

Timeless Transformations

Hope is in the Jingle

Now that we've hosted four Jackson Jingles, I've reflected on what the party means and why we do it. Outside of it being a great celebration and a way of kicking off the holiday season, I believe it's about hope. We embed the word hope in our daily conversations but at a deeper level, what is hope? Where does it come from? How do we keep hope alive in us? Using a few pictures from the past Jingles, I'm hopeful that you will believe **Hope is in the Jingle!**

I put our four invitations side by side. I love the consistency and the touch of class we bring to planning the party. There's a lot to be said for that. It's not about what we do that sets us apart; it's about how we do it. Creating an invitation and sending it out in advance is an added step of formality that breathes hope into the Jingle. Let's get this party crackin' was a great theme!



What is hope? Hope changes everything. Hope is the starting place of where dreams begin. Hope is believing that things can change for the better. Hope is the voice within that says “yes” when everyone and everything on the outside says “no.” Hope is the only thing that is stronger than fear.

Christmas is a reflective opportunity. As the year comes to a close it's a time for us to recognize what we have come to be. It's also a time to be renewed as we move into the fresh territory of a New Year. As we set New Year's resolutions, our focus is always on hope. Hope is the power that forms the platform for our future!

One of the most common Bible verses referenced during the Christmas season is from the New Testament in Colossians 1:27, “Christ in you, the *hope* of glory.” It's a time to realize that each of us represent the light of hope and embody the character of Christ within to be all that we can be.

Hope is a deep knowing. When we have hope it's like seeing a distant light, like a light at the end of the tunnel. When we can see the light ahead, even if it's just a glimmer of light, it gives us a vision and a creative power. That's where we can co-create our lives. That's the most powerful kind of hope there is because it gives us strength. Hope leads us wherever we want to go.

Hope is a spiritual quality of who we are. It is the anchor of our soul. Hope can be found in our family and in our home. It's what firmly anchors all of us together. Maybe it's as simple as that: **Hope is in the Jingle** of our home and in our lives where we are all bound together as a family. Here are pictures from our front yard for each of the past four Jackson Jingles.

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Sometimes it's easier to ask, what is the opposite of hope? It's to be hopeless. It's to be in despair. Aren't these the most alarming words, *I'm sorry, there is no hope*. I can't think of anything worse than hearing those words because where there is no hope there is no life or possibility. Hope is what keeps us alive. Hope isn't optimism either. Optimism is psychological in that it's based on the way we think. It's more like positive thinking. Hope is passionate trusting that comes from a power greater than ourselves. This power is magnificent because it's the kind of power that draws from the depth of our soul and gives us the strength and capacity to overcome.

I was in a meeting just this past week where the work of Gregory Boyle was discussed. He works to improve the lives of gang members. He said gang violence is about *the lethal absence of hope*. Gangs are places where kids go when they are miserable. They have no hope. They can't imagine their future so they plan their funeral. He says a hopeful kid never joins a gang. Without hope there is no way to change things. There is no way to transform fear so they keep transmitting fear. The key to improving lives is to instill the belief that there is hope. Everyone must have a ray of hope. He says hope is the difference between being a victim or a survivor. If there is a lethal absence of hope there is no will to live. I love that! In your careers, both in the medical field and in education, I would be focused on how to "package up hope." I would put a jingle in whatever you do to ding-a-ling hope.

What inspires hope and where does it come from? I believe it comes from possibility. Hope is powered by possibly. It must be part of our nature, e.g. who we are. It's takes hard work, not wishful thinking. It's easy to run out of hope when things get rough. The difference is we must be able to see there is another way. It's a powerful thing to have hope. Here is the main point: we must know what hope looks like and feels like. This is what I believe hope looks like and feels like in 2015: a gorgeous home with a sunset and three beautiful, successful, inspiring girls (there aren't enough adjectives to describe you three)!



I hear some say, it would be easy to have hope and be inspired if I woke up to a home on the water and came home to an evening sunset, and had a supportive husband and family with three successful girls. That's true. At the same time we've worked hard and we've had a lot of hope. Always remember that we are projecting light. Our hope is rooted in the light of who we are. It's the knowing that there is always something possible. Otherwise we are stuck in dead end thinking, we have exhausted all of our resources, and we run into a dead end. It's when we say *it's just the way it is*. That is not true. That is just the way it is at the moment. One of my greatest hopes is that you will never find yourselves at a dead end.

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As I was looking through Jackson Jingle pictures, in 2016 I must have been using my digital camera because for every picture, it takes a little action shot. I uploaded the action shot video [here](#) just for fun. This is what inspires hope and this is where it comes from!



How do we keep hope alive? How do we cultivate hope? That's the million dollar question! If we could only bottle it up and save it forever and give it away to anyone that needs it. One of my favorite leadership quotes is, "Pure and simple: A great leader is a dealer of hope." We keep hope alive when we continually develop new ways of thinking and being and seeing in the world. Rather than dead end thinking, like "that's just the way it is," be open to divine possibility. We say to ourselves, change is possible. There is something in every person that can change. When we know that change is possible it means we can reach our potential. We must know "this can change" and with that we can develop new pathways in our thinking and we can bring about change.

Do you realize how proud I was at the Jackson Jingle? I had several from my sorority say, this is encouraging to see young adults dressed so nice. It's inspiring to see respectful young people getting along and having fun. I had my best friend from high school say, you must be so proud to have responsible girls that are best friends and are willing to invite their friends over to their childhood home and meet their parents. I never take that for granted. I had work friends say it is rare to find a family that has stayed together in the same home, from the same mom and dad with three kids: a real family. That's how we cultivate hope. We set the bar. We set the level of expectation for the best it can be!



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We also keep hope alive when we give it away. That's what the Jackson Jingle is: it's giving our hope away to others. It's saying we believe in the Christ-mas spirit. We believe in ourselves. We believe in the potential of everyone and everything. That is the greatest gift we can give is to say *I believe in you*. It calls people into their magnificence. There is something magical in that.

When we renew our hope and look ahead to the future, let us help others renew their hope as well. That's what it means to bring light into the world. That's what Christ-mas means to me. That is why there is **Hope in the Jingle**. It's so much more than a celebration. May you always jingle all the way home. Most of all, may you always be hopeful in all that you seek to do and love!



I love you more than all the hopeful jingles in the world – Love Mom!