

# Ripples of Hope



WINTER 2019/20

## Letter from Pastor Joe

Christmas is a season to celebrate that *“the Word became flesh and lived among us”* (John 1:14). What a beautiful mystery we proclaim! It’s amazing to think that the Creator of all that is, would choose to share the joy and the pain, the celebration and the brokenness of human life.

As we prepare to enter this holy season, I want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for your response to Dial Hope. Thank

**...we  
depend  
completely  
on you...**

you for calling in to listen or for pulling up your email, web browser, or Facebook account to read. Thank you for the beautiful testimonies many of you have shared with me of all that Dial Hope means to you. Thank you for sharing our messages with your friends and family. And



thank you for supporting us with your financial gifts. As a non-profit organization, we depend completely on you, our supporters, to continue this ministry. Please accept my deepest gratitude. You are a blessing to us and to others!

I pray that the Spirit of Christ would renew you this Christmas. May you ever continue to discover the joy, meaning, and true blessing of the season.

Merry Christmas,  
*Joe*

**Dial Hope**  
**Board of Directors**  
*December 2019*

**Rev. Joe Albright**  
*President*

**Candy Swick**  
*Chairperson*

**Ann Moore Babcock**  
*Vice President*

**Gill Staikos**  
*Treasurer*

**Patricia Manson Curran**  
*Secretary*

**Tania Corredor**  
*Trustee*

**Clare Carter**  
*Trustee*

**Melissa Staikos**  
*Trustee*

**Joyce Johnson**  
*Executive Director*

**DIAL HOPE provides a connection—**

- For those serving in our military, at home and abroad, who believe in service
- For those of faith who seek a sense of community
- For the spiritual on a journey to the truth
- For those wanting encouragement, inspiration, and inclusion

**DIAL HOPE IS HERE!**

Ripples of Hope is the semi-annual newsletter produced for DIAL HOPE, a 24-hour global telephone and internet ministry providing daily faith-based, non-denominational messages of encouragement, inspiration, and care.



## DIAL HOPE FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES AND STAFF

“Our new enthusiastic board members bring great energy in spreading ripples of inspiration, hope and encouragement through Dial Hope. It is a privilege to welcome Gillian Staikos, Pat Manson Curran, and Melissa Staikos to the Dial Hope Foundation Board, and Joyce Johnson as our new Executive Director,” states Candy Swick, Dial Hope Chairperson.

**Patricia Manson Curran** has been involved in the Sarasota community for more than twenty-five years experiencing both personal and professional successes. Pat has served the banking industry in business development throughout her career. Currently, Pat is Retail Market Manager for Valley Bank. Pat has worked with Synovus Regions Bank, Stonegate Bank, and Freedom Bank. Pat’s community work is extensive serving in United Way, Riverfront Players, the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, Head Start, West Coast Symphony, Selby Gardens and Spanish Point. Pat will serve as Dial Hope’s Board Secretary.

**Gillian Staikos**, her husband, Nick, and son, Michael, moved to the United States from South Africa in 1997. As Pharmacists, both she and her husband were offered opportunities to work in the U.S. Gillian’s daughter, Melissa, the youngest Dial Hope Trustee, was born in Sarasota in March 2001. Gillian currently works as a Senior Pharmacist for the Florida Department of Health in a Regulatory Position. She has had a standout career here on the Suncoast working for both Doctors Hospital of Sarasota and

Manatee Memorial Hospital and Desoto Memorial Hospital. Gillian has served on various PTO’s, run two half marathons and is a Breast Cancer Survivor. Gillian will serve as Dial Hope’s Board Treasurer.

**Melissa Staikos** is Dial Hope’s youngest Trustee. Melissa, 18 years old, attends Assumption College in Massachusetts. Sarasota born, she attended Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School. At Cardinal Mooney in 2017, Melissa became involved with Pivotal Directions, a servant leadership organization. Her trip to Jamaica that year cemented her desire to serve others. In 2018, Melissa led the Florida Group of that organization. In early 2019, Melissa seized the opportunity to work with seasoned board members, and bring her unique perspective to Dial Hope. Melissa will serve as a Trustee on the Dial Hope Board.

**Joyce Johnson** joins Dial Hope as our new Executive Director. Joyce comes to Sarasota from Oklahoma. The Williams Companies, a 100-year-old natural gas company, was the organization that benefitted for 29 years as the home to Joyce’s professional career prior to coming to Florida. At Williams, Joyce was Manager of NGL Gas Management, a Commercial Operation Representative, and led numerous successful projects. She is a retired CPA. Joyce’s community involvement has included: Board of Directors for Tulsa Area Susan G Komen Foundation, Docent and Ambassador for The John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art and volunteer at Northminister Presbyterian Church.

