

STORIES OF HOPE

PASTOR'S MEMO



Our vision here at Hope is MULTIPLY. God has always purposed that His people would be fruitful and multiply; that our lives would bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit within us—the character of Jesus—and that our spiritual growth would be reproduced in the lives of others...and then their lives with still others. That's how you get, Multiply! With our nine Life-long Priorities (**Receive** - **Love Honor Follow** - **Link Disciple Invest** - **Pursue Restore**) shaping our life together, we intend to help one another get there. Some of us will become new disciples and others revitalized disciples. What a meaningful life! In my Triad this morning, reflecting on FOLLOW the Holy Spirit, it just struck us how critical it is to engage God's Spirit as a person and not just a force. Becoming fruitful and multiplying is the most radical adventure we could ever undertake, so we don't just need a slightly tweaked conscience to get there. Instead we need God Himself and His very life awakening within us.

This really began to happen for me about 20 years ago as I learned to engage the Spirit directly. Have you ever spoken to God, the Holy Spirit? You might try thanking Him for His constant presence, strength, and direction as you navigate this adventure with Jesus. He's available!

On the Journey!

Stephen

MAKING DISCIPLES: THE LEOPOLDS

Sam and Kimberly Leopold faithfully serve with Cru in Rome, Italy. Their vision is for all college students to hear of the love of Christ, accept it, and to further impact the world. In December, Sam felt a leading to plan and put on a large conference for college students all throughout the country. Last week, this idea came to fruition, with students from four



different countries and twelve different universities attending. The theme was "Going Public" with an emphasis on unashamedly sharing the Gospel. Sam was in charge of finances and also led evangelism

(Pursue) training for the students. During conference afternoons, students got to put into practice their training and went to share the love of Christ on two large college campuses. Sam says, "We thank God for these moments where we can see our vision start to become a reality." Praise God for this encouraging week!

MAKING DISCIPLES: BURINGRUD FAMILY

Our family has been a part of Hope Church and the Little Schoolhouse Preschool (LSP) for almost 5 years. We strive to disciple our children to identify with Christ in all they do and LSP's Christ-based program discipled students to do the same. Simply identifying in Christ, as a child of God, has been an important lesson for our family. Sure, we have our

roles within our family; we have jobs and titles that define what we do. But, with the truth that our identity is in Christ alone, we can be set free from what we do and



really know who we are to better disciple our children... Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

GROWING TOGETHER: GLENDA HAWKINS

As a member of the Hope Renewed Ministry (HRM) team, I have been blessed as I have seen God bring truth to partners as they seek Him with honesty and transparency. We've seen that giving voice in a hard place allows God's faithfulness to shine through. Actively listening in Hope Renewed, as I have experienced, offers a safe place to throw off clutter, and to receive His love,



His grace, His Truth. I find He's waiting for us to agree with Him, and most times that's a workout. In the HRM setting, God

has shown He is there with us (Mt. 18:20) AND we see how absolutely dependent on the Spirit we are. (I think God's dynamic in HRM, Triad and Community!) These are the things I'm learning and I am very blessed.

MAKING DISCIPLES: MOPS

We had a wonderful group of 70+ women participate in MOPS this year with the theme, "Be You, Bravely". We explored what it looked like to courageously take steps in our lives as moms and women. Here is an example of who our MOPS moms are.

"I used to be a teacher and am now a stay-at-home-mom with my daughter. Next year will be my second year in MOPS.



I really enjoyed having time to build my faith with other women in the community."

"I'm a new mom. I am self-employed and have a very unusual working schedule. I look forward to learning about principles of Christian motherhood!"

Join us as we explore the new theme for 2015-16, "Fierce Flourishing", and pray that God will continue to teach us and open our hearts to the brave steps He's led us in this year... and now watch them flourish and thrive!

DISCOVERING GRACE: JEAN JACKSON

I was diagnosed with small-cell lung cancer in January of 2014, after an X-ray and a CT Scan. My husband and I were told by my oncologist that it was incurable and that time might be short. We decided we would no longer sweat the small stuff and trust God, who can do ANYTHING, with whatever came next (joined by more than a few prayer warriors). The tests and treatment began within about 3 weeks. After several periods of cancer-free results, we are now in phase two where the cancer has spread to the liver. However, we KNOW that



God is still in control and we await every appointment to see what He has in store next. We are certain that nothing will happen that God will not control or allow.

MAKING DISCIPLES: DAVE SLYBY

Awkward is an interesting word. It can exist at different levels and mean different things. However, the most common response is to avoid it at all costs. As a volunteer in the High School Community at Hope Church, I encounter some awkward moments when talking to students. It takes time to build a level of trust, but it all starts with that first act of showing another person you are interested in them and you care about them. As a parent of teenagers, I know the value of having another adult that can reinforce Christian principles in our students' lives, but none of that happens unless you push past the awkward moment and just ask questions and listen. I am not trying to be a peer, acting like another teen. I am also not trying to be their parent. I am there to show them that someone cares and is willing to listen to their thoughts as they process the idea of Faith and Christianity in our current culture. When I look for those opportunities and allow God to help me push past the awkward moments, then I see Him make a connection with a student.

