



Dial Hope

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

Dial Hope Foundation

941-955-8929

866-528-4673

Dialhope.org

P. O. Box 953

Sarasota, Florida 34230

The Dial Hope Foundation is a 501 (c)3 organization
Federal Tax ID #26-4326614

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Letter from Pastor Joe



Joe Albright is the lead pastor of Dial Hope; he is going on 15 years with messages everyday to our troops, our friends in communities with dictators who the limit freedom of religion and speech.

Dear Friends of Dial Hope,

It is with great joy that I continue to serve as the lead pastor of this impactful ministry. I have been writing messages for Dial Hope for over 14 years now, and it has been a blessing to hear from so many of you about the difference it has made in your spiritual lives. Once again, let me say thank you! Thank you for your financial generosity. Thank you for your encouragement. And thank you for sharing our messages of hope with others!

At this time of year, the spirit of giving moves many of us in special and unexpected ways. As you plan your year-end giving, some of you will be looking for ways to make meaningful donations. This year, I ask you to please consider giving to Dial Hope. Some of our faithful supporters have offered to match all gifts now - through the end of the year. Your gifts empower our ministry throughout the entire year.

I pray that you will be renewed through this holy season. May God's Christmas love, love that holds nothing back, love that goes to the extreme to reach us, embrace you fully. And may that love continue to bless us so that we would be a blessing.

Grace and Peace,

Joe



For a quarter of a century, **Dial Hope Foundation** has been a beacon of light sharing God's Word, one message at a time. Through every phone call, every devotion, and every moment of encouragement, we've witnessed lives touched, hearts lifted, and faith renewed.

We give thanks to the Lord, who has sustained this ministry and multiplied its reach across communities and nations. As Psalm 119:105 reminds us: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

May the next 25 years continue to shine with grace, truth, and the unwavering hope found in Christ.

Every ripple begins with a single drop, and each of these members has added their drop of hope to the waters. Together, we continue to spread encouragement, faith, and unity.



Dr. Ramón A. Lira:



Tatiana Fester



Noel Salmeron:

A Life Felt, Not Just Told

There are lives that cannot be explained; they are felt. There are stories that are not merely told; they are heard with the heart. And there are people whose presence in the world leaves an enduring mark—one born of love, of faith, and of a human sensitivity impossible to hide. One of those people is Dr. Ramón A. Lira.

A Physician Guided by Compassion

For many years in Venezuela, Dr. Lira’s medical practice was far more than a professional space; it was a refuge. Where others saw symptoms, he saw weary souls. Where others offered treatment, he also offered calm, listening, and hope. In his eyes, patients found a safe place; in his voice, a bridge to serenity.

Exile and the Deepening of Purpose

Life, with its unexpected turns, compelled Dr. Lira to leave his country almost a decade ago. Exile did not strip him of his essence; on the contrary, it deepened it. From his new home in Sarasota, Florida, alongside his wife, Damelis—his partner in life and profession—his three children, Maria Jose, Carlos Eduardo and Ramon Aristides, and his three granddaughters, Maria Alejandra, Maria Sofia and Camila, Dr. Lira has continued nurturing what has always guided him: the inner light born from serving others.

A Quiet and Enduring Devotion

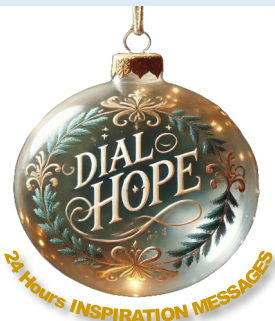
Dr. Lira is a devout man, but his devotion is not proclaimed; it is felt in the way he is present, the way he looks, the way he speaks. He possesses the rare gift of touching the unseen—of making the soul breathe, of opening windows where others see only walls. Those who know him understand that his human sensitivity is not merely a trait; it is a gift.

Joins Our Mission

We are delighted to introduce Tatiana Fester as the new director of our *Ripples of Hope* newsletter. Tatiana brings with her a wealth of experience in publicity and advertising, and she is eager to help shape the writing of our collective voices for *Dial Hope Foundation*.

