

*The Hope
in
Personal Apocalypse*



Jeff H. Ulrich

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AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER: Jeff H. Ulrich – Jeff Ulrich Legacies

Send Correspondence to info@JeffUlrichLegacies.com

Dedication

Dedication

My Dear Grace,

I wrote this book when you were just turning fourteen.

I remember when you first embraced hope – it was the 24th of July in 2011; you were only nine. You demonstrated wisdom beyond your years and, with faith and courage, you have since come through some difficult times. And you chose grace over bitterness; you have become a fine young lady. I am so proud of you!

I taught you many lessons and, since you learned them well, you are able to overcome today's challenges. The most important of these lessons are based on the trials through which I persevered.

Next to raising a wonderful daughter, I consider my highest achievement to be the victory in my heart. Because of hope, I have overcome; and my hope is your hope – it is an early inheritance for you to cherish.

Well done, kiddo. You're doing great! But you're growing up and, as you go through life, some things will get easier while other things will become difficult.

Sweetheart, this book is a special gift for you to open when you need a boost. When you do so, you might be much older; I might not be around anymore. Nevertheless, I preserved my spirit for you to find in these pages; every word was lovingly written with you in mind. When you pull this book from the shelf and wipe away the dust, may its chapters renew and encourage you with hope. Soar on wings as you read and reflect on our time together. Most importantly, never forget that you have been loved as much as any father could ever love a daughter.

With all my love,

Dad!

Hi, Dad,

It's almost Father's Day. I miss you!

I wish that you could be here to read this message in person, because I would have you know that this book honors you. Jeff included a chapter, *The Hope in Harry*, to fulfill his promise – he told you that your courage and grace would not be forgotten and that something good would come from your ordeal.

In this book, Jeff shared the hope that you were inspired to represent until the very end. Dad, your example made a positive impact on me and on people who were around us at the time of your passing. Now, in this meaningful way, you can continue to touch the lives of people who struggle as much as you once suffered.

Dad, this is our tribute to you, not just for this Father's Day but, for all time.

Still loving you in my heart, now and forever,

Your “#1 Daughter”

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FOREWORD:

By Mike Connolly and William H Schnakenberg IV

Chaplain Mike Connolly

This book you're holding, *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse*, was written from the heart of my great friend, Jeff. I am now on my third reading of this book, which he sent me to review at a time when I was slowly traveling through my own seven-year apocalyptic wilderness experience; my health had fallen into a deep life-threatening decline. The help, encouragement, and hope that Jeff's book continues to provide me were born out of his own hardships, the personal apocalypse he faced, and the resulting lessons he learned.

After working in law enforcement and serving as a hospital chaplain, I became acquainted with Jeff through social media, which wonderfully bridged the more than 2,000-mile gap between our locations. I first stumbled across Jeff five years ago on his Facebook ministry page which, even at that time, had a worldwide following – many of whom were terribly burdened with their own personal, spiritual, emotional, and/or physical apocalypses.

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Soon after meeting Jeff, he graciously asked if I would consider becoming a contributor to his page by praying for those in need and possibly even write articles of encouragement based on the Bible; I eagerly accepted his offer. What followed, for me, was the truly spiritual, emotionally rich, and gratifying experience of being provided the opportunity to minister to others on such a large scale. Not long after, Jeff created a Facebook ministry page for me, and I am still actively mentoring several thousand people in need to this day.

While Jeff's ministry page was neither designed nor intended as a vehicle for sharing his personal life story and the challenges he's faced, with the expectation of helping others through first-person accounts and personal narratives, *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse* is crafted to do just exactly that. Every aspect of Jeff's book has wonderfully ministered to me in unique ways and built up nicely to its final chapters.

Chapter Eleven of twelve, titled "The Hope in Harry," is the true-life story of an older man, very near my same age, who Jeff knew very well; his story and Jeff's message provided me with the determination and hope that I was desperately searching for and encouraged me not to give in or give up while fighting my own personal apocalypse. Like Jeff, I discovered that through God's love, mercy,

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and grace, and through His strength living within me, I could, indeed, do all the things He has created me to accomplish for Him.

Unlike your typical novel, which is often read once and then discarded, *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse* is a book that I believe must be read more than just once. Each time I read its twelve chapters, I am supplied with a renewed sense of hope. My earnest prayer is that God, through the reading of *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse*, will minister His personal presence, love, comfort, and peace to you.

Chaplain Mike Connolly

Prescott Arizona



Chaplain William H Schnakenberg IV

I was deeply humbled to be asked to write a short foreword for *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse*. The author and I met, as I would like to think, only through ‘divine intervention’ around a decade ago. Though many might consider this meeting a random event, we both felt it necessary to stay in touch. Over the years, the author and

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I have built a special and important relationship. I am honored and blessed to have him as a friend. He has touched me and made such a significant impact on me. I thank the Good Lord that he is in my life.

