

heart | beat

a publication for the **new hope church** family & community | volume 18.3 | fall 2011



Women's Ministries: Perhaps not what you think



andrea tyson

Take 15 seconds and voice everything that comes to mind when you think of Women's Ministries. I'm serious. Don't censor.

You haven't shocked me. I'm as familiar with the glowing praises as I am with the fear, assumptions and stereotypes related to Women's Ministries. I'm familiar because I've heard most of them and I've thought most of them myself. Before I started serving in this ministry, I had many talks with God about my own stereotypes.

He helped me think differently. Simply put, the differences among us don't have to be dividers. In fact, there are numerous underlying benefits to those differences that far outweigh their challenges. I want to know Jesus more and help others in that process. Being with women from differing backgrounds, marital status, temperaments and cultures gives me opportunities to love them and understand how God uniquely created and gifted us while we grow as women of God together. There is so much to learn from one another.

Women's Ministries may be the perfect fit for you. If so, I believe you'll experience everything from meaningful connections with others to opportunities for a deeper relationship with Christ. But let me prepare you that the perfect fit will not always bring comfort. As disciples, we want to make room to be stretched. You may be challenged. You might see opportuni-

ties for change. Let me invite you to be an exciting part of the transformation God is making in Women's Ministries!

Maybe God wants to use you to help broaden the face and voice of Women's Ministries. What if he wants you to be a pioneer from your age group, marital status or culture? Talk to God about it. See what he says. If Women's Ministries is the place for you, get involved. Take ownership and participate actively. There's room for you to contribute in significant ways in what God is doing among us as a culture of women.

After being a part of Women's Ministries for a considerable time now, here's what comes to mind for me: God at work. Women I love and in whom I've invested. Seeing women investing in others. I think about community, discipleship, Bible Study, increasing depth, equipping leaders, and compassionate helpers. I think about the gospel being expressed in and through women so that it impacts their families, workplaces and the community. I'm not naïve to the places for growth, but I am committed to doing my part.

We're women TOGETHER in authentic community: to •get•her with Jesus and to •get•her in mission. You can be part of a growing community and the change that God is bringing about. Visit newhopechurchmn.org/women.php and check out the "opportunities" link for more information or to register for fall options.

Women's Opportunities
continued on page 3

INSIDE this issue



OPPORTUNITIES

Women's Ministries ... pages 3



DADS

Parenting Ministries ... page 5



SPELLMANS

Global Ministries ... page 9

Visit
newhopechurchmn.org
for more ministry
information

NEWSLETTER STAFF

dr. steve goold
SENIOR PASTOR

pastor david rodquist
SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

pastor greg braly
FAMILY & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

pastor jeremy deck
STUDENT MINISTRIES

pastor jeff mccourt
WORSHIP MUSIC & CELEBRATION ARTS

pastor bryan mcwhite
YOUNG ADULTS AND MEN'S MINISTRIES

holly nimchuk
HOPEBRIDGE CENTER

andrea tyson
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

lisa severson
EDITOR AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

[newhopechurchmn.org/
resources/heartbeatarchives.php](http://newhopechurchmn.org/resources/heartbeatarchives.php)

NHC IS ON FACEBOOK!
facebook.com/newhopechurchmn



IN THIS ISSUE

1. Women's Ministries
2. Read Through the Bible
3. NHC Membership
4. Tuesday Night Focus
5. Challenges to Dads
6. Transportation Ministry
7. Financial Health Ministry
7. The Lemonade Stand
8. Short-term Opportunities
9. The Spellmans
10. Can I Hear You Now?
11. NHC on Facebook

I Have Seen Extraordinary Things

I'm not proud of this. You may even wonder how I could be such a spiritual wimp and still have the title "pastor" before my name. But even into my very late 40s, after several decades of vocational ministry and five years of Christian college education, I had never read through the Bible in a year. Yes, I'm sure I had set my eyes on each chapter at some point, but never the systematic, regular, long-road discipline of reading all of God's inspired Word in a year.

