



# PRISONS WEEK 2009 RESOURCES

## SAYINGS OF HOPE

### Sayings of Hope

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Romans 8.24-25**

If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream

**Martin Luther King Jr. [1929-1968]**

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.

**Robert F Kennedy [1925-1968]**

Hope is sparked when something of eternity bursts into our fragile lives. For a moment we lift our eyes from the problems of the world and glimpse things as they could be, as they will be.

**Andy Frost [Director of Share Jesus International]**

In a pauper's stable – hope was born  
In the minds of poor shepherds – hope burnt bright  
In the eyes of an old woman – hope was seen  
In the ears of the deaf – hope was heard  
In the skin of the diseased – hope was felt  
In the bodies of the lame – hope gave strength  
In the hearts of his disciples – hope gave warmth  
In the traitorous kiss – hope was not lost  
In the tears by the cross – hope gave comfort  
In the empty tomb – hope gave life  
To us all. Amen.

**Richard Vaultrey [Vice-President of Methodist Conference 2009-10]**

Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Romans 5.5**

Hope is like the wing of an angel, soaring up to heaven, and gearing our prayers to the throne of God.

**Jeremy Taylor [1613-1667]**

My hopes are not always realised, but I always hope.

**Ovid [43BC - 17AD]**

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

**Romans 12.12**

All which happens in the whole world happens through hope. No husbandman would sow a grain of corn if he did not hope it would spring up and bring forth the ear. How much more are we helped on by hope in the way to eternal life!

**Martin Luther [1483-1546]**

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

**Psalm 33.22**

Hope, like the gleaming taper's light, adorns and cheers our way; and still, as darker grows the night, emits a brighter ray.

**Oliver Goldsmith [1730-1774]**

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

**Isaac Watts [1674-1748]**

I place no hope in my strength, nor in my works: but all my confidence is in God my protector, who never abandons those who have put all their hope and thought in Him.

**François Rabelais [1494-1553]**

The word which God has written on the brow of every man is hope

**Victor Hugo [1802-1865]**

Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier.

**Author Unknown**

Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do.

**Pope John XXX111 [1881-1963]**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15.13**

Hope isn't a form of optimism, putting a positive spin on a difficult situation, calling half empty half full. It is the skill of seeing now in the light of eternity, of understanding what is in the knowledge of what will be. Hope is the frame of mind of those who choose to believe in God's promise that one day all will be made new.

Hope doesn't make you feel comfortable, it isn't soothing and relaxing, it sets your heart beating with new possibilities, it makes now almost unbearable because of how things could be. Hope is the child sleepless on Christmas Eve who is caught in the agony of expectation that is almost too much to bear.

Hope isn't passive, a sitting down daydream about a future fantasy into which we can escape the mundane and painful present. Hope is the out of balance runner who sees what is to come and has to push forwards to stop from falling.

To live in hope is to hunger after righteousness, to know the terrible poverty of the present because of the glory to come, it is to mourn with tears still to be shed, to be at odds with the present. To walk in hope is to walk the narrow way, to choose life and not death, to know the beatitudes of God.

**Mark Wakelin [Secretary for International Relationships, The Methodist Church]**

The essence of optimism is that it takes no account of the present, but it is a source of inspiration, of vitality and hope where others have resigned; it enables a man to hold his head high, to claim the future for himself and not to abandon it to his enemy.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer [1906-1945]**

Some hope!

And so is it just hoping against hope,  
Whistling in the dark,  
Keeping on keeping on ?

No – it is confidence in the possibility  
That the cynics may be wrong:  
That love does cast out fear,  
Light shall overcome the darkness  
And hope will triumph over despair.

That God has come to live with us  
And life can never be the same again.

**David Walton** [*Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2008-9*]

Once you choose hope, everything is possible.  
**Christopher Reeve**

Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark.  
**George Iles**

When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you're slamming the door in the face of God.  
**Charles L Allen**

Hope never abandons you, you abandon it.  
**George Weinberg**

Hope is patience with the lamp lit.  
**Tertullian**

Without hope men are only half alive. With hope they dream and think and work.  
**Charles Sawyer**

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope or confidence.  
**Helen Keller**

Our greatest good and what we least can spare is hope.  
**John Armstrong**

Hope is the anchor of the soul, the stimulus to action, and incentive to achievement.  
**Anonymous**

Hope is not a dream, but a way of making dreams become reality.  
**Cardinal Suenens**

There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown hopeless about them.  
**Clare Booth Luce**

**Prisons week 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2009**

**www.prisonweek.org**

**A week of prayer for all those involved with prisons**