

HOPE 2009

**A YEAR FOR
PREPARING
TO GO.**



Some of the Steps of Preparation taken in 2009:



2009 wasn't all that great!

(How's that for a positive beginning? Hang in there, it gets better!)

While 2010 will go down in the history of Hope Community Church as a year when many positive, long-term ministry changes were enacted and many new ideas for ministries were planned... I'm guessing 2009 won't be considered a highlight on our time line.

In many ways, 2009 was a difficult year. The economy was a mess and so we struggled, along with many other churches, to reach budget goals. Our attendance was up and down. We also felt the sting that sometimes comes with major changes in our worship. In many ways it just felt like we were having a hard time maintaining a positive attitude and moving forward in a fruitful way. *(Okay, enough whining!)*

FEB We celebrated our 20th anniversary with an all-church event that revisited our roots in order to present a vision for the future.

APR Emphasis was placed on "serving outward." An early manifestation is Hope's participation in the Love Wichita service weekend.

JUN Facility upgrades were made, all operating now, but also designed to re-route into use for the planned new facilities.

AUG Hope installed equipment that enables it to simulcast satellite feeds in the Worship Center. The inaugural for this technology was a live Beth Moore simulcast event sponsored by the Women's Ministry.

AUG Hope's Leadership Team created a search team to find the right person to become our very first, full-time Pastor of Worship Arts. That search led us to Eric Hauck.

OCT The 303-GO initiative was developed during 2009, and presented with a goal of helping the Hope body passionately grasp and live out Christ's "Great Commission."

OCT After evaluating each staff position at Hope, changes were begun that will focus the staff on moving forward with the tasks we believe God is calling us toward.

OCT The Middle School ministry began emphasizing an initiative for students to expand their "circle of influence" beyond the people they already know.

NOV "Expedition Hope" site and building plans were finalized. A presentation to new Hopenesters was made to get them "roped in."

DEC To bring the body closer together and to reduce "wear and tear" on weekly volunteers, the decision was made to move to two Sunday services.

What do you do when your foundation needs a little work?

But, I think, behind the scenes God was working and moving in a very powerful way. Even though, on the surface, 2009 didn't seem to be all that great... Even though I can't list a lot of great accomplishments completed... Even though for many of us it was a time for stopping and listening instead of moving and shaking... I believe God was hard at work at Hope. I believe he was remodeling, reshaping, and giving us a much needed "tune up." I believe he did some spiritual pruning to get us ready to be the "go for it" body of believers He desires us to be in Andover, Kansas.

This remodeling and reshaping wasn't always very easy. For me, some of it was downright painful. But, even so, it was necessary to prepare us for the great things I believe He has in store for His honor and glory. Let's face it. Being whipped back into shape and getting an attitude adjustment is never a lot of fun, but it's often necessary for future fruitfulness.

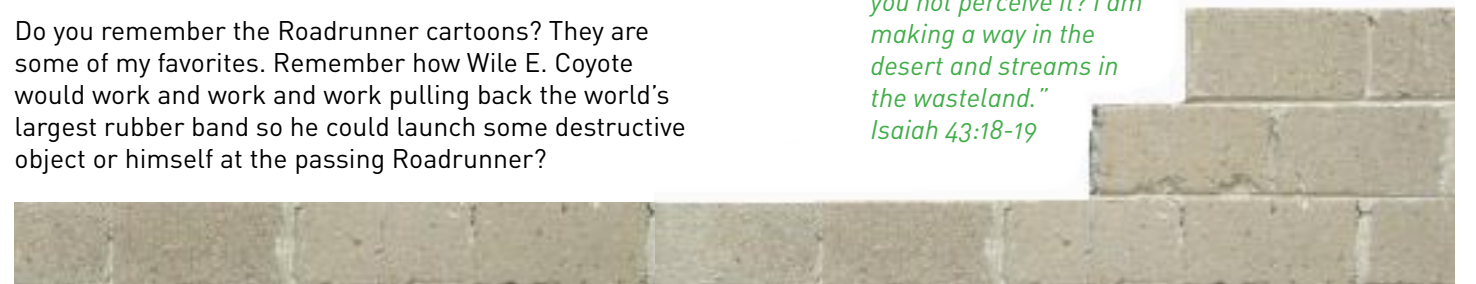
So, actually, 2009 was a great gift of love to us from God our Father.

2009 should be remembered as a great year for foundation building. As you know, foundation building is not much fun. It takes a lot of work, toil, effort and sometimes hardship. But, this all needs to be tackled in order to ensure a good future. The process of laying the foundation for 303-GO was arduous. The steps that led to finding and hiring our first Pastor of Worship Arts were difficult. But both are foundations that will support long-term fruitful endeavors.

Do you remember the Roadrunner cartoons? They are some of my favorites. Remember how Wile E. Coyote would work and work and work pulling back the world's largest rubber band so he could launch some destructive object or himself at the passing Roadrunner?