**pastor
jeff mccourt**

In March 2010 I read an article that challenged me to surround myself with all of God's words by reading through the entire Bible. So on April 18, 2010 I began and, by God's grace, on April 19, 2011 (missed it by a day!), I finished. In hopes of encouraging you to pursue this profitable spiritual journey, here are some of my gleanings:

- This is a practice of discipline and endurance and, therefore, good for the soul.
- There are many helpful online tools. I used christianity.com, selected one of their reading plans and chose a starting date. (No need to wait until January !!)
- Worship pastor/blogger Bob Kauflin recommended reading two "assignments" each day in order to "bank" daily readings. This was profitable advice that kept me encouraged when I would miss days.
- I chose a plan that included daily readings from three different sections of Scripture: law/history, wisdom, literature/prophets, and New Testament. This was really beneficial because, when reading through the thick of the genealogies in 1 Chronicles, for instance, I still found more applicable portions in the other sections.
- Nevertheless, "Every word of God proves true, he is a shield to those who take refuge in him" (Proverbs 30:5).

"And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen extraordinary things today.'"

- The Bible is an unfathomable gold mine. Even though I have gone to church all my life, there were many stories and passages that were unfamiliar to me.
- I'm sure the reading plan was laid out mathematically, but God conspired on many occasions to pound me with common themes in the assigned portions for a particular day. On March 9, for instance, I read 1 Peter 5:5 ("God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble") and Psalm 138:6 ("For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly) along with the beautiful story of humble, gracious Ebed-melech in Jeremiah 39.

- The Old Testament is more racially diverse than I expected. It was enlightening to see God's heart for all nations even in the Hebrew Scriptures.

- The Bible shouts the sovereignty of God over all things, especially his purposes in bringing and causing calamity, disaster, famine (as in Isaiah 45:7).
- Finally, and I'm in debt to D.A. Carson for this insight: The typical understanding of the God of the Old Testament being a God of justice (mostly)

and the God of the New Testament being a God of grace (mostly) is contradicted when you read the whole book. There is amazing grace in the Old (as in Joshua 6:25) and burning wrath in the New (as in 2 Peter 2 and 3). But mostly, his fierce justice (see Revelation 19:15) and his tender mercies (see the Cross) are perfectly embodied in the person of Jesus Christ as he is revealed in the New Testament.

On the final day of reading, God conspired again to press something wonderfully significant into my life. After reading 31,172 verses over the course of a year, Luke 5:26 (verse number 31,173) turned out to be the final verse of my reading plan. It should be our response every time we encounter God in his Word: "And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen extraordinary things today.'" Amen. May it be so.



Real Women

This is a different kind of community especially designed for women. It's structured in a way that engages women from many generations in building relationships, learning and applying truth, praying, serving and sharing life together. The large group time provides an opportunity to meet together as a community, but the main focus is in mini-mentoring groups where a leader encourages three to six others in learning to love and serve while everyone supports each other to grow in faith. We want real women to experience real love and work through real issues of real life with real truth. This group meets three **Thursdays** a month from **7:00-8:30 p.m.**

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)

This is a community for moms who want to grow as women and mothers. We love introducing moms to Jesus and helping them work through faith and life questions. Moms are invested in, encouraged and built up during this important stage in life when they have newborns to kindergarten-aged children. There are also opportunities to grow as a servant/leader in MOPS. This community meets on the second and fourth **Thursdays** each month from **9:15-11:15 a.m.**

Women's Bible Studies

Women from our church and surrounding community are welcome to join in studying God's Word. All studies begin **Wednesday, September 21**. Morning studies begin at 9:15 a.m. and offer childcare. Evening studies begin at 6:30 p.m. with childcare through Children's Ministries. Come read, apply and discuss the Scripture as you learn.

Bible Study Selections

The **Generations Bible Study** is well-loved for the relationships that are formed across many ages and for times of study and prayer:

- "Breaking Free," by Beth Moore
Wednesday mornings & evenings

Precepts Bible Studies are especially appreciated for their depth of learning. You'll discover tools that help you gain from what the Bible says, learning how to apply it personally.

- "Jeremiah," by Kay Arthur
Wednesday mornings & evenings
- "Revelation," by Kay Arthur
Wednesday mornings

The **Foundations Study** is an overview of the Bible for beginning participants.

- "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus"
Wednesday mornings

We're looking forward to a rich and meaningful year of study. Additional details and online registration is available by visiting newhopechurchmn.org/women/biblestudies.php.

Contact

Andrea Tyson, Women's Ministries Director
atyson@newhopechurchmn.org • 763-536-3273

Renee Westman, Wednesday Women's Bible Studies Director
rwestman@newhopechurchmn.org • 763-536-3212

NHC Membership Information Classes

Spiritually born-again believers who feel God has led them to be part of New Hope Church are encouraged to attend Membership Information Classes which include details on NHC ministries and insight on discovering meaningful ways to serve the Body of Christ. Attendance is required at all three classes. The next classes meet on **October 2, 9 and 16** from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in Sandberg Chapel.

Register online at
newhopechurchmn.org/aboutus/membership.php

TASTE & SEE

the Lord is Good...

Come feast on the wisdom and goodness of the Lord at Tuesday Night Focus!



sandy dahl

It's fun to receive an invitation. Knowing someone thought of you and is preparing something special is wonderful! And nothing could be better than an invitation to a feast hosted by a king! That is exactly what is available to each of us. God Almighty offers an invitation to a feast of peace, wisdom, security, hope, love, knowledge and infinitely more! He uses the very words "taste and see" in Psalm 34:8 as an invitation with the promise that he is good. It is his nature. He will satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst with good things, both now and throughout eternity!

God has also made us to be in community. We are made for relationship with him and others. Enjoying the journey of life together, with all its triumphs and challenges, connects people. We live in neighborhoods, join clubs, work in groups, sing in choirs and gather as friends and family. We love sharing a meal and celebrating together!

The Focus Group ministry of New Hope Church invites you to "taste and see that the Lord is good!" As a part of Tuesday Night Focus, you will find others who also desire to seek and find, grow and bond, heal and connect! We begin each Tuesday by sharing a meal and joining in praise to God. We then divide into small topical groups where we feast on the wisdom and goodness of the Lord together.

TUESDAY NIGHT *focus*

*You're invited. Come to the table!
Taste and see ... the Lord IS good!*

Kick off:

September 20 • 6:00 p.m. • Family Center

To register, visit newhopechurchmn.org or call Sandy Dahl, Director of Focus Groups, at 763-971-5118.

A "Menu" of this Year's Groups

NEW! Pursuing Spiritual & Emotional Maturity:

It's impossible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Unleash a spiritual revolution in your life in Christ!

NEW! Financial Roadmap: Financial health better enables us to bring tangible acts of worship to God.

NEW! Following Jesus - Experiencing Fruitful Living: Consider the basic questions of life to understand and experience Jesus more fully.

NEW! Freedom in Christ Bible Study: Discover your true identity in Christ and move forward into the wonderful life God intends for you.

NEW! Organized Home: Gain a biblical perspective on prioritizing, decluttering and organizing your personal, spiritual and home life.

Celebrate Recovery: Find freedom from addictive behaviors through biblical teaching and group support.

Encouragement Bible Study: Take part in these ongoing topical Bible studies for women.

Encouraging Single Moms: Find relevant biblical insight, fellowship and support for single moms (second and fourth Tuesdays monthly).

God's View of You: Biblical Worth for Women: Women discover God's truth about their great worth and identity.

GriefShare: This group offers support for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Outstretched Arms: Find biblically-based support as you struggle with a loved one's homosexual lifestyle (first and third Tuesdays monthly).

Releasing Your Anger for Good: Define and identify problems of unresolved anger with the goal of releasing anger through forgiveness.

Some groups require pre-registration, some are seasonal and others run throughout the year.



A few challenges to dads

In the last issue of HeartBeat, I explored what a daughter needs from her father. Let's continue by exploring what a son needs from his dad.



pastor
greg braly

We are living in a time when many men are uncertain of their roles in society. As technology continues advancing, some fields that were traditionally considered male-oriented and helped define what a man is are now open to both genders. In addition, many in our culture are pushing for a gender-neutral society by gradually removing gender distinctions. One of the outcomes is that traits that used to be considered desirable in boys as they pursued manhood are now considered annoyances. At times they are even treated with medication.

If there was a time when boys needed their dads it is now. Here are five areas to challenge you in taking charge of fatherhood with your sons.

1. Teach your boys the definition of a man. Make it clear that it is character, roles and responsibilities that define what it means to be a man. Today we have too many boys who think they are men solely based on their chronological age, but they have yet to embrace what it truly means to be a man. One author calls this group of guys "BAN" (Boy/Man). Model manhood for your boys and talk to them often about what it means. Give them responsibilities early in life and challenge them on to completion.

2. Instruct your sons in a man's proper role with the opposite sex. Our society still teaches that women are objects to be used and mistreated. Many young men take advantage of women and their brokenness. Because many fathers have not stepped up to the plate with their daughters, we have a generation of young women hungering for a loving protector who will seek their best. This makes them vulnerable to the sly tongue of young men who simply want to use them for their own needs.

A father needs to challenge young men to view all women with the same type of deference and respect that they should give their mothers and sisters. They need to know that a man's job is to protect, love and respect the ladies that God brings into their

lives. The thought of misusing or taking advantage of women must become repulsive to them. This is often taught best through watching how you treat and cherish their mother.

3. Instruct your sons that spiritual work is man's work. Too often we have left instruction in the things of God to our wonderful ladies. Unfortunately, boys often get the picture that they are not to be serious about godliness or that it is unmanly to care about spiritual things. Dads, take charge of the spiritual development of your home and demonstrate its importance. Teach your son about the manliest man in history, Jesus Christ. He went on a quest to free mankind from the chains of death and sin and paid the ultimate price so that we could be free.

4. Teach your son that being a man means living with power under control. His mind and strength are gifts and are to be used to bring God glory. Talk often about the proper use of his strengths and gifts. Give your son opportunities to serve others.

5. Lastly, teach your son to be a man of convictions. Encourage him in his role to stand up for what is right and to protect the weak and innocent. Build up his courage to face the foes of life even when all others yield. I still remember when the first responders ran into the World Trade Center on 9-11 while everyone else ran out. We need men in our homes, churches and communities who will stand unafraid for God's truth and live completely committed to him.

I once had a taste of what godly men can do. It was during Promise Keepers in Anaheim, California, back in the 1990s. The community around the stadium was transformed as groups of godly men flooded the streets. Crime disappeared and several merchants I talked to noticed a difference in their community when these men of God came together. I long for that here in New Hope, both in our current generation and the generation to come. So men, raise your boys to be godly men!

Blessings,
Pastor Greg

For information on Parenting Ministry, call 763-536-3240.



Transportation Ministry

Are you aware that there are people who would love to come to New Hope Church to serve others and grow in their relationship with Christ, but rarely show up simply because they are unable to drive here themselves? The good news is that their need presents an opportunity for you to serve and get to know others! And as a volunteer in the Transportation Ministry, you'll learn that you're offering so much more than wheels!