With Tatiana’s vision and dedication, we look forward to a newsletter that not only informs but uplifts, carrying forward our mission to spread encouragement and faith throughout our community.

In her own words:
"My faith in God has been what keeps me grounded, inspired, and ready to serve. It is the foundation that guides my creativity and gives me strength to share messages of hope with others."



The Spanish Voice of Dial Hope

That gift found a new path during the past six years, when he embraced the mission of serving as the Spanish-language voice for Dial Hope. And so, with his gentle voice and serene spirit, he began offering messages that are not only heard—they stay. Because there are messages that pass, and messages that accompany. His belong to those that accompany.

In every message he shares, the nobility and warmth of a spirit shaped by faith, love, and tenderness are revealed. His words carry the subtle strength of what is eternal: they arrive softly, yet deeply. They touch, they comfort, they sustain.

Ramon has been the Spanish Voice of Dial Hope for six years. Every day of the year—365 days—he speaks the message of hope and inspiration, pouring passion into God’s messages.

A Light for Many

Today, Dr. Ramón A. Lira represents more than the story of a physician who emigrated; he represents the story of a soul that never stopped serving, even when life took him far from his homeland. He is a physician, yes. He is also a guide. But above all, he is a luminous human being—the kind life places on our path to remind us that compassion still exists, that kindness still breathes, and that a single voice—when it rises from the heart—can be a light for many.

Extending Dial Hope’s Outreach: Spanish-Language Messages

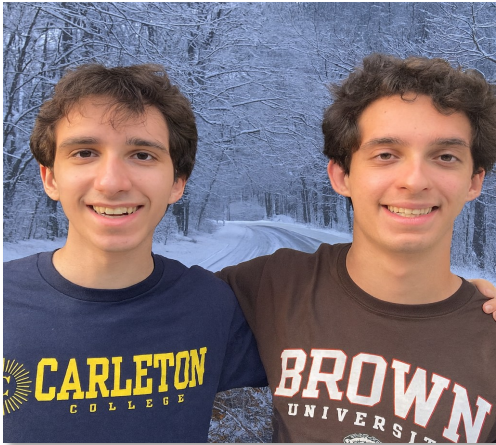
In January 2015, Noel Salmeron partnered with Dial Hope’s Ministry to translate its daily messages, helping to extend the ministry’s reach to Spanish-speaking communities in the United States and around the world. To support this new initiative, Dial Hope strengthened its infrastructure and published its first Spanish message on July 1, 2016.

Since then, Salmeron has translated 3,440 messages, offering daily words of encouragement to all who seek God’s presence in their lives. On May 10, 2021, he joined the Dial Hope Board, and this year he also assumed responsibility for managing and strengthening the ministry’s accounting system, bringing with him 20 years of financial expertise. From his home in Nicaragua, Salmeron continues to serve with dedication, helping to advance Dial Hope’s mission with steadfast commitment.

Dial Hope Daily – Inspiration at Your Fingertips
To Call Daily Message: 941-955-8929 866-528-4673

Devin Gulliver

A National Merit Scholar in high school, is majoring in computer science and music at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is a member of the college's band and choir. He works on the college's Information Technology help desk.



Quinn Gulliver

Quinn is majoring in history and public policy at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He was awarded a research assistantship where he is helping to develop a geographic information systems (GIS) project. Quinn continues to play guitar at worship services.

Lifelong members of Sarasota’s First Presbyterian Church, are leading the renewal of the Dial Hope website.

Devin & Quinn Gulliver

What’s New—And What Stays the Same

Our **phone number remains unchanged**—you can still call to hear Dial Hope messages in **English or Spanish**. We’ve partnered with a new phone company that allows us to **send text messages** directly to your cell phone. Just click the link in the text to **hear or read the message**, and occasionally view a **video message**. Messages will also be available through **WhatsApp**, offering secure access even in countries with restrictive communication policies.

A Fresh Start Dial Hope new site will integrate audio and video messages, streamline updates, and reduce costs. Work began in late summer, with the **launch planned for early December**.