### DOUBLE YOUR DECEMBER DONATION

**DIAL HOPE** is grateful for the generous support of Candy & Jay Swick, who are offering to match all gifts given during the month of December 2019 up to a total of \$10,000.

**THE DIAL HOPE** ministry is made possible solely through the charitable contributions of our readers and listeners. Your contributions will allow **DIAL HOPE** to continue to:

- Provide a free daily ecumenical message of inspiration, hope and encouragement
- Provide our active military with a free number to access our daily message
- Provide our daily message, both written and audio, in Spanish
- Provide our daily message through the internet, phone and social media

Please consider giving to the Dial Hope, a 501c3 Foundation, by sending your contributions to:

Dial Hope Foundation  
P.O. Box 953  
Sarasota, Florida 34230

Or donate online at  
[www.dialhope.org](http://www.dialhope.org)

We thank you for your generosity and spreading *Ripples of Hope* and thank you Swick family!

# 2019 DIAL HOPE EVENT

Attendees of Dial Hope's Annual Luncheon held on February 8, 2019 were blessed to hear from Artist and Astronaut Nicole Stott. Stott is co-founder of the Space For Art Foundation, whose mission is to spread hope through space exploration inspired art therapy programs with children in over 100 hospitals and schools around the world.



Stott speaking at Annual Luncheon

Only 561 people have been to space, 60 are women, and one of them is Nicole Stott from Clearwater. "Nicole's inspirational message about humanity is a perfect fit for Dial Hope," explained board member Ann Babcock. Stott is renowned for creatively combining the awe and wonder of her spaceflight and deep-sea



Stott with young attendees of Luncheon

experiences. Her work stimulates thought-provoking appreciation of our role as Earth's crewmates by raising awareness

of all the efforts going on in space amongst 16 international countries—all working in harmony to improve life on the blue and green orb for future generations. As the first person to paint a watercolor in space—having spent three months on the International Space Station and Space Shuttle—she mentions her time spent orbiting the globe ironically brought her "back down to Earth," realizing the interconnectivity of the universe and significance of it all. "It's a perspective thing," Stott says. "Instead of feeling surrounded by the planet, I was surrounding the planet"—at 17,500 miles per hour—giving her a whole new vantage point, literally as well as philosophically. "The one thing we all have in common is this planet we share," she says. "We have to get along to take care of it and take care of each other."

Also an aquanaut, Stott lived underwater for a three-week mission on the Aquarius undersea habitat, submerged 60-feet

underwater off the coast of Key Largo in a laboratory the size of a school bus, witnessing Goliath groupers and Eagle rays through yet another wondrous window, this time a porthole. Stott believes that the international model of peaceful and successful cooperation experienced in both these extreme environments holds the key for all of humanity and mankind. "I will



Candy Swick, Chairperson Dial Hope, Stott, Ann Babcock, Vice President Dial Hope

never run out of inspiration,"

she says.

Stott's greatest mission today is to share this message to current and future generations, sometimes as part of a team of artists, astronauts and health experts at the Space for Art Foundation in St. Petersburg, connecting children around the world with the healing power of art. "Art is a wonderful universal tool to proactively communicate these complex things in life," she says.

Stott reminded the audience, "We are all earthlings and the only important border is our thin blue layer of atmosphere." More information about the Space For Art Foundation can be found at [www.spaceforartfoundation.org](http://www.spaceforartfoundation.org).

