

2016-17 VISION FROM A HOPEFUL HEART

by Debe Haller

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

-Hebrews 6:19



Our theme for 2016-17 is *Anchored in Christ*. Let's always remember that our HOPE is the LORD. After moving the office back to our home two summers ago, God opened the door to affiliate with Liberty Christian Academy/CrossPoint Church (HB) for our varied campus activities, meetings, AHG/TLUSA Troops, sports, classes, etc. It has been an amazing blessing to be on their great campus and experience their graciousness to us and our Hope families.

In the 1985-86 school year when Danny and I began our adventure of home educating our children, our sons were in second and fifth grade. Throughout the years we marveled at God's grace as we experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows that accompany parenthood. Since those early years, we adopted our two daughters, two of our children revisited traditional school settings and came back home. We lost several loved ones to death, watched God cause growth in us as His children and in the seeds we planted- both in the ground and in our children. We changed curriculum umpteen times, had children hospitalized, and gleaned lessons about God's care from our mother hens and their chicks. We graduated our four children from Hope between 1991 and 2006. With great joy and prayerfulness I homeschooled our oldest grandson Bubs, a young man with Asperger's, most of his schooling years and graduated him at Hope's 25th Promotional Ceremony & Graduation in 2015.

Over the years, we learned new ways to structure our day, celebrated forty-four years of marriage by God's grace and developed treasured friendships. Adding a pot-bellied pig named "Millie B. Bacon" to our menagerie, daily experiencing God's mercy as I schooled our nephew, a niece, guided four teens through encounters with junior college courses, and trusted God to protect two children as we sent them out of state for internships, all kept us on our knees. As we obeyed God, He inspired effort and provided time for me to write two books. Watching Hope grow from the original fourteen young and apprehensive families to many families who are committed to follow God's best for their families is priceless. Together we work as a team for the protection and perseverance to fulfill our calling to raise Godly children. After over forty years as parents and over thirty years of homeschooling, Danny and I occasionally enjoy a quiet moment to spend time together. In August 2015 we welcomed 82 year old Doris and 93 year old Lloyd to live with us. They are our two adopted daughters' grandparents and have been our friends since that time in 1986. Frequently our house and yard are full of visiting adult children and grandchildren. God continually reminds us of our priorities as He provides opportunities for us to invest in the lives of our family, friends, and Hope members for eternity.

In the summer of 2003 we moved the school office and library from our home to a commercial location and expanded our services to include a home educator book and country gift store. "Store schooling" three grandchildren gave us new ideas and perspective on home schooling. In the spring of 2006 God provided the quaint two-story building at the front of Garden Grove Friends Church property that housed our school offices, library, and meeting rooms for eight years. With the fierce internet competition, it was not prudent to maintain our bookstore. During the necessary move off the campus in early 2014 God inspired me with a renewed vision, with the theme that year *Rooted in Christ*, and Jeremiah 17:7-8.

If we are Christian families who desire to make a difference to raise up a foundation for future Godly generations, we must make plans and invest ourselves for eternity, taking the daily steps necessary to obtain our goal. We can not afford to focus solely on each day, each semester, or even each year, as though getting through that moment in time is our goal. We must look twenty years down the road. Where, or better yet whom, do you want your family, your children, or yourself to be in the year 2035? Hope operates as a team of committed parents working toward common goals.

To provide a Christian alternative for scouting and a mentoring program to raise up the next generation for God, we chartered two troops. In 2011 we chartered American Heritage Girls Troop 4673 and in January 2014, for boys we chartered Trail Life USA Troop 4673. The vision at Hope is to offer support, guidance, and accountability to parents who desire to train their children to 1) live by Biblical principles; 2) practice responsible life skills and stewardship; 3) pursue excellence in academics; 4) be conformed to the image of Christ, and 5) be team players and good examples to others. We are training our children, especially teens, to reach beyond the desire to look for what they can get from others and Hope activities. Our children are being taught to be submissive to their parents and all authorities, and good examples to other children. We have confidence that God will develop character in our children as we follow His principles in training them to look outside of themselves for purpose in life. Let's look to God to give us unity as conservative Christian private home educating families pursuing not only excellence in education, but a worthy walk of integrity to His glory and honor.

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Home is the Opportunity for Pursuing Excellence

Mailing: 16478 Beach Blvd #394, Westminster, CA 92683 714-373-HOPE <4673>

debe@hopeca.com

www.hopeca.com

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