Well, 2009 was kind of like that! We struggled, grunted, and groaned pulling back that rubber band all for the intention of an upcoming launch. All for the intention to GO into all the world. Kaaazooing! We just let go. Now, may Jesus give us great success for the Father's glory! *(unlike Wile E. Coyote)*

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19



While Preparing for a New Beginning, Hope Ministries kept Moving in Many Lives.

The Women of Hope ministry hosted the first live video simulcast at Hope in August, bringing real-time instruction from national leaders, and linking them with people all over the US and seven other countries. The ministry also raised more than \$500 and 100 pairs of shoes for the Samaritan's Feet ministry.

The Service Team began totally gutting and renovating a house owned by World Impact. The home will temporarily house visiting missionaries.

To help them better identify with the less fortunate, High School students spent a week living as homeless people, while also serving at a shelter for the homeless.

More than 100 families attended the first ever "Family Advent-ure Night" this December.

Hope staff and lay pastors led a person to Christ and baptized her on her deathbed.

On Oct. 30-31, the first ever Hope Fall Fun Fest was held at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon facility. Around 300 Hopensters took part.

To help Hopensters discover their spiritual gifts and the ministry path God intended for them, several workshops were offered during 2009.

Prayer Warfare became more of an emphasis for OutWord Focus. A "Prayer Passport" was developed that features every Hope-supported missionary and their prayer requests.

SEND- and PRAY-Teams scrambled to help prepare the Haiti GO-Team for the first 303-GO God Op. Fund-raising, training and prayer warfare paved the way.

Young Hopensters were exposed to foreign missions in a variety of ways. They were connected to kids in India through an IGL/child sponsorship. They also got to meet several missionaries in person and hear about the exciting work being done on the "front lines."

The Bullfrogs & Butterflies Preschool adjusted quickly to the loss of its annual "Hope-Mart" fund-raising event. Donations from a handful of Hope families helped B&B meet its budget needed to teach and plant seeds of faith in the hearts of 54 kids. Those kids are literally serving as missionaries. B&B director Sharon Weldon said the students are relaying Bible stories to their unchurched parents, and also encouraging their families to pray at the dinner table.

The Young Adult ministry had a large infusion of younger people. Despite this, many of these college-age believers began filling leadership roles in various ways. Following the Love Wichita event, Matt Rivers led others in establishing Hope In Action, a group that continues the Love Wichita concept throughout the year. Others have been heavily involved in foreign God Ops and leading other service-related projects.

Many Hopensters got their first taste of "serving the least of these" during the Love Wichita city-wide day of service on April 15. Hopensters stepped up with 127 volunteers hammering, painting, digging and cleaning at 10 different project sites.

Physical health also became a focus. Along with blood pressure checks, Hopensters now have access to free dental screenings offered on Sunday mornings by Dr. Mark Schneider, DDS.

When flood waters threatened a housing community just east of Hope in the early hours of Monday April 27, Hope opened its doors at 3:00 am and provided a safe and dry shelter to the people evacuated from their homes.

Pastor Steve recognized that many in our culture are tired of playing church but very interested in Jesus. He responded with "Jesus Unchurched," a teaching series that continues to teach through the many CD sets distributed.

Despite the down economy, Hopensters contributed 177 "shoeboxes" to Operation Christmas Child, a Hope personal best.

Service and GOing was also stressed to young Hopensters. Some 5th grade graduates of VBS served at a "Safe House" in El Dorado by helping clean its interior and exterior.

To help kick-start the "BLAST" fall kids program, a "Summer BLAST" was added in 2009, and included hiring the Kids of Hope's first summer intern, Marli Gale.

Grades 1 and 2 Sunday School classes "adopted" three of the Haiti GO-Team members, praying for them, and then learning from the GOers post-trip reports. This "adoption process" will continue with each God Op.

Carol Thompson stepped up and took over the reigns of the Chicken Soup Troop from longtime leader Regina Hittman.

Tom Freerksen, Casey Jackson and others with a passion for the outdoors started the Hope Hunter's Network and kicked it off with a Sporting Clays tournament in November. The ministry helped raise funds for the Haiti God Op.

