

Dear Friends:

The Talmud tells a story about a traveler who came across an old man planting a carob tree. The traveler was skeptical. He asked the man when he thought the tree would bear fruit. "After seventy years," was the reply. "Old man, do you expect to live seventy years and eat the fruit of your labor?" The elderly man looked up and said, "Son, I did not find the world desolate when I entered it. And as my fathers planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."

The truth is, we too have been entrusted with much: the health of our faith communities, the beauty of the earth we live on, the freedom of this country we live in, and the care of our communities. Many people worked hard to preserve, to improve upon, and hand these down to us.

The scriptures tell us that we also have been entrusted with the Gospel - a beautiful message of grace and hope. The Apostle Paul claims we are, "...stewards of God's mysteries" (1 Corinthians 4:1), and in 1 Peter (4:10) we are encouraged to be "...good stewards of the manifold grace of God..."

I remember before I took over as lead of Dial Hope, reading the messages every day, and sometimes even calling in to hear Roger Kunkel's voice. It was a gift to me, and it is a gift that I in turn am asking you to help me hand down to others. To that end, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider doing two things.

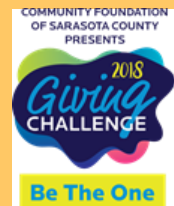
1. Tell other people about Dial Hope! Email a message to a friend, share a bookmark, or send someone a link to our website (www.dialhope.org).
2. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to our Annual Fund. The Community Foundation of Sarasota will again sponsor The Giving Challenge on May 1-2 from noon to noon. This year every gift is matched up to \$100! Visit <http://thegivingpartner.guidestar.org>

Again, I greatly appreciate your generosity and your support. Together, God is using us to spread ripples of hope, faith and love.

Grace and Peace,
Joe Albright



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



May 1-2 ~ noon to noon



Introducing



Noel Emilio Salmeron Hodson



Follow us on Twitter!



Joe Albright has been the lead Pastor for Dial Hope since 2011. He is also the Pastor at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Switzerland, Florida. Visit their website at www.genevapresbyterian.org



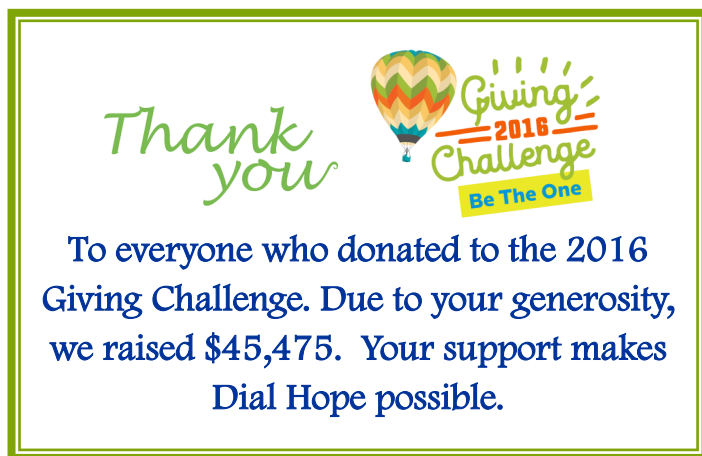
What's happening?

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SARASOTA COUNTY
PRESENTS



Be The One

May 1 - 2 ~ Noon to Noon



The Giving Challenge is a 24-hour online giving event supporting nonprofits serving Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties in Florida. During this 24-hour period, any donations made are matched at a 100% for up to \$100 through the generosity of The Patterson Foundation.

The Challenge begins:

May 1 @ noon — May 2 @ noon.

Using the www.givingpartnerchallenge.org website, or the Giving Challenge link found on our website (www.dialhope.org) along with a major credit card, your gift can help Dial Hope continue to provide messages of hope, support and inspiration.

Follows these easy steps to donate:

- Your online donation must be made between, May 1—2 from noon to noon.
- Go to www.givingpartnerchallenge.org or go to the Dial Hope website @ www.dialhope.org and use the link.
- When using the Giving Challenge website (www.givingpartnerchallenge.org), search for Dial Hope Foundation and indicate your donation amount of \$25 or more.
- Donations must be made with a major credit card.

Each gift is tax-deductible.

What a tremendous opportunity for Dial Hope to raise much needed funds.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

The 2018 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation, as well as support from Charlotte Community Foundation, Harbor Style, Herald-Tribune Media Group, iHeart Media, John S. and James L Knight Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation and Suncoast News Network.