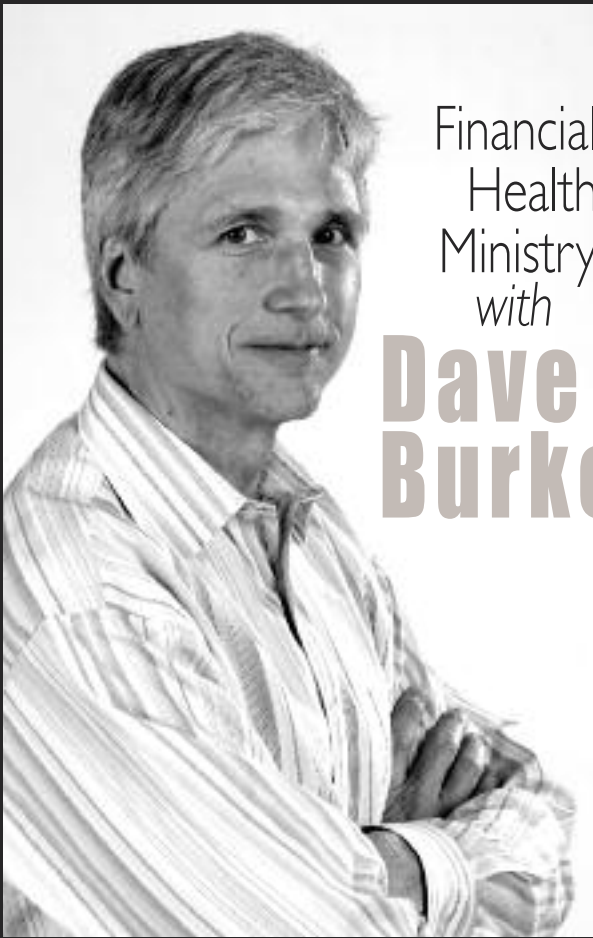
Remember Andrew, Peter's brother (John 1:40)? He brought Peter to Jesus. That's how God worked in Peter's life to introduce him to Jesus. How would you like to use your car to introduce people to Jesus? We can help others hear the Good News simply because we have the wheels.

Extending a ride to someone may open doors for:

- Visitors to hear and see how God is working in your life.
- People to share a meal hosted by pastors and elders at the monthly Sunday newcomers lunches.
- You to gain insight into needs that our church ministries may potentially be able to meet.
- Passengers to connect with others at church.

It's really simple. Care Ministries does all the scheduling. You do the driving. And you get the blessing of ministering in basic ways through natural conversation and service. You'll also be making a big difference spiritually for the passenger.

To learn more about serving on the Transportation Ministry Team, contact Deb Bankes at **763-971-5125** or dbankes@newhopechurchmn.org.



Financial Health Ministry with Dave Burkett

Care Ministries is pleased to announce Dave Burkett as our new Financial Health Ministry Director. Many of you know him and his wife, Sally, and have heard his great teaching in Adult Sunday Communities.

"My wife Sally and I have a yellow lab. When she was a puppy we did not train her how to take a walk, so now when she is on the leash we wonder if the dog is taking us for a walk instead. But we are working on it and making progress on how to "master her." Finances are like our yellow lab. Nice to have around and fun to have, but they are not to master us. We are to master them, much like Cain in Genesis 4:4-5 who needed to master sin that was 'crouching at the door.'

As we consider the words of Scripture, we learn that it is by faith that Abel's act of worship was more honoring to God than Cain's (Hebrew 11:4). Scripture also teaches that if our acts of worship are not pleasing to God he gives us grace to do what is pleasing to him, possibly by dealing with our pride and humbling us under his mighty hand (1 Peter 5:7)."

—Dave Burkett

Come serve as a budget counselor or receive personal help to "master" your family finances. We desire that the time, skills and finances of our New Hope Church family reflect our love for Jesus who has redeemed us. We worship him through what we each do with the "crouching" of finances "at the door." Call Care Ministries at **763-971-5123** for details.

LESSONS FROM THE

LEMONADE STAND



This summer, I walked into work and saw a beautiful thing. A small box filled with money and this note: "A few kids from church got together to have a lemonade stand to raise money for the HopeBridge Food Shelf." I immediately thought "That is so fantastic!" Quickly, that thought was followed by "I have the greatest job ever!" Let me expound a little on why this is so fantastic:



holly nimchuk

- By raising over \$50 for the Food Shelf, we can purchase close to \$500 worth of food!
- The kids might not be able to explain our "Cross Purpose," but they clearly lived it out!
- They learned the gift of giving sacrificially, even when they may never meet the recipient!
- As you can see in the photo, and from Scripture, it is a joy to give!

Perhaps most importantly, these kids challenged me (and hopefully you) to be mindful of how we serve throughout the week. It doesn't have to be big to count. God still multiplies acts of generosity for his glory, just as he did with the loaves and fish. So, I'm challenging us to be intentional about building God's kingdom here on earth. Need ideas?

