



Hope is in the Air at Christmas

Unprecedented. Tumultuous. Unpredictable. Such words describe this unforgettable year now drawing to a close.

Never before have we seen the world shut down across every time zone as people of every language face shared threats to their health and economic security. Social distancing has caused many to experience “touch hunger” even as millions around the globe feel the pang of physical hunger. Social unrest rocks our cities.

Clearly our world is changing, and yet no one quite knows what the future will bring.

In such times, Christmas beautifully reminds us of the calming, surpassing **hope** we have in Jesus. As our King, he is actively pursuing lives, communities, and nations with extravagant love. He is quietly entering people’s lives, often behind the scenes, like Jesus’ gentle arrival in Bethlehem.

There is an air of expectancy in global missions. **Hope** is in the air. Reports of increased receptivity are coming in from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Christ-followers in every nation are discovering ways to share the gift of Christmas by loving their neighbors in practical ways.

A year ago, One Challenge adopted “*Forward Together*” as our 2020 theme. Little did we know the significance this would bear. The storm created by the pandemic directed our hearts upward and caused ministry plans to pivot.

As a learning organization, we’re asking how God is at work and discovering new opportunities to help the body of Christ care for one another and bring **hope** in Jesus to the hurting.

Christmas points to the Great Commission where Jesus promises his enabling presence as we flow with him in mission. When your kids and grandkids ask you one day, “What was it like in 2020?”, as you walk with Jesus, you’ll be able to tell them stories of how God met you personally, saw you through, and enabled you to spread his **hope** to others.

No doubt, this year’s not been easy. Many have endured pain and loss along the way. But we can move forward together with **hope** that is unshakeable. As Billy Graham once said, “*I’ve read the last page of the Bible. It’s all going to turn out all right.*”

Keep up the good work! May the Lord be honored and the nations blessed through your teamwork with One Challenge!



Dr. Dean Carlson, OC President