

# Hope does not put us to shame.

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“From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God” (Jonah 2:1)

[/blockquote]High school sweethearts Shelia and Butch got engaged during their senior year in high school. In order to afford college Butch joined the army out of high school and served four tours in Afghanistan. During this time Butch and Shelia carried on a long distance relationship and, soon after Butch arrived home from Afghanistan, he and Shelia were married. The following year Grace Nicole was born. Immediately Butch and Shelia began having serious marital problems. Butch was drinking heavily and Shelia was sliding into deep depression. Butch realized that their lives were literally falling apart and, in a moment of desperation, he cried out, “Lord, God where are You? I’m losing my way, Father. My wife is drowning in the deepest pit of emotional depression. Lord, God of Heaven and Earth, please save us now.”

In the same way, Jonah cried out to the “Lord, God” from within the belly of the big fish. Out of anger and utter frustration, Jonah accused God of casting him into the hopeless deep. Jonah paints a vivid picture of his demise. Death had wrapped its tentacles around him like seaweed. Jonah’s hope appeared to have lost its usefulness; as he began to sink into the bottomless pit of the sea.

The apostle Paul wrote, “Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

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“Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope.” –Gilbert M. Beeken

[/blockquote] Butch and Sheila reconnected with a local church and learned the value of hope through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A relationship that refuses to let down even the most disappointed believer. Today they are walking in the fullness of victory serving the Lord and this community because someone was there to share the love of Christ with them in their hour of desperate need.

The Blue Water Area Rescue Mission is proud to work with the local church as we keeping watch on the waterfront of despair, providing lifelines for those drowning in the waves of adversity and the undertow of addiction through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.