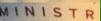


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### **March 2024 Ministry Update**

"Giving a Message of Hope & Healing to a Broken World" The Evangelistic Ministry of Rick J Lairsey



### **Moving Forward in HOPE**

In looking to the future, I believe that God has given me this word. The future is not so much the plans I have made, but fulfilling the HOPE that I am called to! Look at Jeremiah 31:17 (ESV) where it says "there is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country."

Hope is not a dream but a way of making dreams become a reality. Moving forward or even looking forward is imperative. God questioned, "Would that they [Israel] were wise, that they understood this, that they would discern their future!" (Deut. 32:28-29, NASB) And then the verdict in Lamentations 1:9 (GW) ... "Jerusalem ... gave no thought to its future. Its downfall was













shocking."

Moving forward in Hope is seen in three main places in the prophetic ministry of Jeremiah. We need to capture the essence of Hope and what it means. Hope means...

## HOPE I NAMING GOD'S PREFERRED FUTURE

Jeremiah 1:1 (NKJV) The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.

Jeremiah had an Optimistic Name. His name means --- "The Lord Exalts" or "The Lord Hurls." Jeremiah's parents named their child like all ancient Hebrew parents with a name that would breathe life into their character. They did this by embedding the name of God in the framework of their name. This would remind their children that God wanted to act in their life in some powerful way. They wanted to see Jeremiah used by God to bring his glory into this earth and to see him hurled as a mighty javelin against the forces of evil. They had hopes for their son like all good parents do. Jeremiah brought joy to his parents because he grew up to live out the destiny that was spoken over him in prayer

The truth is there were many leaders who had God's name attached to them but failed to live out their parents hopes in naming them.

# HOPE IS SEEING THE PRESENT IN LIGHT OF THE FUTURE

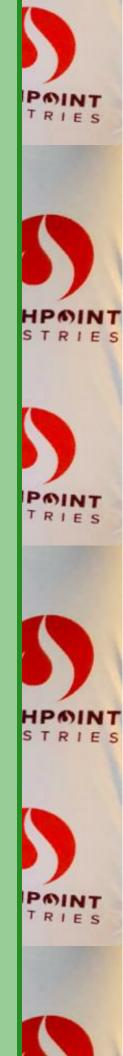
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We see this in Jeremiah's assuring letter to the exiled Jews in Babylon. This hope-filled letter came within the context of false prophets selling the exiled people of God a shallow message of returning to Jerusalem in a very short period of time.

#### They found themselves ...

- Living in a land they did not grow up in,
- · Among a people they did not understand,
- · In a culture that was not their own.
- Their lives had been disrupted violently.
- They did not want to be where they found themselves.

Jeremiah's letter told them to settle down in the cities they found themselves in, to build houses, to plant gardens, to marry and have children and to give their children away in marriage. He told them to pray for the peace and prosperity of the city they found themselves in because it would be a long time before





any of them saw Jerusalem again.

This exile caused Israel to be jarred from the everydayness of life and begin a journey of spiritual development and creativity that would radically change the course of Israel's future. They would learn to be God's people in a place they did not want to be. Instead of losing their identity they discovered it. They learned how to pray deeper and search the Scripture. Instead of the comfortable but reality-distorting surroundings of Jerusalem, this new and difficult place opened their spiritual eyes for the first time and showed them how empty their lives had been. And instead of filling their stomachs with what satisfies they found that the Word of God was their most essential nourishment.

The good news is that God was not tied to a particular city and familiar surroundings, instead He was wherever His people found themselves.

#### Ezekiel is an example of this.

- More important than the climate of this place
- · More important than the culture of this place
- More important than the economics of this place
- More important than the neighbors in this place ... IS THE GOD OF THIS PLACE!

When all is stripped away, we find a rich life with God. Normal life is full of distractions. Life is full of irrelevancies. Then catastrophe strikes: Dislocation, exile, illness, accident, job loss, divorce, death. We are no longer at home but in a foreign land. We have a choice to make when this happens.

We can get caught up in the self-pity of dislocation and despair. --- OR --- We can grab the promises of God's Word and dig deeper into the wellsprings of faith and hope.

Hope cannot really grow until it finds itself in adverse situations. Hope allows us to see the present considering the future. Hope allows us to live in negative circumstances with a positive attitude. Hope allows us to focus our attention on what makes for a better life in a place we may not want to be. Hope allows you to see the opportunities in the circumstances you find yourself: The house you live in. The family you find yourself in. The job you have been given. The church you have been assigned to.

#### HOPE IS BUYING INTO THE FUTURE

This is seen in Jeremiah's confident example right before the fall of Jerusalem. Jeremiah 32:6-7,9 (NLT) says, "the LORD sent me a message – Your cousin ...will come and say to you, 'Buy my field at Anathoth...so I bought the field."

Jeremiah is in the King's jail, and Jerusalem is about to fall into the hands of a foreign army, but he buys his Uncle's field in





Anathoth. Why? He has hope that is driven by a promise from the Lord. Hope is the reality that is being constructed but is not vet visible.