- Ask God, "How should I spend my time, money and talents today?" Then listen and act.
- You're already making dinner; why not double the recipe and bring some to a neighbor?
- Write a note of encouragement to a friend, veteran or the bus driver. Thank God for them.
- Use coupons? Share your deals with a family experiencing unemployment or a local shelter.
- Pick a missionary. Learn about them and their ministry, and commit to pray for them.

It doesn't matter if it's big or small. The important thing is that you do something intentionally to share and show God's love. Trust me, you'll be glad you did!



Keegan Cunningham, Ally McNutt, Micah King, Amara Teichroew, Mikaela Cunningham, Ellie King and Jadis Cunningham

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES

Short-term mission (STM) trips play an important role in New Hope Church outreach because they engage all of us around God's global purposes. An STM is an opportunity for the entire church to be involved as team members, those who pray for the teams and those who give financial support.

The 2011 short-term trips engaged people with a variety of skills in support of our mission strategy around the world, including:

- Construction: Guatemala, Liberia.
- Medical/Dental: Honduras (total health), Liberia (community health).
- Teaching English: China, Bulgaria (conversational), Czech Republic (youth camp).
- Business: Bulgaria (Business as Mission, BAM).



- Service, Evangelism and Prayer: China, Azerbaijan, Haiti, Minnesota (hosting Chinese students), Alaska (family mission with children grades 4-6), Colorado (Youthworks Service with junior and senior high students).

The 2012 short-term trips will be announced by the end of October. Begin to pray and ask the Lord if an STM is in your future and watch for details.

We look for team participants who demonstrate a vital Christian faith, a

servant's heart, a team mindset and a strong sense of flexibility. Striving for excellence in every aspect of the trips is important, including:

- the preparation process.
- encouraging in-country hosts.
- serving the local community.
- being a representative of Christ as we travel.

As we live out these values, we're amazed to see God use the cross-cultural experiences to help people hear his leading in their lives.

Here are a few ways you can grow as a participant in what God is doing around the world:

- Stay informed about missions.
- Talk with the NHC Global Ministries staff. Get to know how God is using NHC globally.
- Pray for our NHC families currently ministering throughout the world. Visit the NHC Information Centers for details on our global workers.
- Pray for an end to religious persecution and prejudice, and for national Christians to reach their own people with the Gospel.
- Go on a short-term mission trip. Learn more at newhopechurchmn.org/global/shorttermtrips.php.
- Support NHC Global Ministries efforts.

For more information, contact Herb Janes, NHC Global Ministries Director, at **763-971-5105** and visit newhopechurchmn.org/global.



herb janes



The Spellmans



Name: Steve & Liz Spellman.

Children: Alessandra (21), Rebecca (19), Kayla (17).

Locations: Haiti and Brazil.

Agency: Reach Global.

Ministry Focus: Ministry direction (Haiti) and church planting (Brazil).

Service: 22 years in Brazil; 2 years in Haiti.

Email: Steve.Spellman@efca.org.

Background: Liz grew up in a very missions-minded church and had "always" wanted to be a global worker. Steve was called to ministry in college but only in seminary did his heart really turn after being confronted with the biblical call and practical need.

A "typical" day in ministry: *Haiti* - Working with key church partners, disciple-making and training with Haitian leaders, and working with U.S. staff to maintain strategy and goals. *Brazil* - Working as U.S./Brazil Partnership Director and Church Planting Coach.

Culture: *Brazil* is often voted "most friendly country." This friendliness can create openness toward missionaries and receiving help from other countries. Unfortunately, it can also lead to accepting all religions.

Haiti has more NGOs (non-governmental) and missions organizations than almost any other nation in the world and yet it continues to be the poorest and most corrupt in the western hemisphere.

History: *Brazil* was colonized by Portugal in the name of the Catholic Church. When they couldn't find "colonizers," they emptied prisons and sent the men and slaves from Africa. Much of the gold, precious metal and costly wood was taken from Brazil and shipped back to Portugal.

