

---

## The Foothills Flyer

---

### A Letter from Jesse Harden

Value: Global Missions

Dear Foothillians,

On behalf of the New Creation ABQ family, thank you. Thank you for caring for and loving Auline. Thank you for loving the Platts through the beginning of the most painful season of their wonderful family. Thank you for coming alongside of our newly forming community, supporting us, helping us provide meals, childcare, and making the memorial service an honoring occasion for Auline and a witness to the goodness of God through Jesus.



Our church family has the privilege of developing friendships with some wonderful neighbors. We have the opportunity to pray for people as they walk by our homes, laugh with their children, or yell at their significant others. Because we are intentionally present, we have the opportunity to break up fights, give a meal, spare change, or provide some work to people working hard to make it. Last month, we lent an extension cord to an elderly woman whose electricity had been shut off.

We are also served by our neighbors. In fact, the people that we spend the most time with are considered "people of peace." This means they listen to us, welcome us, and serve us. We are served well by these people of peace. Several have brought us food. Many helped us move Anita Platt into her new home on the Platt property.

I have been developing a strong relationship with a neighbor across the street. He's a young father of a beautiful little boy. We've been doing a Bible study together in addition to hanging out together in our homes. The other day, we looked at the baptism of Jesus by John in the Gospel of Luke. God speaks to Jesus saying, "Behold, this is my son in whom I am well pleased." I explained that because of Jesus, we can receive these words as spoken to us. Our identity is that of well-loved sons and daughters of God with whom God is well pleased. I explained and demonstrated to him how I attempt to always communicate my love to my children before I discipline them (or even praise them). I want them to know that their identity as a beloved child is not dependent on their behavior. In the same way, our identity as children of God is not earned by our behavior, rather our behavior flows from our identity as loved children. Later that day, my friend's girlfriend came over with their son. The first thing he tells his son is, "I love you. You're loved." Beautiful.

These past two weeks have been a difficult season for our community. The next weeks, months, and years are a marathon. We enter into a long-term season of being a family to and with the Platts. By God's grace, this will bear witness to what it means to belong to the family of God in the joy of the Kingdom. I believe that as we grieve, serve, laugh, love, eat, and remember together, God will shape us into an extended family on mission that is winsome, faithful, and fruitful. Our neighbors will be invited to witness and belong/live into our rhythms of love, support, and mission. As they do, the Holy Spirit will renew and transform all of us.

Blessings Foothills. Please pray for us as we live into a new normal, coming alongside the Platts in grief and support as we are on mission.

---

## Helping Kids Overcome a Negative Self-Image by Mike Potter

Value: Intentional Families

Dave Park, author of the book Overcoming a Negative Self Image, talked to Pastor Mike about how parents can their help kids overcome their negative self-image and see themselves the way God sees them. Dave is the founder and president of *Infusion* and *His Passion Ministries*. Dave has ministered to pastors, youth leaders, parents and students for over 25 years all over the world equipping pastors and the church with the message of who we are in Christ and abiding in Him. Here's an excerpt from their conversation:



### What is your general definition of negative self-image? Where do these negative perceptions come from in a person?

When we think of a negative self-image, we think of the person who says, "I think I'm ugly" or "I'm no good because I can't do anything right." That's certainly what a negative self-image looks like. One of the things that we need to understand from a biblical perspective is that all of us were created in the image of God and originally had fellowship with God, but when Adam and Eve sinned, not only did that bring about a sin nature, but one of the side effects that we overlook is that we are all messed up in how we view God and how we view ourselves.

So many individuals think they don't struggle with a negative self-image, but thinking too highly of yourself is just another means of protecting yourself and being your own god rather than relying on the resources that Christ has for us.

**Rejection plays a big role in how kids perceive themselves. How can parents help their teens navigate through the rejection that they are going to face so that it doesn't become an issue of affecting their self-image?**

I wish I could invent a security blanket like the one that Linus used to have, but no such thing exists. In fact, even the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives doesn't prevent us from being hurt. This world is evil, and one of the things that this book will not promise you is a trouble free life. Anybody who tries to make that promise is selling something you shouldn't buy.

The Word of God tells us that we're going to have trials and tribulations and things are going to be tough because this world is a cruel place. If they know deeply within their heart that there are a number of non-negotiables in their life and one of those is God loves me, then they are going to know that they will never be rejected by God and will always be acceptable to Him. We know this because Romans 8:1 says, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." There is no punishment, abandonment, or sense of God giving up on us.

God says over and over again in Scripture that He will never leave us or forsake us; He will be with us even to the very end of the age. He set up residency in us and has given us the seal of the Holy Spirit. We have confidence that Jesus Christ loves us so much that He has created safety and security within that relationship that the world can never give. Incidentally, that's another one of the major false identity equations that the world has; status and recognition will give you safety and security, but it won't because status and recognition change like the wind. There is only safety and security in Christ.

**Talk to the parent who is dealing with a child who they know is really struggling with a negative self-image. What kind of encouragement can you give to them in dealing with that teen?**

First and foremost our battle needs to begin with prayer. We need to be praying aggressively. In other words, if there is a student out there that is hurting, we don't just pray for his freedom. We need to be praying that the Lord's angels would camp around that teen and escort any and all evil away from his mind. We need to renounce these lies specifically and pray for truth in his life.

You could also give them this book on how to overcome negative self-image. Have him read it, and then ask him tell you what he thought about it. Be open to him, too. Let him know that he isn't the only one struggling with a negative self-image. Tell him that everyone does at one time or another. He might then be more willing to open up to you. Have him write out those things that he has believed that are lies, and then show him the truth to replace the lies with.

*To listen to this interview in its entirety and for much more parenting help, log on to [www.parentinghelpnow.org](http://www.parentinghelpnow.org).*

## UPCOMING DATES:

- April 21-22- Women's Retreat
- April 16th- Easter Sunday
- April 22nd- Men's Mosaic fishing trip to Tingley Beach
- April 23rd- New Comers Luncheon

**OUR MISSION:** Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshipping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR CORE VALUES:** 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship