



| **Wednesday, December 5**

Hope, Moving us Along in Life

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

It was July 1968. I was a 19-year-old farm boy nearing the end of my military leave before heading off to Vietnam. I could sense my parents were worried, especially my mom, but dad was also quieter than usual. I remember saying to them something like, "Don't worry. I'm not, and if it's my time, it's my time, but if it's not I'll be back, and I plan on coming back".

Now, as a parent and grandparent, I often think of how emotionless and almost cold that statement really was. I often wish I could put my arms around my parents again and tell them I too was worried, but that we all need to do is put our hope and trust in God and in prayer.

When each of our daughters were born I felt wow, this miracle of life is more than the doing of humankind alone, but it truly is part of God's work. The hope of life is also experienced by any of us who plant seeds or raise livestock. We plant those seeds and then realize that we need to place hope and faith in God in order to harvest the seeds that were sown.

Lord, we pray that this season of Advent is truly a season of hope, the hope that the coming of Jesus brings into our lives. Amen.

- Darrell Larsen