

Hope for the Hungry Soul

True Stories that Encourage & Inspire

Christine Urrutia

Do you struggle to find purpose in life's challenges?

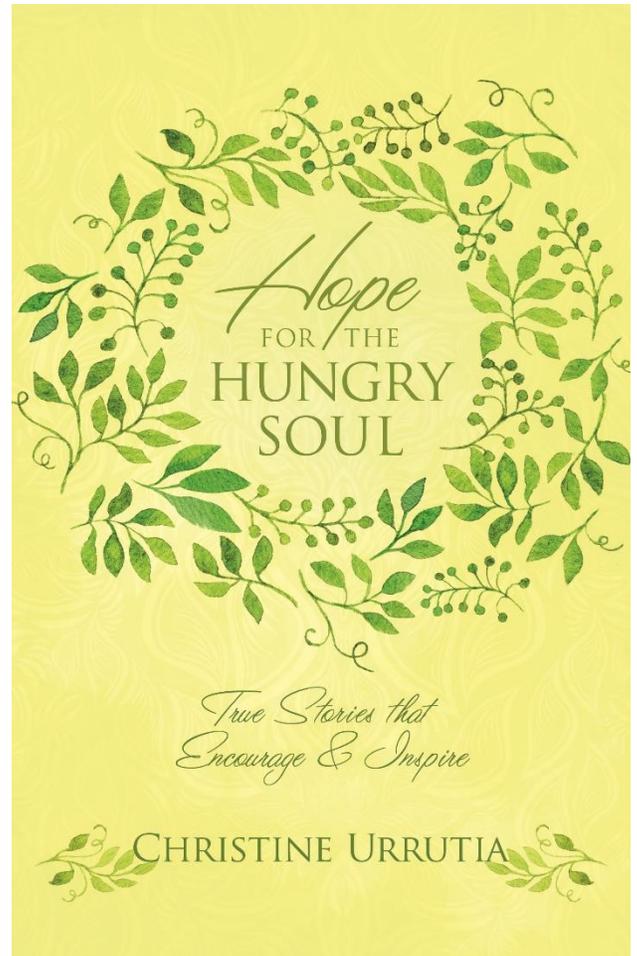
Do you sometimes feel forsaken, rejected, abandoned, or misunderstood?

You are not alone!

Hope for the Hungry Soul is a compilation of true stories, depicting the journey from the darkest of nights to the most joyful of mornings. The stories offer hope and encouragement, as they demonstrate powerful lessons about life and reaffirm God's love for you. Join author Christine Urrutia on a powerful journey through short stories and devotionals, where life's challenges are faced with the certainty of God's promises—and His unconditional love.

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About the Author

Christine Urrutia

Christine Urrutia is a passionate adventurer, writer, teacher, and youth leader. Having completed her bachelor's degree in psychology, Christine works as a substitute teacher at a private Christian school in Lake Arrowhead, California, while completing her master's degree in secondary education. You can often find

Christine on the lake in a kayak, enjoying time with God, her husband, Marc, and her youngest Energizer bunny, Hope.

What Others are Saying

“Hope for the Hungry Soul uses everyday experiences we can all relate to. They are down to earth, leaving you feeling uplifted and in awe of God.”

-Pam Butler, retired educator and mentor

“Christine shares her heart by way of its struggles, failings, and triumphs, with transparency, always returning to God’s love and faithfulness.”

-Linda Huffman, principal, Lake Arrowhead Christian School

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Christine Urrutia

Author of *Hope for the Hungry Soul*

- Famous authors and poets have drawn inspiration from various mediums for their literary works, what would you say has been your greatest inspiration for writing this book?
 - *I can take no credit for this book, literally. Writing for me is a God-given gift. Without God and the inspiration of His Spirit, I could not write a single sentence let alone a manuscript. I am thankful that He gave me the words to write.*
- Are these stories all true, and do you have a personal favorite story?
 - *Every story contained within this book is true. Each story represents a life lesson in my journey with the Lord. I am tempted to share the story of finding beauty in our brokenness before the Lord when accidentally breaking my daughter's princess crown, but I think more than anything, I will never forget when God challenged me to pray for rain in Southern California in July, and I awoke one glorious July morning to the pitter patter of rain outside my window. God is faithful!*
- In some of your stories, you refer to a blue jay. What is the significance of the blue jay for you?
 - *God first used a blue jay in our lives while we were staying at a timeshare in Ramona, California. They had given us an upstairs unit and when I looked out on the balcony, a beautiful tree could be seen from each unit's deck, except one: ours! Our unit had the most pathetic-looking dead tree I've ever seen. We requested to be moved to a different unit but the front desk said the rooms were*

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filled. The next day I sat out on the deck to read my book that literally spoke of a bird on the page I was reading. At that exact moment, a blue jay came literally within a few feet and sat on the railing, looking straight at me. The blue jay then turned, flew into the tree, and turned again looking straight at me. I heard in my spirit, "What do you see?" I said, "Lord, I see a completely dead tree." I then heard, "You might see death all around you, but I am not finished working. Begin to declare life over your marriage, family, finances...." Since that time, God has regularly used a blue jay to challenge us to see Him at work in our lives, even in places where blue jays are not normally found.

- How do you find hope, and for that matter hold fast to it amidst the loss, tragedies, and trials you have experienced in your life?
 - *The pain of loss and the unimaginable trials we experience in this life can be overwhelming at times. We never thought we would lose so many babies to miscarriage. Yet even in the pain of these losses, God was there! When we put our hope in God and hold fast to the promises in His word, we will experience a Hope that never disappoints even amidst life's challenges. I am reminded of John 16:33 when Jesus says, 'Take heart! I have overcome the world.' I am also reminded of our daughter whose name is Hope. She is a living testimony of the hope we have in Jesus!*
- People talk about happiness and joy as if they are synonymous. Are they the same to you and how would you explain the joy you have found from the pages of your book?
 - *Happiness is a feeling, an emotion. It's beautiful! But joy...joy is found in the process...in the journey of living a life for God! It's in the dark places and the deep places where God reveals Himself and His faithfulness! The Bible says the*

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joy of the Lord is our strength; that is a place far beyond happiness! The stories found on the pages of this book represent that journey of joy.

- What does adversity mean to you?
 - *Adversity can be staring the loss of a child in the face not once but four times, it can be an unwanted diagnosis or physical impairment, the loss of relationship, the absence of finances, etc., but in all of these things, adversity is the opportunity to see God work in my life and in the lives of others...to see His faithfulness again and again. Adversity is the opportunity for me to be completely yielded to an amazing God who loves me far beyond what I can even begin to comprehend.*

- Are there any words of wisdom or advice you would give those reading this book or someone wanting to write a book?
 - *Apart from God, I have no wisdom. The only wisdom I do have comes from Him and Him alone. Every October/November, I begin to pray for God's wisdom and direction for the year ahead. In November 2011, God gave me two words for 2012: new and adventure. I remember standing on the docks of the water at the village in Lake Arrowhead on December 31, 2011, praying and asking God where/what was this new adventure. I clearly heard Him say, "Right where you are standing." I was shocked. My response was, "But Lord, I don't do mountains," and yet that is exactly what God had planned. When God births something in your spirit, don't be afraid of it. Hold fast to Him and His promises. I am reminded of Hebrews 11:8 which states: "Abraham left not knowing where he was going but he obeyed." It was the exact same scenario for us and it has been one incredibly amazing God-ordained adventure!*

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