

Monday - February 19

Jesus said [to Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Agents of H.O.P.E.

I boarded my flight to Seattle and a young woman named Amy sat beside me. Her service dog Poppy rested at her feet on a leash. He looked up at me with dark eyes. She told me that before Poppy she was so depressed, she sat at home in tears most days. But when God brought Poppy into her life she was energized to live again. She has a job, travels by plane, talks to strangers like me, and fully lives her life.

This led me to think of HOPE and an acronym for what I saw through

Poppy: Helping Others Perceive Energy. Poppy was the 'other' who helped Amy perceive the energy that changed her life. Isn't that what God did through Jesus? Jesus certainly helped Lazarus perceive the holy energy that enabled him to walk from death back into life, and his sisters to deal with their grief. He helped people see the energy to overcome hunger, to walk again, to see again, to speak again, even to live again.

Fishermen became fishers of people for God, tax collectors learned to give love, zealots stopped fighting the Romans and battled evil. Jesus was the Agent of Hope that aided Mary Magdalene find the energy to be rid of evil spirits. God energized Paul to withstand torture and imprisonments, and to bring many to Christ.

With Christ's help God can make us all into Agents of H.O.P.E. enabling persons near and far to accomplish daring things they have only dreamed of doing.

Rev. Dave Woodyard

Prayer: Holy God of Loving Energy, come and give me HOPE for our hectic society. Enable me to do what I can to Help Others Perceive the Energy that can transform the world near and far so your kingdom can come, and your will be done. Amen.