

Kurt was stunned. His friend was filled with grief. They both had been presented with *the reality* that believers in Christ will experience pain and hardship in life even though they are His followers.

The fact that this tragic death came so close to his friend's conversion did not make it easy on Kurt. But he tried to communicate God's goodness and mercy, which are present in the dark hours, to his grieving friend.

In Acts 7, Stephen experienced *the reality* when he was stoned to death. God allowed him to be martyred. But in His mercy, God ministered to Stephen by showing him His glory and Jesus standing at His right hand.

We will not always experience happy times in life. But we can always know a hope that is found in a loving, good God who cares for us--even in the midst of the starkest reality. --TF

REFLECTION

- Where is God when I am facing tough times?
- What can I say to comfort fellow Christians who have experienced tragedy? Or who are going through a major problem?

When bad things happen, God's goodness is at work too.



Pastor: Wayne Robilliard Ph: 4758 8778.
0404 804 778

Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

www.mountainsbaptist.org.au

4wayner@tpg.com.au

Central Mountains Baptist Church

23 MAY, 2010

Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

The Reality

You'd like my mate Kurt. He's fair dinkum, loves God, and he loves to tell others about Him. A few months back, Kurt was having breakfast at a cafe--a place where he often meets men for prayer and Bible study. The manager came over and asked him if he was a pastor. The guy had seen Kurt's Bible and had observed him praying with men on different occasions.

What happened next is typical Kurt. He took that opportunity to explain, "No, I'm not a pastor, but, yes, I do love God. Would you like to know more about Him?"

They began to talk and the manager received Christ as his Saviour! Kurt was elated and he soon began to disciple his new friend.

Then came tragedy.

Just a few days later, the manager phoned Kurt and asked him to come to the hospital. His 10-month-old baby had died after some medical complications.



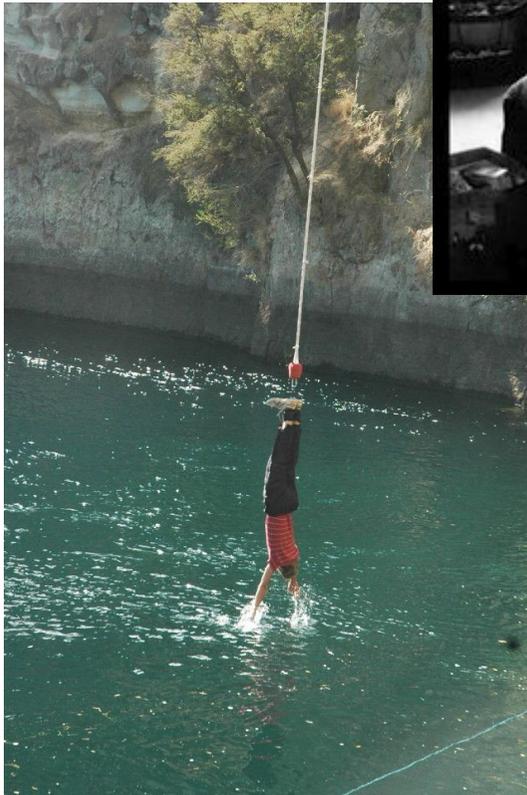
Finding Hope in a Hopeless World.

Romans 15:13 describes three aspects of hope that will lift us up:

1. The three _____ of hope, Romans 15:1-2, 7, 10-13, 4

(1 Peter 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

(James 2:19) "You believe that there is



one God. You do well. Even the demons believe; and tremble!"
(Ephesians 1:13-14) "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the **word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the **Holy Spirit** of promise, {14} who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."
(Hebrews 6:19-20) "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, {20} where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, .."

2. The two _____ of hope, Romans 15:13



3. The one final _____ of hope, Romans 15:13

(1 John 3:2-3) "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. {3} And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

(Titus 2:11-13) "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, {12} teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, {13} looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,"