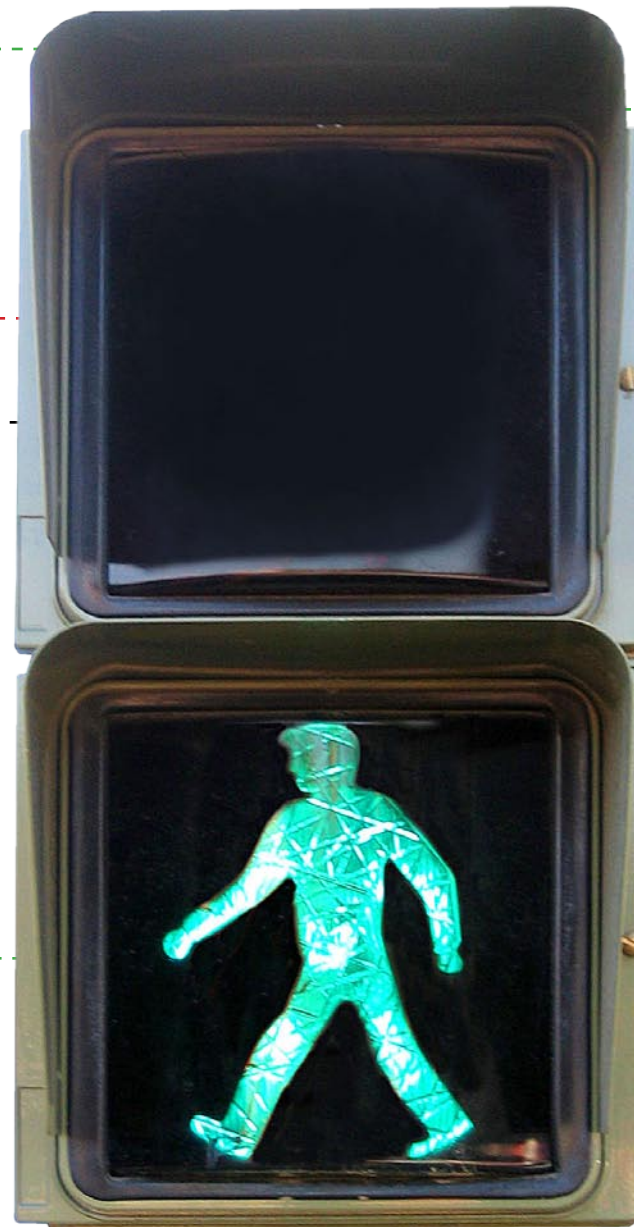
In recognition of the important role teachers play in children's lives, Hope parents baked desserts and delivered them to teachers at the 40 local schools attended by Hope students.

It has become the norm for Hope's middle school students to invite their unchurched friends to join them at Hope. At least three families began attending Hope in 2009 whose children had already been learning and growing from being involved at Hope. Of the 75-100 students involved in MS activities each week, 20 accepted Christ in 2009.

One volunteer MS leader feeds dinner to a dozen students and transports them to WildLife every Wednesday night.

Another MS leader prays for students by name on a daily basis.

Many of Hope's Home Churches participated simultaneously in "The Truth Project" study.





Just one of Hope's 10 Love Wichita projects.



2009 by the Numbers:

Budgets for Various Ministries

Adult Ministries: \$5,335
 Young Adult Ministry: \$2,160
 Pastoral Care: \$2,625
 Kids of Hope ministry: \$9,900
 Student ministries: \$13,000
 Women of Hope ministry: \$3,960
 Worship Arts: \$2,500
 Counseling: \$1,358
 Outreach: \$11,544

OutWord Focus (OWF): \$95,916

OWF distributed regular support to 20 missionaries around the world. It also provided one-time funds to support numerous needs.

Benevolence Fund: \$28,775

High unemployment led to heavy usage of this fund for needs such as housing, food, health care and transportation and other emergencies.

Other:

Utilities/Vehicles/Property Insurance: \$67,250
 Office Admin-Equip/Communications: \$55,350

Expedition Hope Funds collected: \$355,597

Families participating in EH: 137

Clock Sales for EH: \$730

Two Hopensters designed, built and sold clocks to support Expedition Hope with their talents.

Special Offerings: 18

These heart-led offerings were for causes such as visiting missionaries, Mosaic Church, water for Special Olympics, a microphone, and more.

Biker Sunday T-Shirt Sales: \$8,410

These funds paid for the t-shirts and other Biker Sunday related costs.

Baptisms: 33

Average Weekly Attendance: 825



2010's Here. The Beginning is Near! What's Got You Excited About It?

"I am extremely excited to see more Hopensters go on, send, and pray for God Ops, and then come back and share their life changing experiences." *John Penny, OutWord Focus member*

"We are seeing so many new faces in the women's Bible studies! I'm excited to see women take part who have never joined us before as well as women who have never been in a Bible study before period!" *Jennifer Baysinger, Women's Ministry Director*

"I'm ready for the Kid's Great Room so we can worship BIG on the kids' level!" *Pastor Roanne*

"With great joy and anticipation I look forward to sharing in times of worship with Eric Hauck and in a deepening relationship with my fellow "brother of the bush" as we draw closer to Jesus." *Pastor Steve*

"What is most exciting is knowing that we are equipping men and women to BE the church for a dying world. What we do here at Hope is ESSENTIAL. Hope has finally got it: We are to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES." *Pastor Bill*

"The new ministry I'm involved in has me very excited. We have a lot of new ideas that will start to bring Hopensters together for fellowship in God's great outdoors." *Tom Freerkson, Hope Hunters Network*



"I'm excited to see people getting off their 'blessed behinds' and being the hands and feet of Christ, both in our church and the surrounding community." *Naomi Wallace, Prayer Chain Coordinator, Women's Ministry Outreach Director*

"I think we're at a new juncture where a lot of things are coming together at Hope, and it seems like that's created a real energy here. I'm anxious to see what results from all that energy." *Tim Ralston, Leadership Team chairman*





COMMUNITY/CHURCH

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