

Growing Communities of Hope

Sermon: Allan Demond Feb 21, 2016

Share with your Group some of what you hope for in the coming year?

NewHope has a vision and a hope for the future. It's to grow hundreds of communities of hope in coming decades where people can experience community and hope. Discuss.

Some of the potential benefits of such a vision include the following:

- The opportunity to meet and engage – a sense of community
- People will 'find their place'
- Make 'great connections'
- Practical benefits, eg sharing of parenting lessons; career/job guidance, etc
- Introduce people to Jesus
- Making disciples
- Following Jesus in practical ways

Discuss each in turn.

Share examples of 'Communities of Hope' that you are aware of in the church and also in which you belong. (You may never have previously thought of it as a 'Community')

From the particular Communities mentioned in your Group, discuss the following:

- (a) How might God be using your 'Community of Hope' (or one that you are aware of)?
- (b) How is God stirring your heart in relation to your Community(ies)?
- (c) What might God's heart be for that Community in the future (perhaps it's time to dream)
- (d) What do you believe God is saying to our church?

Dedication cards were distributed at Sunday Services. We are all encouraged to consider and commit to the following. Maybe we might wish to be accountable to a fellow Small Group member:

I DEDICATE MY LIFE TO FOLLOW JESUS

Lord Jesus, help me to follow you. I welcome your SPIRIT to guide me moment by moment. I purpose to follow you on MISSION everyplace. I will serve you in a COMMUNITY of Hope and practise the DISCIPLINES of bible reading, prayer and giving, with you as my helper. I want to obey you. I need you! Amen