



HOPE³ Ministries News

Fall/Winter 2018

Cradle to Cross: A HOPE³ Live Nativity Event



We are excited to announce that HOPE³ Ministries will be hosting its first live nativity event to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The event is called **Cradle to Cross**.

Participants will be greeted by a shepherd guide who will share his story and lead participants to the manger accompanied by an adorable and friendly goat, Jethro.

Once participants leave the manger, they will be escorted by another guide to learn about the cross, which represents our crucified savior, the forgiveness of our sins, and our salvation. Our goal is for participants to leave the experience with a renewed sense of peace, love, joy, and hope.

In addition to the chance to meet a few of the characters of the Christmas story, there will be barn

animals to pet, including a donkey and a miniature horse. We will also sing some familiar Christmas carols and offer hot chocolate and apple cider to warm you up after your cradle to cross journey.

This is a great event for folks of all ages. Bring a friend or neighbor and come experience the wonder of Christ's birth in a very personal way!

When: Friday, December 14th & Saturday, December 15th from 6:00—8:00 PM each day

Where: Peaceful Point Farm, 25428 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Ruther Glen, VA

You do not need to RSVP for this event, but be sure to dress warmly, as all activities will be held outside.



Why Are We Here? A Year's End Reflection

What is the purpose of life? Why am I here?

These questions are as old as humanity and have been asked throughout the generations. People want to know what purpose their life has beyond the everyday, and the sometimes mundane activities that fill our time. If our faith is based on the beliefs of Christianity, then we might ask those questions in this way, "What is God's will for my life, and how can I best live that out?"

By asking the question from this perspective, that is, from the perspective of God, then the answer begins to take shape before we even formulate the response. Because as we look at our lives through the lens of our faith, then we must begin with the One in which all things begin, God. So, let us turn to a passage of Scripture that might direct our thinking in answering these eternal questions.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)

The love Jesus was referring to was not

merely a love of fleeting feelings or simple emotions, but rather a love that was a deep devotion to the subject of one's love. This love was meant to direct the actions of the individual in a way that would give way to a certain life. Rather than putting one's own wants and desires first, Jesus was conveying the message that our devotion should first be given to God and to not put other 'gods' or idols before Him.

So how do we order our lives so that God is our first love? And while that's a question only each of us can answer, we can

likely agree that how we spend our time can be a determining factor. By focusing on using our time to better understand God, our relationship with God, and how we live that out in relationship with others is a starting point for us to ponder.

As a parting word then, I offer these words from Colossians 3:12, "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

(We thank Pastor Mark Roscoe for this poignant reflection.)



Board Member Spotlight: Zaccheaus Katta



Rev. Zaccheaus Katta joined the HOPE³ Board in 2017. He came to the US from Hyderabad, India, and currently resides in Glen Allen, VA. Zacc is a chaplain at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he conducts art & spiritual activities for the rehabilitation patients.

Previously, he worked as a chaplain at Westminster Canterbury, Richmond, for dementia residents. Apart from holding a BA in Political Science and an MA in Philosophy from Osmania University, India, he holds a Masters of Divinity from United Theological College, Bangalore, India and a diploma in social administration.

Before migrating to the USA in 2015, Zacc served as a parish senior minister for twenty years in the Diocese of Medak, Church of South India (a union church of Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian).

Zacc is a visual artist, wooden sculptor, stained glass artist, and photographer. With over 20 successful group and solo exhibitions under his belt, Zacc is a seasoned artist in secular and theological spectrums. He uses his gift of art as a tool for providing care to patients. Zacc received the National Art Program award at VCU in 2016 and 2018. And on November 14, 2018, Zacc became a US citizen!

The Year in Review: HOPE³ in 2018



2018 has been another productive year for HOPE³ Ministries. The year kicked off with our weekly **Bible Study**. The study has between 8 to 12 regular participants who are currently in the second year of a chronological study of the New Testament. Not only do we study the Word, but also aim to apply Scripture to our daily lives. Each study is completed by praying for folks connected to the Ministry, as well as

prayer requests received through our website.

This was the second year for our **Bible Outreach** ministry, and we engaged with visitors at four local fairs, festivals, and events. Throughout the year, we put more than two hundred free Bibles in the hands of those hungry for His Word. We had many meaningful conversations with folks and are excited word is

getting out about HOPE³ throughout the region.

Our monthly **Family Fun** had an average of 25-30 participants each month. Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to purchase a Christian curriculum for each gathering, containing a skit, scripture and a fun activity. Family Fun still begins with a home-cooked meal each month. God continues to provide enough food, even at

times when we might have misjudged how large the group of participants would be!

In the Spring we held the fourth **HOPE³ Weekend** in the life of the ministry. This was our first coed Weekend, with men and women at different tables, and contained our first husband and wife participants. The Weekend was supported by dozens of volunteers and hundreds of prayer warriors, and we know that the participants felt God's love throughout the Weekend.

To support the effort of getting the word out about the ministry to local area pastors who may be interested in partnering with us for upcoming HOPE³ Weekends and activities, we held two information sessions over a meal with local church leaders in attendance. The sessions were well received and we enjoyed the conversations with those leaders. If your church would be interested in learning more about HOPE³, please be sure to let us know!

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
At once they left their nets and followed him. ~ Mark 1: 17-18*

Join Us For Christmas Family Fun!

If you have not yet had an opportunity to attend one of our Family Fun events, December is a great one for trying it out. We begin each gathering with a homecooked meal and fellowship before moving to a time of a fun activity.

In December, that activity is a gift-giving game. After every lovingly-wrapped gift has been unwrapped, every participant will go home with one present. It's fun for folks of all ages.

Our next Family Fun will take place on Sunday, December 23, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Come as you are and experience the Christmas spirit.



Coming Up at HOPE³ Ministries in Fall/Winter 2018/19

HOPE³ Ministries events are open to all who wish to experience God's love through fellowship or study of His word. Family Fun events start with a home-cooked meal at 5:30 PM. Each Thursday, Bible Study begins with dinner at 6:30 PM. Come as you are!

Our next HOPE³ Weekend is scheduled to take place May 24-27, 2019. If you would like more information about this Weekend or any of the upcoming events for our ministry, please contact us at the phone number or e-mail address below.

This December, join us for our first Live Nativity event. All events are held at Peaceful Point Farm in Ruther Glen, VA, unless otherwise noted.

November 25	Family Fun
November 29	Bible Study
December 6, 13, 20, 27	Bible Study
December 14 & 15	Cradle to Cross Live Nativity
December 23	Family Fun
January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2019	Bible Study
January 27, 2019	Family Fun
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2019	Bible Study
February 24, 2019	Family Fun
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May 24-27, 2019	HOPE ³ Weekend
September 19-22, 2019	HOPE ³ Weekend



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WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE JOYFULLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND CONTINUAL NURTURING.