

P801

GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

SERIES: CHRISTMAS – a time to remember ALL YEAR

TITLE - Where HOPE can be found

SONGS: HOPE IS BORN

RING THE BELLS

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes.

Christmas is an exhilarating time of year, a time of expectations, parties, gathering with family - shopping, but it's also a time of searching for many people.

What ARE these things called hope, peace and joy the Christmas carols talk about?

It sure can't be found in all the tinsel, festivities and gifts we receive or even the excitement of the season.

An empty heart that longs for hope just can't be filled with these things.

Are you looking for HOPE? Our host Barbara Sandbek will explain where hope can be found as she continues with our Christmas series on the Christmas tree gifts.

It's been said that man can live 40 days without food, 10 days without water, 4 minutes without air, but only 2 seconds without hope.

The hope, peace and joy people are looking for...

was born in an obscure village, a child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village where he worked in a carpenter's shop until He was 30. For 3 years was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book, held an office, had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college or visit a big city.

He never traveled more than 200 miles from where he was born.

He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

His only credentials were Himself. While he was dying his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property He had on earth. 20 centuries have come & gone & He is still the central figure of the human race.

**All the armies that ever marched, navies that ever sailed,
parliaments that ever sat, kings that ever reigned PUT
TOGETHER have not affected the life of man on this earth as
much as that one solitary life - Jesus.**

3:01

***** **WRITER: JIM BRINKMAN**

***** HOPE IS BORN * LENGTH: 3:01**

Starlight falling on the snow
Fire glows within
Celebrate the joyful news
Hope is born again

There is holly 'round the doorway
There is cider on the stove
And the sound of Psalm will fill the air
As the family gathers close

Lift your voices high and sing
Grace has entered in
Praises to the infant King
Hope is born again

Through the frost upon the window
See the stockings on the hearth
Where the light reflects the cheerfulness
That's growing in our hearts

Lift your voices high and sing
Grace has entered in
Celebrate the joyful news
Hope is born again

Lift your voices high and sing
Grace has entered in
Praises to the infant King
Hope is born again

And the hope of that first Christmas
The day that Heaven came to earth
Now it comes again and fills our heart
As we celebrate His birth

Starlight falling on the snow
Fire glows within
Celebrate the joyful news
Hope is born again, hope is born again

This HOPE is one of the things that makes our Christmas celebration so very special.

Dale' s Scandinavian tradition has us conducting our celebration on Christmas eve. We eat, sing, read the Christmas story from Luke 2 and socialize, but even the kid in us, adults, can't wait to open the presents under the tree.

Yes, I like the surprise of opening presents and I feel blessed just to know someone thought enough of me to buy me a gift, but I always try to keep the giving and receiving of gifts in perspective. After all, it's not so much about us loving each other through giving; it's about what God thought of us and the gifts He gave because of His great love for us.

On our last program, I told you that my Christmas tree looks a bit different than most trees. I decorated it with ornaments that name some of the many gifts we can receive because Jesus came to earth. There is so much to be said about each one, so I thought I'd dedicate the next few programs to helping us all appreciate these gifts. Maybe you could make this part of your celebration. Get a small tree and make ornaments like these. Have the kids help out and discuss each gift around the dinner table.

Ok, let's start. Here's a gift that spells out the real reason Jesus came to earth. It's marked SALVATION. It is wrapped in white paper and tied with a bright red ribbon symbolizing Jesus' purity and His precious Blood shed for us.

**These gifts you see upon this tree
Are gifts that can't be bought, or sold
though they do have a high price tag on them.**

**The cost has been paid with the life of God's Son, Jesus,
who died on a CROSS to save us from our sin.**

**You see, God has His Christmas tree. It's not as pretty as
the department store tree, trimmed with tinsel & lights,
but He does has a Christmas tree – it's the cross
which was trimmed with Jesus,
the LIGHT OF THE WORLD.**

In fact, the proper name for CROSS is TREE.

**The first gift under the tree(or cross) is marked SALVATION
and it has your name on it.**

**If you open & receive THAT GIFT you'll see that the others
will have your name written on them, too,
because they are given to you when you receive Christ as
your Savior.
They are the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

**An unopened gift is a gift not received. Make this the season to
receive God's free gift of Salvation. He paid it all, just for you.**

**Once we receive salvation by believing in Jesus as our Savior, we
can then begin to understand what this next gift is all about.**

It is marked LOVE.

**As Believers in Jesus Christ, we have more than just hope, we have God's
precious promises; one of which is that He will NEVER leave or forsake us.
He will NEVER UNLOVE US.**

**Romans 8:38 Paul writes with confidence that we can have as Believers...
I am persuaded that never DEATH nor LIFE nor ANGELS
nor PRINCIPALITIES nor HEIGHT nor DEPTH
nor any other creature shall be able to SEPARATE us from the
LOVE of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Psalms 33:18 is so beautifully stated...

**The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those
whose HOPE is in his unfailing love.**

That really consoles me. How about you?

1 John 4:8 and 16 both state that GOD IS LOVE.

**1 John 4:9-10 describes the demonstration of God's love to us:
This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his One and
Only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is
love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

**Romans 5:8 says,
God commended HIS LOVE toward us in that while
we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

God COMMENDED (means He introduced) HIS LOVE, Jesus, to us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 states...

... because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Listen to 1 John 3:1a:

See what GREAT LOVE the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

Jesus gave up His GLORY, confined himself to body, walked among sinful man, and allowed Himself to be crucified so we can be RECONCILED to GOD and become a part of His family!

But why?

John 3:16 tells us...

For God so LOVED the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that WHOSOEVER believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The WONDER of CHRISTMAS is that GOD LOVES US and wants our fellowship!

We can KNOW GOD'S LOVE because of Christmas!

So let's RING OUT THIS LOVE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR – by telling and demonstrating it to a world that needs to experience it.

***** **WRITER: Harry Bollback**
** **RING THE BELLS** *** **LENGTH: 1:59 (intro 8 seconds)**

***Ring the bells, ring the bells
Let the whole world know
Christ was born in Bethlehem many years ago
Born to die that man might live
Came to earth new life to give
Born of Mary born so low – many years ago.***

God the Father gave His Son

*Gave His own Beloved One
To this wicked sinful earth
To bring mankind, His love, new birth*

*Ring the bells, ring the bells
Let the whole world know
Christ was born in Bethlehem many years ago*

*God the Father gave His Son
Gave His own Beloved One
To this wicked sinful earth*

*To bring mankind, His love, new birth
Ring the bells, ring the bells
Let the whole world know
Christ the Savior lives today
As He did so long ago.*

**Have you enjoyed Grace Notes? Then why not write & tell us
at Sandbek Ministries P.O. Box 581 Fallston, MD 21047
or email us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.
Join us on our next program. We'll be sharing more about the
gifts under the Christmas tree.**

