



HOPE³ Weekend Relaunch

God showed up in a mighty way for the Ministries' relaunch of its flagship program, the HOPE³ Weekend, in September. The Weekend is a three-day retreat-like experience that teaches the essentials of the Christian faith in a safe and fun environment.

Although Weekend #6 began with news that one of the participants ("Seeds") would no longer be able to attend, God said "go!" anyway. Those who came were well-fed, lavishly loved-on, and had their eyes opened to God's agape love for them. They accepted their crosses at the end. And on the following Sunday, one of the Seeds was in church with the Bible he had been given and the cross around his neck, and his children on the pew beside him.

And not just the Seed's lives were touched. Many on the Servant Team had never served on a Weekend. One team member said that through serving others, the Weekend marked a new beginning out of her recent depression and several have already volunteered to help with the spring Weekend in May 2024.

HOPE³ Ministries has always focused more on the personal and spiritual growth of those whose lives we touch than on the number of people who attend ministry events. By fulfilling the "continual nurturing" part of our mission, we can witness that growth. For instance, the Assistant Weekend Guide for the September Weekend was a Seed on Weekend #4. He is now part of a faith community, participates in weekly Bible Study, attends Family Fun each month, and serves as an active HOPE³ volunteer, including serving on the HOPE³ Board!

No wonder God said "go!" He knew lives would be changed and have a ripple effect that we will never know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekly Bible Study

January 9, 16, 23, 30
6:00-8:00 PM
Peaceful Point Farm

January Family Fun

January 28
5:00-7:00 PM
Peaceful Point Farm

Spring HOPE³ Weekend

May 25-27
Peaceful Point Farm

A Family Fun of Remembrance

In October 2023, the ministry welcomed around 60 folks for a very special Family Fun. In keeping with the tradition of many Christian denominations that celebrate All Saints Sunday, HOPE³ offered a memorial celebration remembering people who were a part of the HOPE³ family who have passed.

A focal point of the event was a tree plaque on which friends and family members who have passed are remembered on a “leaf” bearing their name and life dates. Loved ones were invited to place the leaf of their saint on the plaque as the person’s photo was projected along with their association to the HOPE³ family.



Seventeen saints were remembered for their roles as a participant or volunteer at ministry events, participating as a “Seed” on a HOPE³ Weekend, serving on a Weekend team, or as a former board member. The event included live music and those gathered sang along with the songs of celebration.

Several family members shared words of thanks after the event. One wrote, “The event was beautiful, heart-warming and amazing! Thank you!” Another passed along, “I haven’t felt that close to my grandma in so long, and it felt like she was right there along with us last night.” Yet another shared she was pleased that both of her brothers were remembered, and hoped that one day her name would be on a leaf.

Our plan is to continue this Memorial Family Fun as an annual event in October. The plaque will be on display in the pavilion for outdoor events and will otherwise be displayed in a place of honor in the Journey Room.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JOANNA JOHNSON

Whether she is introduced as “Elisha’s mom” or “Jay’s wife,” the fact is that Joanna Johnson introduced herself to HOPE³.

Several years ago, on her travels up and down Route 1, Joanna saw the Peaceful Point Farm sign. Thinking it was nothing more than the name of someone’s property she never thought to investigate until, she saw Deb and Richard Leeper installing the HOPE³ banner. Joanna’s curiosity got the better of her and she pulled off the road, followed the Leepers up the driveway, and eventually joined into service at HOPE³ Ministries. Joanna now helps to shepherd HOPE³ Seeds on their journey toward that missing piece all Christians come to know as Jesus Christ.

Joanna, happy to be known as Jay’s wife and the mother of six amazing children, is now a 5-year veteran of HOPE³’s Board of Directors. She is also the founder of 10/7 Farms. 10/7 Farms, named after the first responder code for “taking a break,” is a nonprofit organization serving Caroline County residents who find themselves in immediate crisis.



Join Us For ...

...JANUARY FAMILY FUN

WHAT: Enjoy a free home-cooked meal, a fun activity, and fellowship with Christian believers.

WHEN: January 28, 2024
5:00-7:00 PM

WHERE: Peaceful Point Farm
25428 US Route 1, Ruther Glen, VA

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/FamilyFunRSVP>



Power in Partnership: Lord's Day Street Ministry

2023 has provided HOPE³ with opportunities to get the word out to the community about who we are and what we do. Coming alongside other organizations that support our mission and helping them in their outreach efforts is one way to spread the word.

For example, on November 5th, HOPE³ partnered with Lord's Day Street Ministry to reach out to folks who live in the motels across from a nearby laundromat by offering a free wash and dry per room as well as a free lunch. We were able to meet and pray with the participants, help share the Gospel with them, and invite them to Bible Study and Family Fun – all less than a mile and a half away from the Farm.

The activities of Lord's Day Street Ministry take advantage of brief encounters to share the love of Jesus through feeding and praying. Part of the mission of HOPE³ is "continual nurturing" which, by necessity, requires developing relationships over time. Encounters with Lord's Day Street Ministry have the potential to bring new people to HOPE³ to continue being fed, prayed with and for, and nurtured on their faith journeys.

May God pour out His power and blessings on this and future partnerships!





Blessed New Year!

"Reaching Forward to Those Things Which Are Ahead"

Philippians 3:13b



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