

Dear Hope Community Church Family,
Every guy I know loves “worst case scenario” stories. I can't explain why, but sometimes when my wife asks me, “What are you thinking,” it's usually about a scenario I'm contemplating about how I'd escape certain death. One of my favorites is, “what to do when attacked by a giant python.” Victims are instructed to lay still, knife in hand, and wait until being partially swallowed by

HOPE COMMUNITY/CHURCH
THE BRIGHT SPOT



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the python before executing a quick upward thrust when the arm is part way down the snake's throat. The key words being, patience and timing. Are you serious?

While the whole snake scenario is unlikely, we all run into circumstances that are potentially overwhelming. Relationships in crisis, children in trouble, financial stress, unemployment, illness, the loss of a spouse, trouble with the law, affairs, etc.

Difficulty is a fact of life. We'd be foolish to pretend otherwise. So what do we do? Is there any way to simply survive? Here are a few ways that I found at www.allprodad.com.

Count your blessings. Sometimes a little perspective can tip the balance toward hope. We're not talking denial here, but a realistic appraisal that takes note of what's right as well as what's gone wrong.

Talk with someone. The Proverb de-

clares “A three-fold cord is not easily broken.” The places where we will certainly snap on our own become exponentially stronger when we have support of friends.

Be honest. Speaking truth about trouble can take away its power. Lies and secrets tend to unwind the three-fold cord.

Act on the truth. Once the terrible thing is out in the open, and its power to defeat us has been deflated, we now have the freedom to act.

Remember light is stronger than darkness. Just a small amount of light can illuminate a dark space. Goodness, honesty, love, honor, courage, patience and kindness all can overcome darkness.

Patience. Time has a way of introducing distance and new ideas.

Believe in God. Sometimes, after something terrible happens, we simply can't see the next step in the road. That's when we have to believe in God, and that hope is

possible despite ourselves.

Be realistic. There's a difference between hope and wishful thinking. The idea of hope is rooted in the understanding that light is stronger than darkness, and that life is worth the struggle.

Give yourself a chance. Sometimes terrible things come with blame. Don't confuse responsibility with condemnation. Self-condemnation never helps. Take responsibility, make amends, then move on.

Forgive other people, too. Holding blame over other people doesn't work. Forgiveness is important if we want to survive something terrible. Don't try to handle it alone. Get help, get past it, and get on with tomorrow.

Surviving,
Shane Friesen
Pastor of Middle School Ministries



WORSHIP SERVICES
Sat: 5pm / Sun: 9 and 10:45am

QUESTIONS? 316 / 858 / 9100
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HOPE COMMUNITY / CHURCH

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TAKING HOPE TO THE WORLD

What's next for Haiti? Missionary Jan Thompson reports the need there is still great. "Lots of aid has poured in, but these people are still starving for God's bread. Many Haitians finally seem receptive to hearing about Christ. God is using the earthquake to show Haitians His Truth."

Thompson, who is back in Haiti after coming to Kansas for her daughter's wedding, said her ministry has been greatly blessed by Hope and the other churches and individuals who lend their support. "Thanks to you, we have purchased the two

vehicles we needed so desperately, and can pay for their shipping and customs fees," Thompson said. She also thanked Hopester Steve Thiessen who volunteered to beef up the suspension on the vehicles prior to shipping them out so that they could better handle the rough Haitian roads. Two local families will be driving the vehicles to Miami, where they will be fully packed with other supplies before being shipped to Go-naives.

When asked how Hope could help her ministry in the future, Thompson said one

thing the people in the Bor Kanal slum could benefit from greatly is a Marriage Workshop. "It is very effective when Americans tell Haitians about their own struggles and share wisdom about marriage, parenting and other things couples must face."

So how about it Hope? How would you like to take a Couples Workshop on the road? Call it a couple's retreat... Haitian style. All this needs is a few folks to say, "I can do that!"

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1 Peter 5:7



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

Hope Music Works Thanks you!

Your donations brought \$1,207.40 for this hospice home bound care ministry. Contact Elvie Malcom, 680-9225.

Christian Care Giving: A Way of Life

Begins Sunday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Pastor Tom Howland, 858-9100 or Sondra Schimming, 689-8625.

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

Children's Ministry Snacks Needed

For our Sunday and Wednesday programs. Any cookies or snack crackers that don't contain peanut butter are welcome.

Sunday, Oct. 3 - Baptism Celebration

Considering being baptized? Sign ups for a preparation class begins soon. Contact Pastor Pam Howland, 858-9100.

Attendance: 7.4.2010 Total: **785** (-6% for overlap)
Saturday: **43** Sunday: 9:00: **400** / 10:45: **387**

	GENERAL GIVING	EXPEDITION HOPE
Wkly Giving	\$17,561	\$2,711
Wkly Budget	\$20,255	-
YTD Actual	\$451,351	\$60,107
YTD Budget	\$546,876	-