. With the help of Tamiflu and God’s healing, I should be well enough by Friday’s Christmas eve service. The service will start at 5:30 p.m. Since the decorations in the sanctuary present the theme “From the Cradle to the Cross”, we will share in the Lord’s Supper Christmas Eve. What A gift-Emmanuel! I hope you can make it as we worship the Lord on the eve of His birth.



Our theme for next year is “Hope Is Here”. We know the Lord Jesus Christ is the Blessed Hope that we long to see soon. But until He comes to take the church home, let’s stay busy! Let’s pray the Lord allows us to share the Gospel next year and see many people accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Our world needs the hope found in the Savior. Your gifts make it possible to share God’s Word more effectively. Thank you to the many members who have financially supported God’s work this year. In preparation for 2022, tithing envelopes are in the church foyer. These envelopes help us systematically give our tithe (our first fruits) to God’s work every week. Let me encourage every member to take a box and make a financial commitment to the Lord! “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.” Jeremiah 17:7



There are also 2022 Bible reading calendars in the foyer. These calendars fit easily into most Bibles. Each one contains a Scripture reading schedule that will take a person through the Bible in a year. They also have a place for notes. There is no charge for these calendars. We want every member to have one!! It’s a great tool to help us work our way through the Scriptures in 2022.

“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”
Psalm 19:8,10



Cindy and I would like to personally thank each member for the beautiful Christmas cards. We thoroughly enjoy reading each one. For those of you who may not know, we store these cards beside our living room chairs. Each morning we pull a card and pray for the person who sent us the holiday cheer. For us, it’s another way to remember to pray for our church family. We love you and want God’s blessings on your life. Each member is such a blessing to us. Some of you even added treats (money, cards, etc.) to your card. Cindy and I realize that money doesn’t grow on trees. And we are very grateful for your kindness. THANK-YOU!



The church offices will be closed Thursday, and Friday to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. Of course, anyone can reach me on my cell phone in case of an emergency. (252) 373-5883

Love in Christ,
Rev. Hal W. Jones III
 Pastor Hal
 Galatians 2:20



Church Attendance	
	
December 15th	
Wednesday Night	70
December 19th	
Sunday School	83
Sunday Morning Worship	152

Schedule of Services

Sunday

In-Person

Sunday School at 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

On-Line

Sunday Morning Online Service at 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Online Service Only at 6 PM

Wednesday

7 PM - Prayer, Praise & Bible Study
 Engage Youth, Propel Kids & Nursery

WOH Services can be seen on either:

Facebook - Hal Jones page
 White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church - Website
 White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church YouTube

MISSIONS CORNER!

Please pray for these missionaries!



348/M
Pastor Hal Jones
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Bailey NC 27807-9517

December 1, 2021

Dear Friend,

In all my years of legal ministry, this past year brought the most challenges and the most opportunities to minister—in ways we never could have imagined. This letter comes to you at the end of the busiest four months I've ever experienced. This year alone we handled over five thousand individual matters that were brought to the NCLL.

God has been good and provided great success despite the changing times we're living in today. Our faith has grown as we've seen God work in and through situations that at the outset seemed difficult or downright impossible. We're reminded what God's Word says in

II Thessalonians 3:3 that "the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

Last year, as many of you know, our ministry worked diligently through the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding church and ministry leaders through unprecedented times. We knew the change in political leadership in our country would bring cultural turmoil, which has in turn resulted in an unprecedented increase in litigation and legal challenges.

Your partnership in prayer and financial support protects vulnerable lives, strengthens churches, and defends the religious liberty of all Americans—including your church members.

Would your ministry consider making a special year-end Partner donation to help offset the many churches and ministries that have had to pause their financial support during this difficult season

A letter detailing each of the legal fights we engaged in this past year would be overwhelming, but I'd like to share a few categories of issues we dealt with so you can pray more specifically as we continue the fight.

Aggressive Health Departments (NY, CO, CA, MD, NJ, MI)

After this past summer, we saw a significant rise in mask mandates again, with Christian schools and ministries back in the crosshairs. State and county health departments refused to honor the requests of parents, who had legitimate health and safety concerns for their children regarding masking. We stood with over one hundred different churches and ministries, corresponding with dozens of health department officials from different states and counties, informing them that Christian schools work "in loco parentis" (in the place of parents) and that parents' rights cannot just be trampled



Religious Exemption for the Vaccine

Since my last letter in April, our ministry received over two thousand calls from individuals in supporting churches and ministries who were at risk of losing their jobs due to the vaccine mandate. We sent letters to hundreds of different employers demanding they recognize the religious freedoms of these individuals. Regardless of personal viewpoints, these individuals were not being provided a choice, and the NCLL took a stand with them. At this time, over 85% of requested exemptions have been granted for the individuals we assisted.





At the end of 2020, we adopted the theme "Times Are Changing in America." This statement couldn't have been more apt this past year. The word *unprecedented* was used heavily during the COVID-19 pandemic. The word doesn't seem to do justice to the incredible changes we've seen in local, county, and state governments.

Years ago, when I began to practice law on behalf of the many churches and ministries across our country, I never imagined I'd someday receive threats from government officials to close Christian schools and day cares for not complying with a forced health order that went against the wishes of parents for their children. We've gone from unprecedented to unbelievable! I'm so thankful we have a never-changing God, Who is still in control and working all things for our good according to His will.



We're so thankful you stand with us. Your special year-end gift will continue to help protect you and other likeminded ministries from preventable legal costs for a fraction of the cost of hiring a commercial law firm.

With an unprecedented demand on our legal services, would you consider making a special year-end Partner donation to help us continue providing legal help to the many who call our office daily for assistance?

In the changing legal landscape and with the increase in litigation, human nature tempts us to focus on the negative. Thankfully, we have just as many stories of God working to bring victory and healing. I wish there was enough room here to recount all the stories of cases that began with a difficult set of circumstances but God resolved in a way that truly brought glory and honor to His name.

**MAXIMIZE
MINISTRY
WHILE
MINIMIZING
LIABILITY**

As with everything we do here at the NCLL, our goal is always to maximize ministry while minimizing liability. Our mission is to provide guidance, support, and protection to churches and ministries across the country to advance Christ's Great Commission. We couldn't continue this mission without your faithful and continued support. I'm personally humbled and grateful for all those who support us through prayers and finances.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry. God bless.

Sincerely,

David C. Gibbs III
President and General Counsel

