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Editor's note: The following Letter of Hope was taken from part of a letter written a year ago by Rev Doug Greenough. This letter was recently shared with us by Barbara Carter. Rev. Greenough, who passed away in January, was a former minister at Barbara's church in Sarnia and he also provided ministry to one of our former churches. Perhaps some of you may also know Doug. We share these words with permission from Rev. Greenough's wife Marj and they provide a great reflection on the hopes of the past as well as provide a foundation for hope to come. R&L

### Hope - Tragedy and Triumph

I am privileged to have this opportunity to once again share my own thoughts and affirmations with you who have gathered this day for prayer and praise when we struggle to understand and endeavor to live our lives in these turbulent times as the world struggles to move beyond both the Coronavirus 19 and the economic turbulence that have inflicted the nations of the world.

I would like to share some of my thoughts as we try to move through these days in confident hope. I suspect we can never return to the world as it was, but we can move with confidence to a new, different tomorrow.

Like you, I and Marj, my wife, miss personal contact with not only friends but also family, now hearing their voices, and missing the warm embrace, the intimacy of family and just being able to reach out and touch their hands. Literally, if we are in the right place we can wave to them on the other side of our glass windows. BUT - we do live with Hope that a day will come when all these barriers will come down.

Remember those old familiar hymns of HOPE

O God our help in ages past, Our HOPE for years to come

Hope is a star that shines in the night  
Leading us on til the morning is bright.

Count your blessings; see what the Lord hath done  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one.

The popular duet sung as a part of our worship  
Whispering Hope...O for the voice of an Angel - whispering hope

### Hope - one of the foundation stones of the Christian life.

Our scriptures abound with the dimension of hope - here are several

1st Corinthians 13:13 - *There are three things that last forever; faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these three is love.*

Romans 12:12 - *Let Hope keep you joyful, in trouble stand firm, persist in prayer*

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you live in him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Hope is the turbine that moves our ship of life through the turbulent waters of the sea to safe harbors with new experiences of abundant living.

Hope brings new life. I have learned that over many years of ministry. To live in hope is to move your focus from being negative to that which is positive.

Rev Doug Greenough

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

