

Nick Vujicic stood atop a table and faced a room full of mesmerized high school students.

Some of them wept silently as they listened to this man who was born with no arms or legs proclaim joyfully, "I love life."

If there is anyone who would seem to have a good reason to be joyless, it would be Nick. And yet he has chosen to embrace his life and the possibilities it offers as well as the gifts hidden in his suffering.

I think people like Nick are so compelling to us because we all want to know the secret of joy like his — joy that doesn't depend on physical perfection or life following some specific formula for success. We long for this because deep down we know that our journey throughout this life is fragile... inherently without guarantee. People like Nick show us that joy doesn't need to be tied to circumstances. They hold out the possibility of unshakeable joy that transcends suffering. For many of us, joy is at a very low simmer. Even small disappointments — a canceled lunch date with a friend, an unexpectedly high bill, finding the last piece of pie gone — can rob us of whatever joy we have.

What makes people like Nick different?

I believe part of the secret to Nick's kind of resilient joy is to consider life, all of life, as a gift. Every single day.

We can choose to be thankful for the gift of life no matter how difficult our path is because we are assured that God is with us in the middle of it and that He continues to bring blessings to our lives, even in our most painful moments.

I love this quote by Rowan Williams as he reflected on Jesus' final night before the cross: "When Jesus gives thanks at that moment before the breaking and spilling, before the wounds and the blood, it is as if He is connecting the darkest places of human experience with God the Giver; as if He is saying that even in these dark places God continues to give, and therefore we must continue to give thanks."

Take some time today to reflect on a difficult season in which it wasn't easy for you to experience joy. What gifts was God still giving you? Perhaps it was the comfort of His presence or a powerful truth He revealed to you during that time. Grab a pen and a journal, and list any gifts that come to mind. Then spend some time thanking and praising God for His faithfulness, rejoicing that He never stops giving to us, even when our way is marked with sorrow.

Because God is good, we can worship Him always.



# LIGHTHOUSE

*Reach Restore Refine*

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**December 1, 2019**

**We welcome you to all our services!**

Sunday:	10:00 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:00 AM	Kids Church
Wednesday:	5:30 PM	Fellowship & Devotion

# Announcements

**Tonight:** At 6:00 PM, Seth Greenwell, from Global Teen Challenge, will be here for a missions service.

**Tonight:** Youth Switch Tournament at 6:00 PM.

**Next Sunday:** Life Group at Wayne & Cathy Mosby's home beginning at 5:00 PM.

**Next Sunday:** The youth will meet, at the church, at 5:00 PM to go Christmas caroling.

**December 14:** Door to door canvassing for Food Brigade beginning at 9:00 AM. Please see Kevin Tomlin, if you're willing to help.

**January 2:** Plans are being made for a Youth Swim at Monett YMCA. The youth will leave, the church, at 2:30 PM. Everyone should bring \$5.00 for dinner and must complete a permission slip prior to the event. Please see Robin Hunnicutt for more information.

**Don't forget to discuss Sunday School  
& Kids Church  
with your children!**

This week we will be working on our Christmas Program.

Our Christmas program will be December 15th at 11am, kids will need to be there at 9:00am for rehearsal.

## Thought of the Week

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."

~ Neal A. Maxwell

# Holiday Schedule

Please check our schedule each week for updates and additional information.

**Sunday (12/1):** Global Teen Challenge service at 6:00 PM.

**Sunday (12/1):** Youth Switch Tournament at 6:00 PM.

**Sunday (12/8):** Life Group at Mosby's home beginning at 5:00 PM.

**Sunday (12/8):** Youth caroling at 5:00 PM.

**Saturday (12/14):** Food Basket Brigade food pickup, beginning at 9:00 AM. See Kevin Tomlin for details.

**Sunday (12/15):** Christmas Program rehearsal at 9:00 AM.

**Sunday (12/15):** Annual Christmas Program.

**Saturday (12/21):** Salvation Army bell ringing from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. See Kevin Tomlin to schedule a time.

**Saturday (12/21):** Food Basket Brigade Distribution. If you are willing to help with "leftovers" at The Help Center, please see Donna Wilson.

**Wednesday (12/25):** Community Christmas Dinner.

**Sunday (12/29):** Special offering Sunday for the Marble Scholarship.

**Thursday (1/2):** Youth Swim at Monett YMCA beginning at 2:30 PM.

