



Serving the World with the Hope of Christ

(Mooreville, NC)

Mission Update - December 2011

*Thank you for your interest
in New Hope Missions Church!*

As we close out 2011, we wanted to reflect on God’s blessings, and invite you to join us in being amazed at God’s goodness, as you read about the highlights of His work in and through our church this year.

Community service events, almost every month

This year included serving at the **Food Pantry**, the **Soup Kitchen**, and the community “back to school” bash, where we placed **new shoes** on children’s feet and washed their feet, sharing the Gospel and praying for each child as we served them.

Our biggest servant event for the year was running a **Vacation Bible School** at the local Christian Mission, for client families.



client families.

The Christian Mission serves thousands of families in need in our own community. We had a blast, and had the opportunity to tell children and parents about the love of God in Christ Jesus. We followed that up with a **Fall Festival** at the same Mission in October.

Community awareness events

To share the love of Christ **IN** the community, and to get further known by the community, we

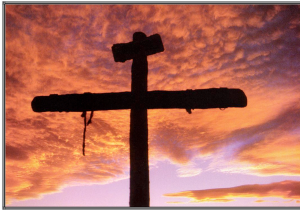
served the general public on three occasions this year. Twice, by serving free **Coffee/Hot Chocolate (donuts, too)** in front of Wal-Mart. We talked about our church and faith in Jesus to those who were interested, and people were surprised (pleasantly) that we were not looking for a donation! In fact, we had to refuse one from several people. We pray that through this small effort, Gospel seeds, in word and deed, were planted, and that we helped to dispel the reputation that “the church is just after your money.”

We also had a free booth at the community **Chili Cook-off** in October. That was a blast interacting with others in our community – showing how much fun Christians have, too!



Special Event @ the church

Our biggest event for inviting the community to worship with us was our **EXTREME LOVE Good**



Friday Dramatic Worship Experience. We used music, video, still images, Scripture and narration to create a stirring review of the crucifixion of Jesus, to show the depth of God's love and sacrifice He made, to save us. Many of the 104 people who attended had never been to a Good Friday service before, and were greatly affected.

Internal Ministry Developments

In September we **started our Life Groups**. These small groups meet weekly in homes for Bible Study, prayer, and close fellowship. This has been particularly "successful," in that about 32 of our 50-55 New Hope people have joined one of four Life Groups! Another Women's Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon. People are growing spiritually in their walk with the Lord, and closer to one another, through these groups!

Additionally, members, regular attendees and new comers, have found New Hope to be just that – **a place to find "new hope."** It is a place where the grace and love of God is experienced through the messages and through the way that people are accepted without being judged. Many are finding that to be a refreshing change from their past or expected church experience.



Missions

Our 3rd week-long mission trip took some of our men to **Nashville** in June, again with Samaritan's Purse, to rebuild homes damaged by the 2010 flood.

Then, in October, Pastor Pete and lay leader, Mr. Kim Purcell, made an **advance mission trip to Kenya**, coordinated by LCMS World Mission missionary, Rev.



Shauen Trump. This was quite the experience, and we learned a lot about cross-cultural missions. The purpose was to begin to explore how we might expand our "missions church" vision to include an international component, which was our intention from the beginning. We have seen where and how we could be involved, and hope to take our first team there within the next 12-18 months. You can see a slide show about the trip on our Facebook page, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Hope-Missions-Church/326483446031>

Plans for 2012

- Add children's ministry components, incrementally
- Increase Community Awareness
- Continue supporting our strong start with in-home Life Groups
- Train and encourage church members and attendees to share their faith out in the community, and invite others to church worship, life group, or service events

Thank you for reading our "recap" of God's work in and through New Hope Missions Church in 2011. May God bless you, and us, with the privilege of sharing the good news of His love for all people, through Jesus Christ, in 2012!

In Him, your brother in Christ,

Pastor Pete