New Hope Assembly

Casual, Contemporary, Christ-Centered

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The Plan

New Hope Assembly has a long history in Western Nebraska as Mitchell Assembly of God. The church has send God do wonderful things in and through it in the past. In 2009 the church fell on hard times and its number dropped to about 12 people. It is now primed for a mighty move of God.

Located nine miles from Scottsbluff (the economic center for Western Nebraska) Mitchell is home for 1,764 people. There are 3,782 people living in the 69357 zip code area and 36,523 in the Scotts Bluff County region, according to a 2009 Church Marketing Solutions Demographic Study.

The vision is to revitalize New Hope Assembly and make it a strong, growing body of believers that is reaching out with the love of Jesus. Our prayer is that new Hope Assembly will help people discover God, devote our lives to God, and develop long lasting friendships. We want to live in Christ and walk in love.

Achieving this will not be easy, but with God all things are possible. As we follow God we are amazed at the team He is bringing together to revitalize the church. Working as a team (co-pastors with the help of others) God will grow His church.

New Hope Assembly is a church that emphasizes prayer. We seek to be a praying church that is casual, contemporary, and Christ-centered.

Studying the demographics of Mitchell indicates that the largest population section is in the 25-54 year-old range. The only group that is larger is the 5-14 year-old group.

To reach this age group our worship will be very modern/contemporary and our attire will be casual. We will use servant evangelism and seek new ways to touch our community will the love of Jesus.

New Hope assembly is a community of believers who are passionately in love with Jesus and want to present the biblical Jesus to those living, working, and playing in Western Nebraska. We are not about religion; we are about relationships - first with God then with one another.

The following is our plan to achieve the great things God has called us to do at New Hope Church.

The Name Change

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

God began doing a new work in Mitchell in 2009, the old is gone, and the new has come. The scripture is talking about God's work in our lives. When we start a relationship with Jesus, we are given new hope. Our sins are wiped away and Jesus not only changes us but commissions us to share with Him the ministry of bringing others together with God, bringing them into a relationship that will provide them new hope.

As a congregation we needed a new beginning, a fresh start, a new hope, a name change will help us archive this. Out with the old and in with the new.

Hope is what God gives us. Apart from Jesus we have no hope, what Christ did on the cross provides new hope for each of us (Isaiah 1:18, Hebrews 9:15). He also provides new hope for each of us no matter where we are at in our spiritual journey (1 John 1:9, Philippians 3:10).

Changing the name from Mitchell Assembly of God Church to New Hope Church put our focus on the change Jesus desires to make in each of our lives.

New Hope Church tells ourselves and those in the community who we are and what we are about – reconciling people to God, providing them new hope for today and for eternity.

What are we about?

We are . . .

CASUAL –Come as you are, there are no dress codes.
CONTEMPORARY –We seek to be relevant in everything we do.
CHRIST-CENTER –Jesus is the key. We walk in His love, we reach out in His love.

We exist to . . .

DISCOVER God
DEVOTE our lives to passionately serving Christ
DEVELOP leaders for the work of the Ministry

Values

We value Jesus
We value Prayer
We value God's Word
We value People
We value Creativity & Innovation
We value relevance
We value excellence
We value spiritual growth
We value service

Beliefs

God loves every person and is committed to us discovering Him.
Jesus is God's only Son sent to bring us into close relationship with God.
The Bible is God's flawless book that teaches how to live.
Every person has a gift, talent, or ability that needs to be used for God.
The real evidence of God's presence in our lives is life change.
(Detailed beliefs are in accordance with the 16 Fundamentals of the AG)

We are

A place to be yourself
A place to grow spiritually
A place to develop real friendships
A place to make a difference in our community

Philosophy of Ministry

A Commitment to Biblical Truth
The most critical component of any Christian institution is a commitment to Biblical Truth. It is our sincere desire to always present the truth of God's Word in any form that does not compromise the message. We believe in presenting "life principles" as a way of communicating the life stories and events of the Bible.

A Commitment to Prayer
Christianity is not about rules and regulations; it is about a relationship with God. The best way to grow a relationship and keep it strong is to communicate. Prayer is our way of climbing up into God's lap and talk to Him. Prayer is critical in the success of our relationship with God, one another, and our community. We believe in praying without ceasing.

A Commitment to Spiritual Growth
The journey of spiritual growth is a lifelong process. We are committed to growth. This growth includes spiritual, financial, numerical, and structural.

A Commitment to Cultural Relevance
We are living in an age where many Christians cannot relate. Our words are "churchy." Our messages are unappealing. We believe that it is possible to present truth in a relevant way that will cause believers to grow and non-believers to investigate the claims of Christ.