Hope commits us to action regarding the promises of God. Too often what we call hope is nothing more than wishful thinking. Wishful thinking is when we want things that are near impossible, but we are not serious enough to either spend any money on them or commit our lives to them.

Biblical hope is an act like buying a field in Anathoth. Hope acts on the conviction that God will complete the work that He has begun even when the circumstances look bleak. Hope buys into what we truly believe in. It makes a down payment on its dreams. Hope buys into a church becoming a lighthouse to the city. Hope buys into a family becoming united. Hope buys into a marriage becoming healed and restored. Hope buys into a child coming home to God.

HOPE PUTS MONEY ON IT! IT MAKES INVESTMENTS IN WHAT IT BELIEVES IN.

So, when Babylon is at the gate of the city --- God is still the God of the city! Hope is what gives you power to stand through the storms of adversity. When the Doctor says cancer, Hope says by His stripes I am healed! When your accountant says bankruptcy, Hope says my God shall meet all your needs according to glorious riches of Christ Jesus. When the enemy camps outside the walls of your house, Hope says I am the God who fights your battles. When disaster sweeps in like a summer hurricane and knocks your house from its foundations, Hope says I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord..." plans to give you a hope and a future!!! Hope is the permanent invading the fleeting. Hope is the unshakable establishing the unstable. Hope is the ultimate marching into the passing moment of your struggle.

#### **BUY THE FIELD IN ANATHOH!**

**Rick J Lairsey National Evangelist, Church of God (Cleveland, TN)** Founder, Flashpoint Ministries, Inc.









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## February 2024 Highlights

63 SAVED/RESTORED!

51 Holy Ghost Baptisms

30 Answered Call to Ministry

At Living Hope in Crisfield, MD there were 10 Baptized in the Holy Ghost in one Sunday Night Service.

At Discover Life in Melbourne, Florida, 25 Answered Call to Ministry!

At Blossom COG in Blossom, Texas there were 21 Saved/Restored and 18 Holy Ghost Baptisms!

Several Testimonies of Healing and Breakthrough!

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!













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MARCH 3 @ PRAISE CATHEDRAL COG, COOKEVILLE, TN (PASTOR ERIC VICKERS) March 10 - 11 @ New Day Church, Newburg, IN

(PASTOR WILLIAM HEARD)

MARCH 17 – 18 @ MEADOWOOD COG, RICHMOND, VA (PASTOR RICHARD DUNN)

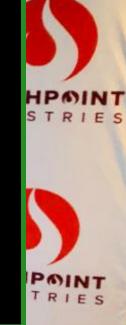
MARCH 21 & 28 @ ADULT TEEN CHALLENGE, SEAFORD, DE (DIRECTOR BOB CAREY)

MARCH 24 @ VICTORY TABERNACLE COG, LAUREL, DE (PASTOR STACEY JOHNSON)

**REVIVAL FIRES ARE BURNING!** 









I Have the following dates available:

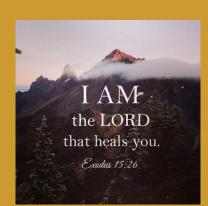
March 31

June 2 June 9 June 30

**Booking 2024 Dates** 



TRUE REVIVAL



JOIN WHAT GOD IS **DOING THROUGH** PRAYER AND SUPPORT!

I am looking for ministry partners and will come along side through prayer and through giving to support the vision and mission of fulfilling the Great Commission. The time is short and there is much to be done. Thank you in advance for all you do!

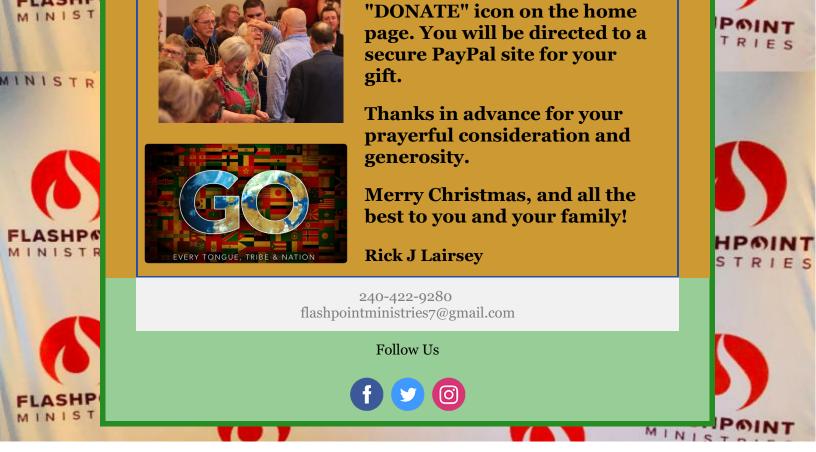
To DONATE, you can go to the ministry website, www.flashpointmini stries-now.org and click the











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