Meet Noel

Noel Emilio Salmeron Hodson has been translating Dial Hope messages into Spanish since 2016. Noel tells his own story below.



He was born on December 01, 1981 in Esteli, Nicaragua. During the Civil War, which was waged between the FSLN and the Contras from 1981–1990, Noel's family was forced to move to the City of Bluefields, located on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. Noel's mom, a single mother of six, had her father and sisters living there.

Noel was raised in Bluefields, where he lived in poverty. At age 7 he had to sell fish, shrimp and crab for the local fishermen in order to eat and meet essential needs. He also had to help prepare and sell Pinolillo, a traditional cocoa-cornmeal drink, coconut candies and coconut bread to help out his family.

On October 22, 1988, Hurricane Joan made landfall in Bluefields and destroyed the city and the entire fishing industry in the area. Noel's family didn't recover after this major natural disaster, submerging his family to live under extreme poverty conditions. At the age of 10, Noel had to live alone due to the poor financial situation of his family. His mom was already working in Corn Island, selling food on the streets, in order to provide for her six kids. But things were only getting worse and his family was completely broken. Two of his youngest sisters were sent to live with their aunts, the other two oldest sisters went their own way and his only brother, that was 12 years old at the time, had to leave and fend for himself.

Condemned to live in poverty and with no role models or guidance in his life, Noel knew, at age 13, that the only way to break the vicious circle of poverty was through education. Noel earned a full scholarship to attend the prestigious Catholic University of Nicaragua, under an intense and exclusive program implemented by the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

The university is located in Managua, the capital city of Nicaragua, which was a 180 degree change in comparison with a small city where everyone knew each other.

During Noel's time in college, he faced a lot of limitations. Noel was also robbed 3 times and got kicked out at 1:00 a.m. from the bedroom that he was renting, for the most insane reason. Nevertheless, during his time in college he was able to meet the Omier family and the Espinoza's family who helped him get through the most difficult times while attending college.

In 2003 Noel earned his College Degree in Business Economics and began his internship at CEPAD which he was able to turn into a full-time job within six months. During late 2004, Noel began his training to become an International Financial Consultant. The training was invaluable for him and throughout his career the main source of training came through two USA based companies.

Noel's career took off in 2006 when he was able to secure a management position at the Nicaraguan Institute for Urban and Rural Housing (INVUR). In 2008 he became a consolidated international financial consultant. Noel owns two companies in Nicaragua. The first company is SIX Financial Consulting, established in 2005, and EGSA Consulting, established in 2007. Noel travels to the U.S. on a regular basis, in order to attend meetings with U.S. based companies.

Noel met Pastor Joe Albright in mid-2003, during Pastor Joe's mission trip to Nicaragua. In early 2016, the Swick family asked Noel if there was any chance for him to become part of Dial Hope Ministry, by translating daily messages, in order to target the Spanish speaking community in the U.S. and abroad. The answer was a straight and solid YES! Noel was thrilled to finally be able to help people that need a word of encouragement and to remind them that they're not alone and that God is always with us even in our darkest moments.

Noel's favorite message is "Where is God?" by the late Rev. Roger Kunkel, because it wasn't until 2007, when a member of his local church in Bluefields approached him to explicitly say to him that the church's prayer group knew what he was going through and therefore they always had him in their prayers. He realized then that the extra energy that kept him going for so long was that God was always with him in his journey and the desire for a higher education. God's most significant promise became a reality for Noel, God was with him always, through prayer groups and through three families that have been a real blessing for him throughout his life.

One of Noel's dreams is to help and encourage kids to strive for education at different levels. Noel has been married for over 13 years to his college sweetheart and is a proud father of two lovely daughters. He lives in Managua, Nicaragua.



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANASOTA FL
PERMIT #1211

941-955-8929 | 866-528-4673

www.dialhope.org

Spanish phone
messages coming in
April!



We're on Twitter!

Download the Twitter app and follow us.
Tell a friend! The more people we tell,
the more opportunity for our messages
to reach the world. Follow us

[@dialhope](https://twitter.com/dialhope)



It's not too late
to get a copy of our
wonderful Lenten
Booklet filled with
memorable messages.
Please request your
free copy.
info@dialhope.org

Dial Hope Foundation, P.O. Box 953, Sarasota, FL 34230
www.dialhope.org / phone# 941-955-8929 / 866-528-4673
Deployed military using DSN dial 809-463-3376 wait for dial tone, then dial 866-528-4673