

# Hope Full

January

“I am so concerned for my students this semester. Some of them have impossible situations and I look for ways to show the love of Christ to them.” Professor C

“On the first day of class I let students know that I am a Christ follower -- and how I hope this makes a difference in how I treat them.” Professor G



Christian professors and administrators *are* finding students wanting to talk about coping. Today an administrator told me, “I often end up in conversations with students where we talk about what gives them hope – or where to turn when they lack hope.”

## The Anchor Holds

This semester we have four small group Bible studies for Christian professors and administrators at North Texas and Texas Woman’s universities. Each lesson is built around the question “What does it mean to represent Christ at a secular university?”



The early Christian church talked about being in the world but not of the world. They often used the analogy of a boat: the boat is meant to be in the water – but you don’t want the water in the boat.

And what anchors us in the midst of job, finances or family struggles? The application from these small group studies is to be people who not only find their hope in God, but to offer that hope to others who don’t know Christ.

## Driving Out Fear

“There is no fear in love. Perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

1 John 4:18 NIV

We talked about this verse in three different small groups today. God cares deeply for us and He wants our lives to be characterized by hope and joy – even in the midst of the unexpected, the unpredictable -- because He loves us perfectly and He resides with us permanently.



## Family Ties



This Christmas we were together as a family for the first time in two years. Our son and daughter-in-law live in Seattle. They found a place a few hours east where all the kids could Nordic ski and Sarah and I could snowshoe. Short winter days meant plenty of time for cooking soups, decorating cookies and reading books by the fire. It made us ready – and hopeful – for the new year.

*Steve and Sarah*