

## *Prescription for hope*

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*

*Hebrews 11:1 (RSV)*

A girl around 7 years old came to a medical clinic we sponsored with the help of a volunteer team from Spartanburg, South Carolina. We found out that her father was an alcoholic who mistreated her mother and her siblings. Most of the time, this little girl was left alone in the house to do all the chores and take care of her brothers and sisters. After she had shared these things, she asked, “Do you have any pills that would give me hope?”

So many people run short of hope and wonder how they can continue. It would be marvelous if there were a quick fix for hopeless lives. We were able to tell the little girl that Someone could give her hope. Jesus Christ could share the heavy burdens that she carried. Cheeks were wet with tears as we lovingly put her in touch with the One who truly does offer hope when our way is too hard and our load is too great.

We as Christians should be a people of hope. We often encounter desperate people, and sometimes we despair. In the dark times, we need to embrace faith in our Lord in order to restore hope in our road-weary souls. Faith really is “the assurance of things hoped for.” And what do we hope for? Love, forgiveness, relationship and God’s sustaining grace can see us through, no matter how hard the road is before us.

Running a little short of hope today? Celebrate your faith and embrace hope! Not only that—give some away to others.

—LILY, MIDDLE AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*Gracious Father,* YOU ARE THE GOD OF HOPE. THANK YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT MY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE, YOU GIVE HOPE IN HOPELESS SITUATIONS. HELP ME TO SHARE HOPE WITH OTHERS. GIVE MISSIONARIES OPPORTUNITIES TODAY TO SHARE HOPE WITH THE LOST.  
*Amen.*