A Commitment to Biblical Purpose
Contained in the Bible are the five main reasons that we exist:

1. Evangelism
2. Discipleship
3. Fellowship
4. Service
5. Worship

We are committed to living these out in our personal lives and motivated to inspire other believers to also live these out. Purpose gives us direction. It gives us the reason we exist.

The Marketing Strategy

The Marketing Strategy is simple: Communicate the existence and events of the Church as often as possible in a variety of ways.

Proverbs 25:25: “Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.” (NIV) We want to be that “good news” to the spiritually weary in the Mitchell and Morrill area.

1. Prayer
Pray that God will bring people in, touch them, and change them.

2. Website
More and more people are using the internet as a truth finder or church locator. We will provide a contemporary site that will appeal to our target. The site will include information about the church, blogs by leadership, pictures, links, and much more.

3. Newspaper Advertising
The local daily newspaper reaches into 70% of the homes in Scottsbluff, Gering, Mitchell, and Morrill. This will be a way to target people who are looking for answers but have yet to find them. It will feature our name, address, service times, contact information, and our website address. The goal will be to place a 2x3 ad in the paper once a week for 6 months. We will try to avoid the Religion page.

4. Word of Mouth (WOM)
As we create the buzz during our weekly services our prayer is to inspire the attendees to communicate the existence of the Church to their friends and families. This is the best form of promotion. We will place a lot of effort into creating a service that people would be proud to bring their circle of influence to.

5. Podcasts
The Church Podcast will allow people to listen to services from around the world. It will allow members to encourage those outside the church to listen and prayerfully consider attending services.

The Ministry Strategy

Ministry is the primary function of the church. It is our responsibility to minister to people but also to give people a place to do ministry. We anticipate great growth and expect God to “build His church.”

1. Weekly Services
We plan on conducting a weekly Sunday morning service. This weekly services will target families in its music, message topics, length, and response time. Our goal is to have 125 people by 2010.

2. Prayer Services
We plan on conducting a monthly prayer and praise service. This service will be held on a Friday night and feature prayer (cooperate and individual) and praise. The service will run for about two hours, but will be allowed to go as long as people what to pray.

3. Fellowship Meals
We plan to hold a monthly fellowship luncheon on the final Sunday of each month. The meal will take place following the morning service and will be open to everyone. The meal will be pot luck style.

4. Servant Evangelism
We plan on participating and developing servant evangelism in our community.

One of the main target areas will be in child care and activities, such as an afterschool program.

5. Church Membership
Membership will not be introduced until November. This allows us to build relationships and trust before the BIG ASK.

The Prayer Strategy

"Prayer is the best test of an individual, and it is also the best test of a church. A church can be flourishing: She can be successful in terms of organizations, she can be tremendously active and appear to be prosperous, but if you want to know whether she is a real church or not, examine the amount of prayer that takes place," wrote Lloyd Jones.

Colossians 4:2-3: "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (NIV). We are FULLY committed to this prayer strategy. These components are crucial and foundational to our future.

1. 15 Minute Prayer Promise

We will encourage all members of the church to commit to spending a minimum of 15 minutes a day in prayer, crawling into God's lap and talking with Him. The first five minutes will focus on oneself, the second five on other members of the church family, and the final five on the community and church growth.

2. Prayer and Praise

Once a month we will hold a Prayer and Praise service. This service will bring people together to pray for the church and the people of the church. We will follow the prayer model used in the 15 Minute Prayer Promise. The service will feature prayer, both individual and as a group, music, and fellowship.

3. Prayer Walks

There is something about walking through a community and praying for people you have not met yet. Prayer Walks keep the people in front of our hearts and thoughts. They build passion for the community and allow for opportunities to meet potential members. These Prayer Walks will be planned during the warmer months of the year. They will be started in Mitchell, but also include Morrill and other communities in the area.

4. 24-7 Prayer

Our goal will be to establish 24-7 Prayer at the church. When the church feels it is ready to pray 24-7 we will bring together a team, each person or couples taking a one hour watch. A room will be set aside, the chapel can also be used, and the prayer warriors will begin praying. We will start with a weekend, and then go for 40 days. The goal will be 24-7-365.

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The Discipleship Strategy

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commanded His followers to “Go and make disciples.” Disciple means more than just a convert or a church attender. Being a “disciple” is much deeper. A disciple is someone who is a passionate follower. In the case of New Hope our goal is to develop men and women, young and old, who are Passionate Followers of Jesus Christ.

To achieve this New Hope Assembly will:

1. Provide Workshops and Classes for New Christ followers

We will provide teaching for those who are starting a new relationship with Jesus. The goal of these classes will be to help each person get off to a good strong start in their new relationship with God.

2. Provide Workshops and Classes for Growing Disciples

We will provide ongoing teaching for those wanting to develop a closer relationship with Jesus. The goal of these classes will be to help disciples fall deeper in love with Jesus and apply Jesus’ teaching to their everyday lives.

