

Everything you might want to know about:



What is Expedition Hope, and why is it called that?

Expedition Hope (EH) is the name we have given to the effort that will be required to build the facilities and ministries set forth by Hope's Leadership Team. It is called that because, like all mountain climbing expeditions, this journey will require a great deal of planning, a great deal of resources, and many, many people all working together to reach the same goal.

What is included in the building plans for Expedition Hope?

There will be a new larger worship center, expansion of youth facilities, more classrooms including one very large classroom for 100 children, a Missions room, more parking area, and the conversion of the current worship center into a "coffee house" type ministry.

Why are we building these facilities?

Simply put, we believe this is what God is calling Hope to do. But, in practical terms... More than three years ago, a "Situation Analysis" was produced, pointing out things such as: our maximization of current facilities; population growth in the immediate area; and the overall character/personality that Hope has developed over the last 20 years. Then, Hope's Leadership Team began researching, discussing, questioning, brainstorming, meeting with community leaders, and seeking God. After nearly two years, the plans for EH were developed with one of the main goals being to create a place where relationships can be built, and where evangelism takes place. The Leadership Team believes that this plan is essential to fully becoming the church body God has called us to be.

How long will all of this take to build, and when will the construction start?

Once construction starts, everything will take about one year to complete. The first phase of construction includes the new Worship Center, classrooms ... essentially everything except the coffee house ministry area. Once we're moved into the new Worship Center, Phase 2 would begin ... the remodeling of the current "Big Room" into the coffee house area. We would like to start as soon as possible, but of course our start date depends on how quickly financial support is collected.

How much will all this cost?

The current EH building plans will require approximately \$3,000,000 to accomplish. What is not included in that figure are expenses for "non-construction" items such as extra parking area, equipment for the new areas, etc.

Is \$3,000,000 too much to expect for Hope?

No. Those who are experts in church stewardship campaigns say that you can expect to raise three times your annual budget. Hope's annual budget is more than \$1,000,000.

How big will the new Worship Center be?

The current plans allow for 600 seats. We plan to continue using removable chairs rather than stationary pews. This room will also be designed so that it can be easily expanded if there is a need in the future.

Why not build a bigger Worship Center?

Although there are some people who recommend building a larger Worship Center, very few members of Hope's Leadership Team were comfortable with building a "mega-church" for fear it would become too impersonal and turn Hope into something that does not suit its foundational characteristics. The goal was to "become smaller while we became bigger." That's why we are emphasizing home churches, small groups, the coffee house ministry, and satellite churches.

What's going on with the Satellite Church thing?

Several options are being explored. Dwight Carter is holding weekly meetings to explore the best options.

Why a "coffee house type ministry?"

This is probably the most exciting part of the EH plan, and definitely the key part of the plan for reaching out to the community. Relationships between Hopesters will develop and deepen here. It will be a "not-so-intimidating" place for un-churched people to "test the waters." It will give us a facility for which we've seen a need for a long time.

How often will the coffee house be open?

The idea is to have something going on in this facility every day of the week, during the day and at night. Activities such as Women's Ministries meetings, open mic concerts, youth meetings, dinners for parents of youths attending Wednesday evening activities, meetings of local civic groups, a Sunday "Tivo" service, book club meetings, a family movie night, etc. etc. are all prime examples of what the coffee house facility can be used for.

Who will operate the coffee house ministry?

It's very important to keep this facility in use all the time. Therefore, we will be looking for a person who is an expert in food service, booking entertainment, facility management, and group recruitment. They must also understand the culture, relationships, and have an evangelistic heart. We would prefer to find this person in the Body of Hope, but we will not limit our search to the Body.

What if the whole idea of this "coffee house ministry" doesn't go over well with the public?

Hope will still have an awesome place for Hopesters to build relationships with each other, and a great multi-purpose space. However, surveys already conducted suggest this is a popular idea with the public.

When can we see the building plans?

They will be available in the April 12 & 13th services at Hope.

Will we go into long-term debt to pay for this?

NO. We are not willing to be strapped down by long-term debt.

What if we don't raise the entire \$3 million?

We will only build what we have the money for. If less is gathered, then pieces of the plans will be deleted.

How much money has already been collected for the EH project?

\$410,000. So we've already taken a big step toward the summit.

How much do we still owe on our current facilities?

\$201,000. The plan is to pay this off on the current schedule of 4-5 years.

Why should anyone "invest" in Expedition Hope?

That one is really between you and God. If you are a member of his Body here at Hope, then you need to pray and ask yourself what God wants you to do. Hope's Leadership believes this plan is what God wants US to do. We've already seen evidence that the general public and student community are very interested in our plans. When we hear these kinds of things, we believe God is clearing the way for a successful outreach to them. We also believe this type of growth isn't just about increasing numbers, it's more about deepening down relationships. It's about making a wise investment in the vision God has given to Hope.

How can people contribute financially to the EH project?

There are four ways: 1) through your talents, 2) through your "stuff", 3) through your professional construction skills and materials; 4) through financial contributions over the next 3 years. For more details, ask for a "Four Ways to Join the Expedition" brochure from the church office.

How long will the period of time be for raising funds, and is this in addition to my regular tithing?

The EH stewardship period will last for three years, beginning at the first of May 2008. Any thing you give that is designated to Expedition Hope should be above and beyond your regular tithe to Hope.

Who is the architect for the EH plan?

Scott Ramser, P.A. of WDM Architects. Scott is also a long-time Hopester.

Who is the contractor/builder that has been chosen for the project?

Hutton Construction

How can I contact the Building Team?

Contact the team's leader, Jim Ralston: 644-2884 / jralston@pixius.net