Haiti was originally one of the main transfer points for slavery from Africa, giving it a unique tie in terms of culture, worldview and religion. There was such a revolt against the French colonizers that many people rejected the Catholic Church and its influence, giving themselves instead over to voodoo.

Biggest challenge: Maximizing ministry and energy while working in the two distinct locations of Brazil and Haiti.

Victories: God has brought together 15 key ministry leaders in Haiti to talk about the future of the Haitian Church and how they (the Haitians) can lead the national church to be more indigenous and make a greater impact on the prevalent worldview in the nation. These leaders, who had not previously met together, represent over 1,500 churches in this nation. This promises to be the first step in what could be a significant new direction for the Church in Haiti.

Prayer request: Pray for God's direction in our long-term ministry.

Vision:

- Lead and teach through the Brazil EFC Church Planting Initiative.
- Develop church planting partnerships to foster Christ-exalting local movements.
- Strategic planning with our Haitian partners and leaders.

navigating the unique challenges and victories of global ministry in two distinct locations



can I hear you now?



When your mobile device alerts you, how easy is it to ignore? How about when you're with friends and family—are you fully engaged, listening, responding and connecting? Or are you “half” there, shifting between them and your smart phone? What's your reaction when you can't get a signal? Do you ever approach a cashier, place your items on the conveyor belt, make the purchase, all without saying a word—simply because you're online or on a phone call?



Lisa Severson

Could you go a day, a weekend or even a week without non-essential Internet use?

How you answer these questions can help rate the health of your relationship with technology.

I drop off my husband, Brent, most days for work downtown. We've noticed how few people are talking with one another: Instead, most are moving briskly down the sidewalks and through skyways with their faces buried deep into their cell phones. We're surprised more of them don't bonk their heads into a lamppost!

i like technology

We smirk at how transfixed people are on their mobile devices, but fully realize we can be just as guilty. Because, don't get me wrong, I like it. I enjoy being connected. Brent and I use technology to keep on track with one another as well as with family and friends through online calendars, email, texting, Twitter and Facebook. Looking for a creative outlet, we even started a blog together. It's fun, we've learned a lot, we meet interesting people and it provides unexpected opportunities to share our faith.

As we've prayed about what to write, we've also discovered a heightened awareness of what's going on around us on a daily basis. I could dedicate a whole series of articles to how technology can be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage, empower, transform, engage and revive.

At the same time, we recognize the possible pitfalls. Besides the obvious dangers of identity theft and ungodly online material, when you're always plugged in, it's easy to rarely stop, take a breath and think about how you're spending your time. You can let the con-

stant flow of information, tweets, posts, friend requests, comments and feeds lead your next thoughts. These constant alerts have the power to determine your course of action throughout an entire day—if you let them. Have you ever considered that this may make them an idol? Seriously.

can technology become idolatry?

Tim Keller puts it this way: “Sin isn't only doing bad things, it is more fundamentally making good things into ultimate things. Sin is building your life and meaning on anything, even a very good thing, more than on God. Whatever we build our life on will drive us and enslave us. Sin is primarily idolatry.”

“Whatever we build our life on will drive us and enslave us.” tim keller

John Calvin put it this way: “The evil in our desire typically does not lie in what we want, but that we want it too much.”

And the ultimate authority, God's Word, puts it this way: “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him ... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:21, 25). Chew on those truths for a while, bathe them in some prayer with an open heart, and ask God what things you might be wanting “too much.”

who/what runs your life?

One of the big questions I've been trying to routinely ask is, “Is it me, God or the device that is in charge of my schedule?” While I could quickly jump to the “I need to stop spending so much time online” conclusion, instead I'm trying to simply be more intentional about recognizing the things God wants me to accomplish.

Brent will be the first to tell you. I'm big on lists. We have lists for just about everything. Obviously there's a danger in allowing a list to run your life, but lists can also relieve you from wasting time on unimpor-

can I hear you now? continued on page 11

can I hear you now? continued from page 10

tant things to focus on the “better things.” *What’s on your list?*

what about your top ten?

