

We're back with a devotional and all the latest news.



Many of us nowadays read books online rather than going to a library and checking out a book or going to a book store and buying an actual book with real ink and paper. It's just a lot easier to go online and download books into a computer, an iPad or a Kindle.

So the other day I came across a fascinating article, which said that Kindle not only can track what books you read and recommend future books to you, but they can even track what sentences you underline in your Kindle, which is a feature that many enjoy using. I'm definitely an under-liner myself! And when it comes to reading the Bible on a Kindle, according to their statistics, the most underlined passage in the entire Bible is **Philippians 4:6-7**—*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

That passage being the most underlined one in the Bible didn't surprise me at all given the great promise contained in it and that peace of mind is what almost everyone wishes they had, but what so many can't seem to find. Years ago when Dustin Hoffman, the famous actor, was asked if there was anything else he wanted since he already had fame and wealth and a whole list of Academy Awards, he said, "The one thing I really want is the one thing I don't

*have--peace of mind."* But the Bible would teach us that no one can really ever have peace of mind until they first have peace with God (**Rom. 5:1**). All the money and the fame can't fix that. Only God can.

I sensed this same longing in a young man named Harold, who is currently in prison in Michigan. He was a welder before going to prison where he read about Reignite Hope in a national magazine and then recently wrote to me. It was a long letter and throughout it I could hear his despair and worry coming off of the pages. Harold is in many ways just the opposite of Dustin and yet in one way the same. He isn't famous or wealthy. He isn't a talented celebrity with millions of adoring fans. But deep inside, just like Dustin, peace isn't there and he knows it. He can feel it's missing. And though he is in twenties, on the inside he is just a little boy wanting to feel loved and accepted and to have peace of mind instead of worry.

Now grammatically, the phrase "the peace of God" means a peace that is produced by God; a peace that God will produce in the lives of those that trust in Him; a peace that can guard your heart (your emotions) and your mind (your thoughts) no matter your circumstances. In **John 14:27**, hours before His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples-- "*Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you**. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*" In other words, Jesus doesn't just wish you peace, He can actually give it to you! In fact, He is the only one that can give that to you. He is even called the Prince of Peace in **Isaiah 9:6**!

The prophet Isaiah says that without God in our life we are like a blind person groping along a wall trying to find their way (**Isaiah 59:10**). But real peace that the Bible is talking about isn't having everything go your way in life, but a peace that comes from knowing that by your trust in Christ your sins have been forgiven; all of them! And knowing that your name is written in a book in heaven called the Book of Life never to be erased. And that someday, no matter what circumstances you're facing, you will be in the very presence of God and be there forever.

But it is hard to trust someone you don't know, which is why we strive to make sure that every day every student hears about Christ and their need for Him. Please pray that not only will Harold find the peace he is looking for, but also that all of our students this semester will find the peace that, as Paul says, is found only "*in Christ.*"

So **Philippians 4:6-7** doesn't have to just be verses underlined in a Kindle, it can be verses written on your heart, lived out in your life, something you can really possess and never lose--"*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*"--**Isaiah 26:3**



## HALLELUJAH! Class in Session

Pictured above is one of the classes. They're showing off their new welding jackets and gloves donated by Black Stallion.

### Class Stats

<b>5</b> # of Classes	<b>12</b> Class Size	<b>60</b> # of Students
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COVID-19 hit shortly before our spring class was about to start. Unfortunately, we had to close our doors until now. Now that the long hiatus is over, we are thrilled to report classes are indeed back in session. Thank you for your prayers for wisdom as just 60 were chosen from over 400 applicants.

In the hiatus, we haven't been idle. As businesses slowly reopened, Kristel (our employment specialist) landed many jobs for students who graduated just as the pandemic hit. She is always on the hunt to enlarge our employer base and union contacts.. Also, the mobile training center is just about done thanks to the tireless efforts of both Manny and Alex.

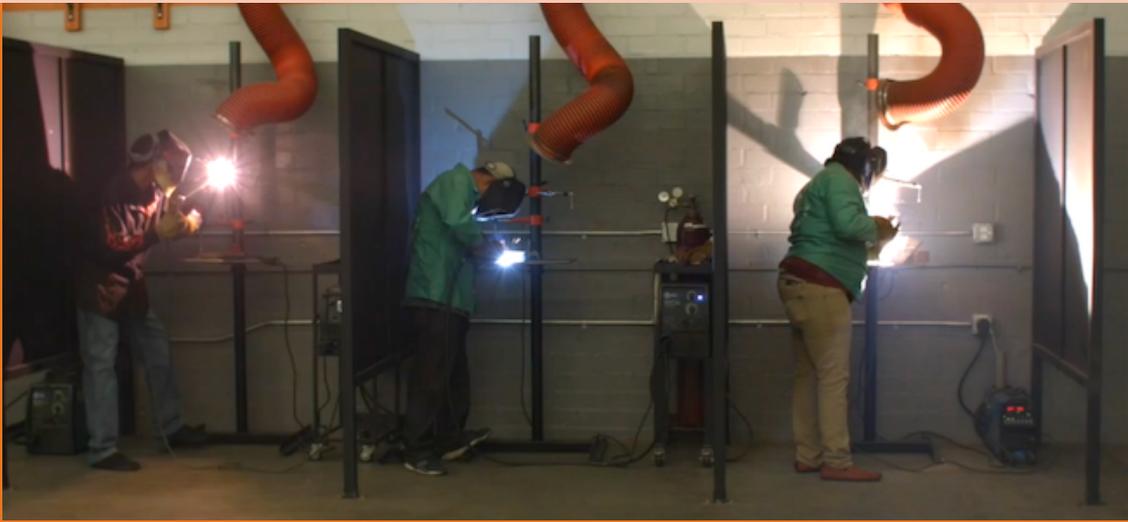


## Women in Non-Traditional Careers

Pictured above is our first class for women only. As the number of women applicants has risen, it was time for a dedicated class.

Back to the class...We always say this is the best class ever. But this is the best class ever. Each student has a fierce desire to change their lives and provide for their families. This year, we started a class just for women we call WINC, Women in Non-Traditional Careers. Many of our former female students are volunteering to be coaches and mentors for our new female students.

Things did have to change due to COVID. Classroom instruction is online, but their welding lab is on the premises. For those of you who are interested in learning more about welding, feel free to view our [video instruction](#). Each day's class size is just 12 students instead of 30. 12 students ensures social distancing in the classroom and provides each student with their own welding booth. Keeping surfaces clean is a priority as well as taking the temperature of each student, staff and volunteer as they arrive. And of course, masks on **all** the time.



Each student has their own welding booth.

In the past, up to 3 students shared a single booth. Not this time. Each student has their own booth giving them more welding practice and personal instruction.

Although COVID has changed how we conduct our classes, fewer students has already been a blessing. In just two weeks, we know each student better and realize we have more time to pour our lives into theirs. We pray God will use our staff and all the faithful volunteers for His glory.

Each student has a unique story. They feel all alone in their struggles. One student broke down and cried this week. "This has to work. I have nothing else." As their guard starts to crumble, we can step in and love them, respect them and encourage them. We pray that by the end of the course, they will know the truth and the truth will set them free (John 8:31-32).

Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. Please pray our students will come one step closer each week to knowing the true "Peace of God."

I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at [steve@reignitehope.com](mailto:steve@reignitehope.com) or by phone at [\(310\) 847-0593](tel:(310)847-0593). Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Love you All,



**ReIGNITE Hope**

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