Through his recent endeavor, *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse*, I believe he will make a similar impact on you.

The book is a work of art. As you will see with each turning of the page, the author truly has a gift with words and analogies. This is a skill we non-writers can only sit back and admire. The wisdom is displayed with every keystroke. Each chapter pulled me forward, wanting more. This is a book that calls to be read in one sitting and then draws the reader to start back at the beginning, highlighter in hand. I have found myself approaching it somewhat like a devotional, reading it through twice and then using it as a reference, reviewing highlighted passages that have helped me through difficult times. Readers will want to refer to it again and again, not just this month or even this year, but over the course of a lifetime.

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I was particularly touched by the author's personal stories and his use of the "handicap" concept, such as in Chapter 2 where he states:

"In spite of these problems, I try to put my best foot forward in every situation; and I am ever thankful for this gift of sight – partial though it may be."

The author may not have perfect sight, but he truly sees things that even those with 20/20 vision may not see. Reading *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse* feels like a personal visit with the author, one in which you are allowed to really know him. He is approachable and vulnerable, allows you to discover that, though he may seem to be handicapped from the outside, the Lord has used his handicap as a gift that lets faith move mountains. It may sound strange, but through his partial blindness, he sees the physical and spiritual world more clearly. Some may feel intimidated, fearful, even cursed by such a disability, but this author recognizes the blessing and accepts it as a source of encouragement. I think of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, where he describes the thorn in his flesh and prays three times to have it removed.

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“But he said to me, ‘My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ So then, I will boast most gladly about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may reside in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with troubles, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9 to 10 – New English Translation).

Through examples such as this, the author of *The Hope in Personal Apocalypse* helps us to see that we, too, can be so humble and see that His grace is enough and His power made perfect in weakness.

Know that when you pick up this book, it may be the first time but it will not be the last. You will have to go back again and again to grasp all of its wisdom. If you are ready to be encouraged, get your highlighters ready, and turn the page!

In Christ's love,

Chaplain William H Schnakenberg IV

Author/Chaplain-Pastoral Apologist

Blue Collar Believer

www.bcbschnakenberg.com

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

By Jeff H. Ulrich

My wish is for the exceptional people, both in my past and present life, to know the depth of my appreciation for their positive impact on me. I share about other key figures in this book, but the following individuals also deserve my utmost gratitude:

- To all former music teachers, high school Geometry and English teachers, as well as college English professors – You were patient and provided fair opportunities for me to achieve my potential. I have since worked very hard to honor you with my life.
- Mom, Grandpa and Grandma, Uncle Bill, Aunt Sally, Martha, Dorothy, Pastor K., Pastor R., Rev B., Pastor B., Chaplain Mike, Chaplain Bill, Father L., Gary, and my precious Ms. B. – You are the saints who will forever occupy a special place in my heart. Because of your faith and unconditional love, I have cherished in spirit –

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especially during the difficult seasons – having shared your good company in this world.

- Mr. O., Mr. S., Mr. K., Mr. C., and Mr. D., – Some of you are still living. I look forward to revealing this book to you. You once hired me. You believed that I could do the job; you certainly allowed me to succeed. You patiently shaped me into someone who could better serve. Where would I be without people like you who would not underestimate the value of a diamond in the rough? Thank you for giving me chances and for being more than bosses; and some of you are truly saints.

I thank God for the aforementioned people and so many other good characters who have been my role models, encouragers, givers, and loving hearts. I credit some of them for inspiring me and for providing feedback toward the completion of this book, and I also must mention Karen, Leslie, and Ms. O. who are good friends and who contributed constructive input with care.

Thank you, all, for being a part of my life and for believing in me.

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And many of us could testify that certain animals are good for the soul in companionship; through their special connection with humankind, Heaven embraces the one who is broken and who could otherwise be lost. Such creatures seem to bear our burdens and sooth our pain so that we could endure the darkest nights. I have personally been blessed to have such timely relationships with unforgettable furry friends; they have a healing effect of which I would not take for granted by overlooking their unique significance.

But, most of all, I thank God for all hope in my life and for His Word of which my expression in this book is abundant to discern.

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Introduction

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***apocalypse* | /ə'pɑ:kə,lɪps/ | noun | [singular]**

“: a great disaster : a sudden and very bad event that causes much fear, loss, or destruction.”

***"Apocalypse." – Definition for English-Language Learners
from Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary.***

N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2016.