It’s been a challenge for our wonderfully diverse board to meet in person, but **Zoom meetings and regular email** have kept us united. This newsletter is part of our effort to stay connected with you—our cherished listeners and readers.



Ann Moore Babcock

Two Decades of Dedication: 21 years involved with Dial Hope as we celebrate 25 years

Ann Moore Babcock was inspired by Roger Kunkel’s daily Dial Hope messages in 2004, he expand this ministry to reach more people in need of hope, support and care. With the help of Sally McGill and Stephie Safford, the first Dial Hope website was created, plus five phone lines were expanded from two, daily email services were delivered, and newsletters and speaking engagements were made available. Throughout the years since, Ann has been thrilled to see the far-reaching benefits Dial Hope has brought to military personnel, students, and anyone and everyone needing Hope, anytime and anywhere. In Ann’s words, “Dial Hope has come a long way, and the future looks bright for the next levels!”

Ann currently resides in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Ken, and they enjoy traveling and fishing the waters of the world.. !



- Dr Roger M. Kunkel ,

Founder

Joe Albright, Gifted Pastor of Dial Hope Messages

Current board members

Noel Salmeron

Tania Corredor

Pat Currin

Ann Moore Babcock

Kari Lindsey

Angela Ristuccia

Candy Swick

Past Board members

Kimberly Walsh

Erik Arroyo

Kristy Tignor

George Manser

Eric Wogen

Charles Fulton

Jean Fulton

Jack McDonald

Robyn Collins

Clare Carter

Dick Schlup

John Overton

Gill Staikos

Gee Dee Kerr

Bill Weiss

Chrome Dollas

Tom Melly

Dr. Charles W Holmes

Guest Pastors

Phil Blackburn

Tasha Blackburn

Amy Camp

Hunter Camp

Elizabeth Deibert

Bob Griffiths

Andy Odom

- Ann Herlin

Mark Hults

Charles Landreth

Betty Stewart

Dial Hope Gifted Volunteers

Ray Hord 25 year volunteer

Jay Swick 15 years volunteer

Stephanie Stafford

Sally McGill

Betty Stewart

Marti Holland

Weiss Family Foundation

Camastro Family Foundation

Dr. Ramon Lira

Buck and Peggy Fry

Rachel Martin

Katherine Keeley

Valerie Schaub

Herb Flint

Anne Hayes

Rosie White

Dr. Peter Miller

Robin Miller

Beverly Coach

Bob Kimbrough

Bruce Bloomgren

Eric Stammer

Sue Donovan

Karen Turner

James Turner

Joyce Johnson

Tiffany Franciosi

Lisa Yoder

Cathy Straka

Speakers

Beth Knopik Author Beyond the Rainbow

Nicole Stott Astronaut

Don Olinger



P.O. Box 953 • Sarasota, FL 34230



To continue receiving Dial Hope's daily messages of encouragement—or to begin connecting with us—***Sign Up Today!***

We kindly ask that you share the following information:

- Name
- Mailing Address
- Email Address
- Cell Phone Number

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to:
Dial Hope, P.O. Box 953, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Once registered for the first time, you'll receive a secure text link to hear or read Dial Hope's daily messages in **English or Spanish.**

Stay Connected with Dial Hope

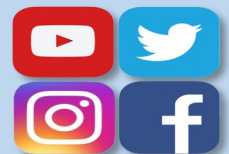
To hear the Daily Message:
Call **941-955-8929** or
866-528-4673

To contribute, you may kindly send your donation
by mail or online

By mail: Dial Hope
P.O. Box 953
Sarasota, FL 34230

Online: Visit **www.DialHope.org**
Click the **"Donate now"**
to support the Dial Hope Foundation.

To reach us by email: info@dialhope.org



If you wish to send a donation, we have enclosed a return envelope for your convenience. Any gift received before December 31 will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your generosity.

A Message from our Chair, Candy Swick

"During our 25th anniversary we wanted to celebrate many of the individuals who have shared their time, talent, and treasurers with us. *Thank you.*"

We are blessed to be a blessing to others and a cheerful heart is a good medicine.."



***With gratitude,
Candy Swick
President***