



Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation*

Compassion and hope

Why? No doubt, this word came to your mind when news spread this past December of the senseless, tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Why would anyone take the lives of such young, innocent children, along with their principal and teachers? The how and why of such an unspeakable act was hard to fathom, let alone understand.

What matters most

I couldn't begin to imagine the anguish, pain and gut-wrenching sorrow the families experienced and will continue to deal with for the rest of their lives. Our local newspaper headline, "Our Hearts Are Broken," said it all.

Events like these certainly test us, and remind us again of what's really important. I know I went home that evening and hugged my only child, daughter Dallas, now 20, who had just returned home from college a couple of days earlier for the holidays.

Time spent with family had an even greater depth of meaning for us this year. That joyous and warm fellowship we share is always treasured at the holidays, and this year, perhaps, far more so than in prior years.

It is only through our faith in God that we find the courage, strength and hope for tomorrow, and I know our Angus family has joined me in continuing to pray for the

hurting families and community as they strive to put their lives back together.

Reaching out

Hope is only given birth and grows when one reaches out to help others in need.

The Angus family — farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers — understand this better than anyone by helping their neighbors fix fence, put up hay, work cattle and finish harvesting crops when

they face unforeseen hardships. At the drop of a hat, we'll leave everything we're doing to roll up our sleeves and help our neighbor.

Whether it's giving of our compassion, labor, time or, yes, our financial resources, when we have the opportunity to help others find hope, start anew and regain their footing, or just make their lives better in some way, we should do it.

Maybe it's as simple as a smile, opening a door, extending a hand to an elderly person or more warmly greeting a friend.

It could be helping load sacks into someone's pick-up at the local feed store, offering to carry out parts at the equipment store, pitching in to help a fellow Angus breeder at his or her annual production or consignment sale, encouraging Angus youth with their show heifer project or doing a neighbor's chores while they are away. Whatever we can do to ease someone else's burden, we should do it.

Inspiring hope

Compassion and hope, I believe, are what inspires the soul, kindles the spirit and strengthens our faith in God. I challenge you to join me in daily looking for ways to help and then taking action in being compassionate toward others in our giving of time, talents and treasure.

Let us never forget how richly blessed we are to live in a free country; to have our faith, families and friends; and to be able to do what we love — raise Angus cattle!

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