



# HOPE RESPONSE

Piantadosi Prayer Newsletter

September 2017

## HOPE Responders in Action

Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, severe famines and firestorms seem at a record high across the world! It breaks your heart to see the suffering people in all the devastation. Yet there are even personal disasters that people are facing all around us such as a spouse leaving, a child rebelling, or a father dying...and their personal world seems to be crumbling and their cry may be barely heard.

### Why get involved?

Luke 21:11-13 says *"There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 12 But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness."* His Story in your life becomes a "HOPE Story!"

### 3 Ways to give Hope after a Disaster

**Q: What can a HOPE Responder team do?**

A: 1. Inspire a HOPE Story, 2. Share a HOPE Story, 3. Train HOPE Responders

**Q: What were the results of the HOPE Response team?**

A: Over 190+ received Christ, 476 homes visited, 187 trained leaders



*"Ivan said his HOPE Story came when his son asked him 'do you love me?' as he*

*came in drunk once again. He said 'of course' to which his son said 'then go to church with me!' He did and the message he heard felt as though God were speaking direct to him. He gave his life to Christ!*



HOPE Responders Training for sharing Christ in times of Loss, Pain and Grief

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Refugee VBS Outreach Week— July 23-28, 2017

## Africans for Christ

The Congo accounted for 16,370 refugees followed by Syria (12,587), Burma (aka Myanmar, with 12,347), Iraq (9,880) and Somalia (9,020). Over the past decade, the largest numbers of refugees have come from Burma (159,692) and Iraq (135,643) in 2016.

Yet along with that has come strong Christians, even pastors who were made stronger by the persecuting fires they endured. They are free to be fervent now in their message and have asked us to teach in an upcoming Pastor's conference being planned.

## Tragedy to Triumph

Churches have for years prayed for doors to open among the people in the 10-40 window. The *10/40 Window*, the most unreached peoples, is the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. The disasters caused by war has led to refugee settlements all over the world in record numbers including here in Phoenix.

An evening VBS for refugees was held in a local park in walking distance for most. Each night was a different story set on the Life of Jesus — His birth, life, miracles, death-burial-resurrection and His Second Coming. What a joy to hear them join with the puppets in singing "Jesus Loves Me" and other gospel songs!

## The Cross Divides

The night we shared the death of Christ an invitation was made and to make a "cross" craft. One boy urgently grabbed hold of another boy saying "don't do that craft because we are not supposed to" but the other pulled his arm away and as he walked towards the craft table he said "I'm still going to because Jesus loves me and He will protect me!" Noticeably after some hesitation, a group of women stood up together, came forward and did the craft with their child and specifically asked to have their picture taken with the cross as their personal stand for what Jesus did for them. The message was clear, "deny Me before men and I will deny you before My Father." Matthew 10:33

## English and the Word of God

Small breakout groups each night resulted in great questions and discussion of the life of Jesus. In an effort to keep these talks going towards worldview change and a relationship with Christ we have begun apartment gatherings for "English and the Word of God." We wrote a 12 week Hope Response language learning tool. It is for everyday skills that they need and uses a Bible story for the English narrative. GCU students help in practice time break out groups.



The Call of the Cross



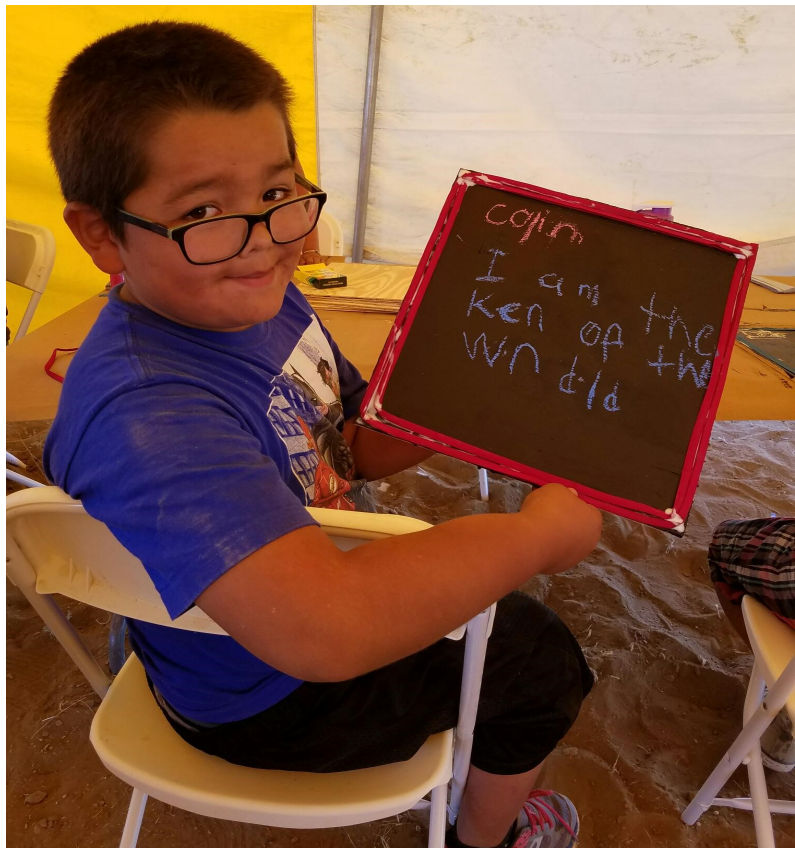


## HOPE Response to Family Love

Our families have tremendous power in our lives. They have the power to influence, power to protect, and the power to even wound. It can be so much that we seek to please a mother or father more than God-given talents or His will for us.

All Tribes Church in Phoenix has asked us to come and help them explore God's Word with the HOPE Response to Family Love over several weeks. They want to know better how to sift through the issues of .....

***What is done with this power?***



A traditional HOPI youth comes to camp

## Tribal Families meet Jesus

Colin is one of several Hopi Tribal youth that came with a family member or friend to hear the stories of Jesus and men and women of faith from God's Word. He shared how each year they could hear the Christians from the tops of the mesas, singing of Jesus in their arbor below.

He and the other children were eager to come to all 10 sessions even if it meant getting up early because they enjoyed the singing, crafts, games, puppets and stories because of how it made him feel. Already as youth they had seen some scary things on the mesa tops but felt safe in the "tent of the Christians."

This year the theme covered was the HOPE Response to Family Love from the book of beginnings— Genesis. A value that is common to Christians and traditional Hopi people is that of family. God had a plan from the start that became clear to Adam after naming the animals that he was alone. God made for him a "helper"—Eve. One man and one woman committed to each other in marriage as "one flesh" and this union was to show the relationship between Christ and those of His believers.

Family was God's first institution but it was the model for his second institution, the Church, known as the "family of God." Healthy families make a healthy church!

# HOPE Story feature

Dane, a Salt River Pima Indian young man has become a glory to God! He recalls asking “why God?” at having never known his real father and then feeling so hurt and angry when his step dad walked out on their family. A sense of belonging came with getting into the wrong crowd on the “rez” that ended him up addicted on meth by age 15. He began to sell it to support it — a growing habit that shrunk his body down to the bone. Then the bottom fell out of his world and he found himself alone with nothing in a cold, dark apartment without people or furniture.

## Mom shows mercy

Yet in this dark hour and despite her own pain from their interactions, his mom was prompted by the Lord to call him and tenderly reach out to him. She brought him home and they decided to go to the local church. There Dane surrendered his life to Jesus. Not long after he went on a HOPE Response mission trip to over 18 reservations to share this hope with others. He learned to preach and started to teach a youth class. He shared this at a men’s retreat and is newly mentored leader.

Then this summer, the ultimate test, a brain aneurism was found. Naturally scared but still like Job he said “yet though he slay me, still will I praise Him” and went on to fly to the Warrior Summit of On Eagle’s Wings to testify before all “I am saved!”



## Prayer Needs

Pray with us as we seek our role with God for....

- Disaster victims/our response to hurricane Harvey and Irma
- Earthquake victims in Mexico and the persecuted Christians
- Refugees turn to Christ in this world crisis
- Latino teams of HOPE Responders
- Native Americans rise above their loss, pain and grief to reach out
- Translators for HOPE Response materials to volunteer

### HOPE Responders in the world

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about being a HOPE Responder too!

**HOPE Response, Inc.**  
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(480) 238-5240

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.hoperesponseinc.org](http://www.hoperesponseinc.org)

LIKE us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/hoperesponseinc](https://www.facebook.com/hoperesponseinc)

Monthly HOPE Responder  
TRAINING - 1st Saturdays,  
9:00—3:00pm with lunch.

## 5 Visions We Need Your Help!

1. HOPE Response teams in each state for disaster response. (Fall trainings in California, Michigan, and Nevada)
2. Ethnic sensitive HOPE Responder teams for Christ. (Currently Latino, African, Arabic, and Native American)
3. Materials written and translated for the HOPE Response of Family Love, Faith, Disaster, Domestic Violence and children (Current need for Spanish, Arabic and French translation)
4. Dedicated staff member for coordinating “helps” interventions to open doors and maintain witness for Christ. (English classes, donated goods and service projects)
5. International HOPE Responder trainings on each continent. (South America and Africa underway)

***We ask you to give specifically for these, even sacrificially so that we may be even more effective in these uncertain “last days!”***

*Nick and Leslie, Olivia and Matthew Piantadosi*