Introduction



Do you feel alone and afraid? Are you carrying a heavy load? Are you suffering and weary for answers?

I want to assure you that, if you reach in earnest, you would grasp the crucial answers. You would also find the treasure-trove of heavenly hope that brings unspeakable joy.

It is disconcerting to consider how colossal suffering can quickly bring any of us to our knees; life can indiscriminately prove our fragility in an instant. But there is a way to prepare for and to cope with tribulation.



For more than fifty years, I have faced varying degrees of challenges and hardships; my birth defect has certainly been a factor. Yet, through my trials, I made a discovery

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that has proven itself to be effective and essential for my survival.

I found that, as I fashion myself with thoughts and behaviors that reflect those of upright individuals, I strengthen my heart against the menacing forces and the influences that would corrupt me in – what I refer to as – “Personal Apocalypse.”

My discovery did not come easy. My circumstances and state of mind over 25 years ago made this difficult and slow-going to put into practice; I am still growing. But I have known and was inspired by people who rejoiced in their sufferings. Once I aspired to live according to their “upright” examples, I began to see the hope that they could see; their way leads to hope for everyone, even for someone like me.

Therefore, I try to be that person who diligently seeks wisdom, stands for truth, and lives to do what is right. During trials, that person’s traits are most desirable; he is hopeful and loving in patience and humility. He has a healthy perspective from where he faces every tomorrow.

Should his entire world be decimated and fall into ruin, he might weep over lost comforts; he is still only human. However, his tears would ultimately wash away the ashes of devastation; he would not grieve beyond the night. By the morning sun, the fortress of his impenetrable character

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would be revealed and would shine for all to see. Therein lies his source of strength in a sustenance of hope that replenishes peace and contentment.



Instead of putting hope at risk in life's wasteland, cradle it in the one location that is securable against harm from neighboring madness; your heart should be this refuge where peace can flourish amidst an ever-renewing crop of hope.

Until darkness comes, venture beyond the walls toward every horizon. Live a full life, and explore different paths in search of joy.

Every road has its challenges, but you would be strengthened in your faithful endeavor to overcome life's obstacles. Toil against the large rocks of adversity that block your way; move them, even ever so slightly, to uncover seeds for hope.

Let this book be your guide in planting for a new harvest – a supply to sustain a strong foundation for hope in your life.

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~ Devotional ~

“...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

See Romans 5:3-6 (ESV)



Prayer

Heavenly Father, my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and His righteousness. I trust no other foundation. I wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.

When I cannot see my Savior in the darkness, I rest on His unchanging Grace; and my anchor holds in every storm.

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Oh, God, when the angels trumpet at Christ's return, I long to be standing faultless before Your throne – dressed in Your Son's righteousness.

Thank You for supporting me with the promise, covenant, and blood of Jesus. When my soul gives way to the overwhelming flood around me, Jesus is my hope and protection.

Lord, I praise You for Your love and mercy. Amen.

BASED ON

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

BY EDWARD MOTE (1834)

The Hope in Personal Apocalypse

Content: The spirit of an overcomer is preserved within these pages for you to discover. Yet, this book is not just based on the author's life. It is about the hope that brought him through various hardships – some that are common and others that are not so common.

The author was born and has lived with forms of blindness, and that uncommon experience is the foundation for his perspective on what it means to persevere. But we all can relate to desiring a hope that is not defined as “wishful thinking.” The author learned very well what hope truly means, and he wants to provide an opportunity for you to find the hope of life that is for everyone who seeks it.

Grace was just fourteen when her father wrote and dedicated this book for her. He lovingly wrote every word with her well-being and future in mind.

You are holding a piece of Grace's inheritance; her father presented this special gift for her to open when she needs a boost. But the overall message from this father and first-time author is for everyone. He wrote each chapter to renew and encourage the reader with hope.

About the Author: Jeff, who humbly writes as, Jeff H. Ulrich, is a certified Chaplain who established a ministry in 2011 that grew to 1.3 million followers by 2014 – all to perpetuate the message of hope that is the basis for this book. Jeff's heart has long been to share the good news about the hope of Jesus that saved him and its assurance that no one is hopeless. This book is his passionate next step to fulfill a calling to declare what God, by His love and mercy, has done for him.

About This Release: This advance edition is to fund its wider publication and to help sponsor an online outreach where Jeff engages patrons and posts free and premium new content in advance of his upcoming book to expand on this one. Jeff's books and online outreach are to be a legacy that would honor the hope of his life.

This book is yet to be polished by a publishing editor but is complete and already touching the lives of its readers. Every word was written with such care to give hope. May each chapter of this advance edition inspire you with hope.

Visit <http://JeffUlrichLegacies.com> to see and learn more!