Consider praying about and creating a list of 10 things you’d like to accomplish in the next five, ten or even twenty years. Your items may include anything from finishing that master’s degree, devoting more meaningful time to family, developing your prayer life, making a habit of journaling, to starting a business. You may even want to think about this question as a family. Dedicate it to the Lord, asking his direction, provision and blessing. Write it down. Then, freely be open to his re-direction along the way.

Post this list in a place you can see it on a daily basis. Think about what steps are necessary to accomplish the goals. Jot those steps down and keep praying. As you prioritize your choices along the way, let prayer, thoughtful conversation and this list help guide you.

Here’s where the technology question enters. Consider how your interaction with technology benefits or deters from your goals. Perhaps you’ll be led to “fast” or take a break from being

online for a period of time. We’re toying with taking a day of the week off from unnecessary online activity. On the other hand, maybe God will lead you to increase your online connection, expanding your opportunities for ministry. Or perhaps you’ll find new technology tools that actually help free up time for more valuable endeavors. The answers will vary person to person. Be flexible with your goals and the process as you listen to the Holy Spirit.

pray for one another

No one’s perfect at figuring all this out. That’s why it’s important to surround yourself with others who want to live life well too. Do you have friends who also want to hear from God and follow his lead? Let’s pray for one another to grow in living a healthy, godly balance as we set our priorities. Keep the conversation going with friends and family as you move ahead. Set realistic goals while trusting God to extend beyond them. It can be most effective to make changes in small, attainable “chunks.” And, in the end, remember that how you live the journey along the way is at least as important as arriving at your goals.

Think About It

- Is your presence in the Social Media community a positive, authentic reflection of Christ?
 - Have you stopped lately to pray about how you’re spending time online?
Are you being intentional?
- Did you know that “liking” or commenting on NHC Facebook posts helps extend and deepen their online visibility?
- Facebook has security settings with good reason.
Have you checked your’s lately?
 - It’s a good idea to avoid posting anything you wouldn’t broadcast to the world.
- It’s not a bad idea to consider giving your access information to a trusted family member.
Accountability is good.

Join more than 550 participants in the NHC Facebook community!

This is a great place to learn about last-minute ministry news and updates, registration links and photos from recent events. Sign up and get into an ongoing conversation with other New Hope Church family members and staff! Pray for God to use NHC’s social media presence. It’s exciting to see how God uses the church’s posts as they show up on the Facebook pages of our friends and family. Thanks for helping to make this an effective tool to communicate and share Christ’s love.



heart|beat

Discover the heart of God
and New Hope Church

NHC CALENDAR OF EVENTS



A Christ Centered Community for All People!

newhopechurchmn.org

Register for online NHC communications at
newhopechurchmn.org/resources/enevs.php.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 5 | Labor Day Holiday – Church Offices Closed |
| September 10 | Children's Ministries Volunteer Training |
| September 11 | Sunday Ministries Fall Kick-Off |
| September 11 | Newcomers Lunch |
| September 19 | Alpha/Connections Kick-Off Dinner |
| September 19 | Men's Ministries Keystone Kick-off |
| September 20 | Tuesday Night Focus Groups Kick-off |
| September 21 | Women's Bible Studies Begin |
| September 21 | Wednesday Night Student Ministries Kick-off |
| September 25 | Parent/Child Dedication Class |
| September 26 | Monday Night Connections Begins |
| September 30-October 2 | Father/Son Camp-out |
| October 2 | Newcomers Lunch |
| October 2, 9, 16 | New Members Series |
| October 7-9 | Men's Ministries Fall Retreat, Camp Forest Springs |
| October 9 | Parent/Child Dedication |
| October 31 | Family Fiesta |
| November 4-6 | Student Ministries Fall Retreat, Camp Shamineau |
| November 6 | Newcomers Lunch |
| November 23 | Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:00 p.m.) |
| November 24, 25 | Church Offices Closed |
| December 4 | Newcomers Lunch |
| December 11 | A Family Christmas Celebration |
| December 23, 26 | Church Offices Closed for Christmas |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Services (4:00 and 9:00 p.m.) |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve Communion & Prayer |