

Dear Hope Community Church Family,
Last Friday, as I was leaving our parking lot, I noticed a Corvette parked alongside 21st Street. I briefly wondered why, until a ½ mile down the road I saw a man walking. I stopped to give him a ride. He seemed hesitant to get into my car. Once inside he continued to be a bit uneasy, so I



HOPE COMMUNITY/CHURCH
THE BRIGHT SPOT

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thought it might provide him a bit of comfort to let him know I worked at the church down the street. (Normally this is not information I readily share... another story!) As soon as I told him I worked at the church he reached for his wallet and took out some money to give me for the ride. (This could be another story in that it made me sad that the very mention of "church" caused a complete stranger to think I wanted money. Sigh!) I told him I really didn't want any money, but he kept insisting. He said I should use it any way I wanted to for the church.

So, after pondering what I should do with the money, at the end of Sunday's 9:00 a.m. service I told this story. Then I took out the same \$20 he had given me, and laid it on one of our communion stands. I announced that if anyone was in need of

\$20, it was there for them. I reasoned that, for someone, \$20 could have been very helpful for food, gas, or some other need.

Much to my surprise no one picked up the \$20. Instead, people just quietly came by and began laying more cash on the table to be taken by whomever might be in need. I was surprised, thankful, and very moved!

After the service, a teenage girl approached me and said she knew of a classmate whose family had fallen on hard times and they were only eating one meal a day. She then asked if she could take the money and give it to her fellow student and their family. I thought that would be a great idea, but asked her to wait until after the 10:45 a.m. service before taking the money.

So, I shared the same story during the 10:45 a.m. service. I also mentioned the teenage girl's desire and plan, at which time, another wonderful thing happened. As many came forward to celebrate God's love for us through communion, they quietly placed more cash on the ever growing pile of love.

What a wonderful, heartfelt response. The \$20 given by a complete stranger, grew into \$1,423.15 to be given to an unknown family in our community who is presently struggling to get by. All I asked of the teenager delivering this gift was to express that it was given because of God's love. For them! Thank Hope!

Yea, God!


Pastor Steve



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturdays - 5pm
Sundays - 9:00 and 10:45am
Questions: 316 / 858 / 9100
welcome2hope.com



HOPE COMMUNITY/CHURCH

1831 E. 21st Street / Andover / Kansas 67002
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WORKING ON HOME BASE BEFORE TAKING HOPE TO THE WORLD

“Do it again!” That seemed to be the consensus of opinion among the 35 couples who took part in Hope’s Couples Getaway this past weekend.

“It’s obvious everyone really enjoyed getting to know other couples on a deeper level,” said co-coordinator Matt Shepherd “I wouldn’t be surprised if three or four new home churches formed from these groups of couples. I was struck by how much couples at Hope enjoy being with each other sharing all

kinds of joy, fun, laughter, and prayer with one another.”

“It’s really hard to connect with other couples if you only go to church on Sunday mornings,” Pastor Nick Martineau said. “It was great seeing everyone connecting. Some of the small groups were up till two in the morning laughing and having fun.”

Martineau said the Getaway was obviously a breath of fresh air for a lot of the couples. “Some told me this was the

first time in eight years they had gotten away alone.”

“It’s so important for couples to focus on their marriages and not just get into a ‘marriage routine,’” Shepherd added. “We all can fall victim to the grind, and let our marriages slip into survival mode. Hopefully this weekend gave a bunch of folks some tools for their toolboxes.”

“Strong marriages make the body of Hope stronger,” Martineau concluded.

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:4



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S . . .

Jr. Camp Baked Goods Sale Fundraiser
Sun. March 7th between services. Bring baked goods to our table in the lobby.

Father/Son Monster Truck Rally
Friday, March 9, 5pm, cookout and games at Hope, then caravan to Thunder Nationals at Intrust Arena. \$25 adults/\$10 under 12. Contact Shane, 858-9100.

For information about weekly activities visit our website at www.welcome2hope.com

Love Wichita Saturday, April 24 2010
Join Hope as we serve the City of Wichita Projects include: painting, construction, yard clean-up, etc. Register as a group or individual. Sign up: www.lovewichita.org
Deadline to register is March 28.
Contact, Katherine, katherine@hopecc.net

Attendance: 2.28..2010 Total: **895** (- 6% for overlap)

Saturday: 48 Sunday: 9:00: **495** / 10:45 408

	GENERAL GIVING	EXPEDITION HOPE
Wkly Giving	\$19,822	\$1,745
Wkly Budget	\$20,255	-
YTD Actual	\$145,830	\$12,483
YTD Budget	\$182,292	-