3. Provide Workshops and Classes for Leaders/Future Leaders

We will provide ongoing teaching for those wanting to and/or are working as leaders at New Hope Assembly. The goal of these classes is to develop and improve leadership skills for those in leadership and/or those looking to become leaders.

4. Master’s Commission

New Hope Assembly’s long range goal is to start and operate a Master’s Commission program in Mitchell, Nebraska. This would be the first and only Master’s Commission program in Western Nebraska.

The Master’s Commission program is an intensive 10 week program for students wanting to get into full-time ministry. The program will work with the Nebraska District of the Assemblies of God to be fully accredited program.

The Missions Strategy

The goal of our mission's strategy is to empower and inspire every person in the congregation to fulfill the mission of communicating God's love and compassion to all people – locally and globally. Our plan is to mobilize ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things for God.

Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Missions must to be part of the foundation of the Church. This will be another way to keep our focus outward. We want to be a church that bleeds missions.

1. Local Missions

The United States is the third largest mission field in the world. So many churches send a majority of their resources to foreign countries, while neglecting our own nation. According to a study by Mission Nebraska there are 27,000 non-believers in Scotts Bluff County. This is a large mission's field.

It will be our effort to partner with local organizations that are involved in one or more of the following:

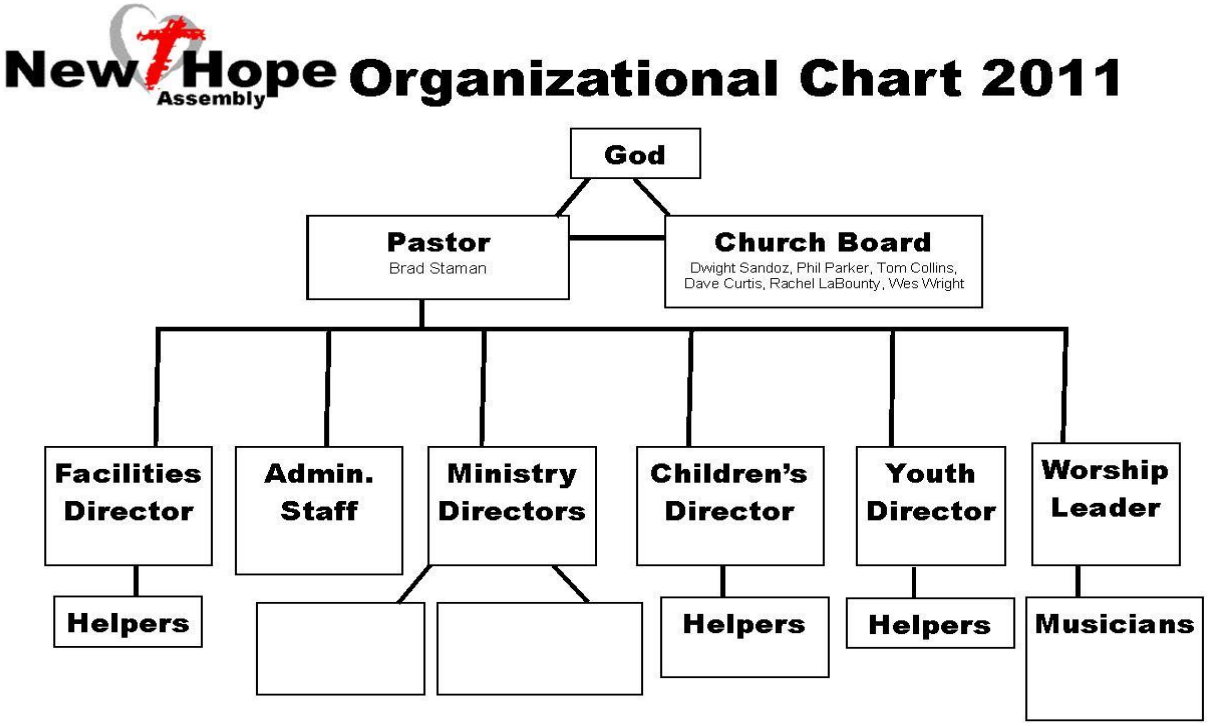
- Caring for Children
- Feeding the hungry
- Providing for the needy
- Counseling the hurting
- Rehabilitation for addicts

2. Global Missions

We believe in the call to take the love of Jesus around the world. We will partner with missionaries and ministries that attempt to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. Planting Churches

The church is the hope of the world. Our strategy is to plant new churches in Scotts Bluff County and beyond. The single greatest way throughout history to spread the Gospel has been the creating of new churches.

As God brings growth to our church we will prayerfully look for communities to plant new churches. Our goal is to become a birthing center in Scotts Bluff County where we will send people and staff to bring forth new churches

The Organizational Chart