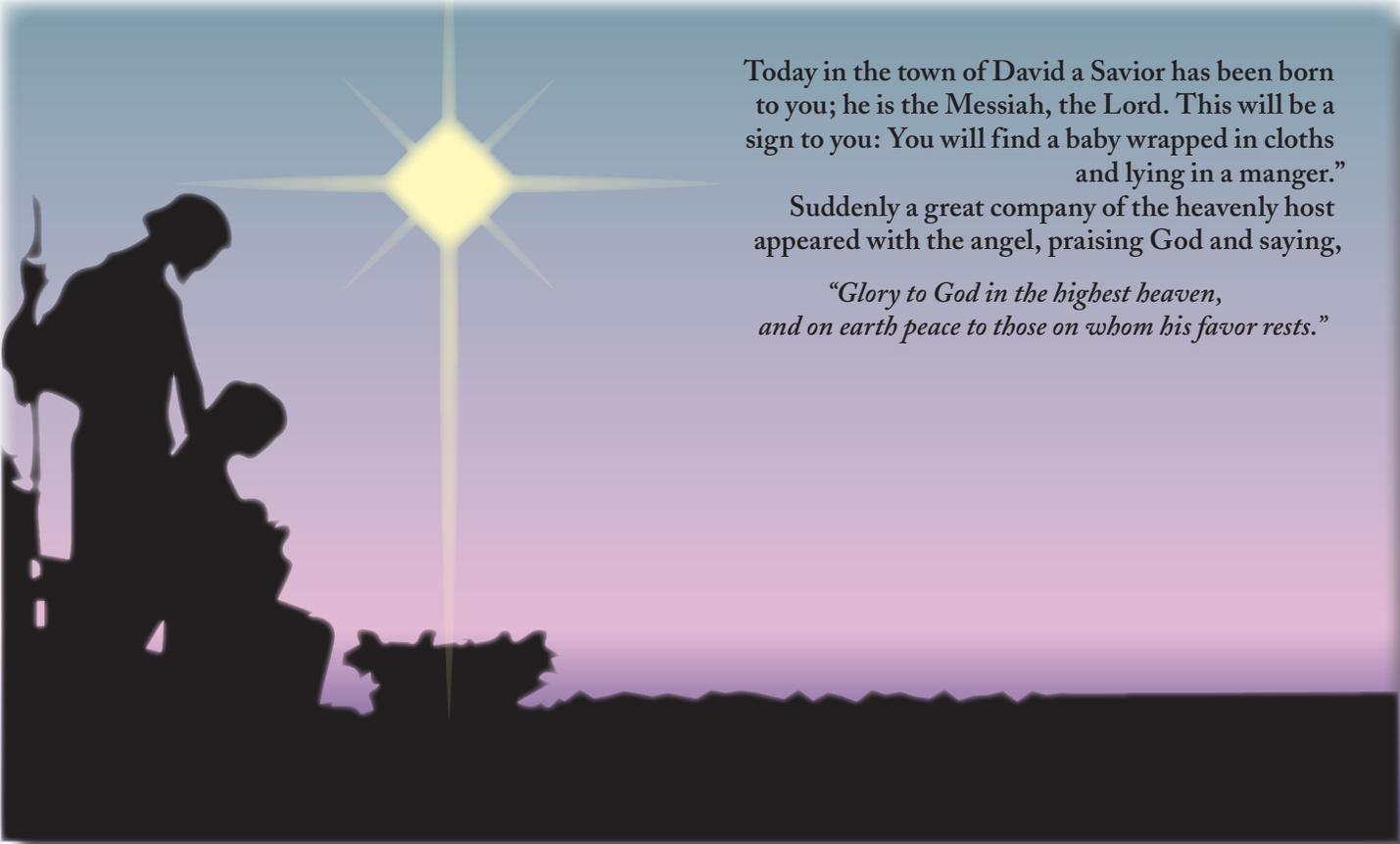


Please update your contact to this phone number

**941-955-8929**

We will no longer be using the toll-free number to reach our daily message.

But we don't want to lose you! Please update your contact information for Dial Hope.



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

## Dial Hope Provides a Daily Message of Hope in Spanish

The Daily Message offered by Dial Hope is currently available in Spanish thanks to the efforts of several volunteers. Noel Salmeron from Nicaragua translates the written message into Spanish. The audio message in Spanish is now read by Dr. Ramon Lira, a new United States citizen. The audio message was made possible through the assistance of Tania Corredor, Dial Hope Board Trustee, an immigrant from Venezuela and now a United States citizen. Tania’s mother had a radio station in Venezuela and was the original Dial Hope Spanish voice.

Several years ago, Jay Swick, a long-term Dial Hope volunteer, did mission work in Nicaragua through First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. Jay worked with CEPAD, the “Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua” a 501c3. Noel Salmeron was the language translator for CEPAD. For more than 15 years,

Jay and Noel have developed a lasting relationship and a desire to spread the Good News of Hope to the Spanish

Noel Salmeron  
and his family in Nicaragua



speaking audience including Nicaragua. Dr. Gustavo Parajon founded CEPAD in 1992. CEPAD USA mission is to help the people of Nicaragua in their work for justice and peace in their violence-torn and impoverished land. Dr. Parajon

was involved in the negotiation of peace between the Contras and the Sandinistas. Anita Taylor works for CEPAD as their Program Director for the Solidarity and International Partnership Program. She oversees coordinators to help groups visit Nicaragua. At one time, she was kidnapped by either the Contras or the Sandinistas with a black hood over her head and taken into the woods so she wouldn’t know where they were taking her. She discovered that the people who were guarding her were really teenage boys with guns. They had been taken from their families and forced into a life of violence. When asked what they really wanted—just to go home and be with their families.

Thanks to these Dial Hope volunteers who have helped us grow and reach other audiences with our Daily Messages of Hope.