

LIVING HOPE NATIVE MINISTRIES
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Hopelines

Volume 25

March 2025

Issue 1

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Hopelines is a quarterly newsletter about the work of **Living Hope Native Ministries**.

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Printed in Canada

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A Light in a Dark Place

“**Y**ou are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

The Christian church is intended to be noticeable, and it's intended to be transformative to its community - a light in a dark place.

One night I had a dream that revival broke out.

In my dream I entered a small conference room with rows of chairs facing towards a stage, much like you would see in a church gathering. There was a small stage at the front with a pulpit looking more like a music stand. There were no musical instruments on the stage except for a single acoustic guitar and a chair. No one was sitting up there at that time. As I walked into the room there were about 15 to 20 devoted people there. They were sitting there spread out with their heads down praying. I could hear the low rumbling of their voices talking to God. Quietly I went to find

my place, when all of a sudden an energy hit the room. Everyone was picked up into the air only a couple of inches, and there was a feeling of weightlessness before being dropped back down to the ground. Everyone fell on their knees sobbing profusely, including myself.

At that instant, the most human reaction would probably be to try and stay in that moment as long as we could. The most human reaction would be to try to prolong the experience.

But in the dream everyone immediately ran out of the room. We were suddenly filled with an urgency to go out and reach as many people as we could. Much like the disciples in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were all filled, and almost immediately they went out and started preaching.

I'm not claiming that my dream had some prophetic meaning, but I do believe this should be the heart's desire of the church.

~Rodney Martin



A quarterly publication presenting news and stories of Living Hope Native Ministries, a partnership dedicated to serving the First Nations of Ontario.

From the Keyboard of Andrew Lang

I'm writing from Grassy Narrows First Nation, where a group of students from Rosedale Bible College are currently listening to people's stories and learning about a culture different from their own. I'm appreciating the openness, honesty, and generosity that we are receiving from the community.

We hope that by building relationships with believers in the communities we are visiting, we can create lasting partnerships and encourage them to use their unique gifts.

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Our Vision

That in every First Nations context the local church would reach its full potential—worshipping in full devotion, attracting the seekers mobilizing believers, restoring families, changing communities affecting the world.



(Continued from page 1)

The Church thrives when all members of the body use what God has given them. Now is the time to lean into your calling, your gifting, and your passions. God has prepared works for you to do.

God has called everyone to follow Him, and He has given you a passion for an aspect of the kingdom of heaven that He has specifically equipped you for.

We are always looking for team members to join us in the Indigenous communities of Ontario. If you feel led to this ministry, please contact us so we can talk more.

~Andrew Lang

A Taste for Community

Christmas time brought with it a new form of outreach for New Hope church: blessing the neighbours around the community with warm greetings, homemade cookies and invitations to church.

Several women at the church volunteered to assist our elderly ministry group in baking cookies for the endeavour. We stuffed Christmas bags full of the cookies, along with Gospel tracts and a message of invitation to our Christmas Eve service.

The responses were almost exclusively positive and some were particularly poignant. Many of the neighbours around the church are elderly. More than one had recently lost a spouse, and one widower who was feeling particularly low said that the surprise cookie delivery and greeting brought him so much joy. Some of the neighbours allowed us to pray with them, invited us in to talk more, or even insisted on giving us gifts.

It was a special time connecting with our community, and many neighbours got in touch with the church later to say thanks. Some even came to the Christmas Eve service.

We are grateful for this connection and hope to build on it going forward.



~Pastor Sebai

LHNM associate
Pastor of New Hope Fellowship, Thunder Bay

To Serve in the 'Everyday'

When I consider the many and diverse ways that the Church can affect the larger community, I remember Jesus' words in Matthew 10:42 that even a cup of cold water, given in His name, does not go unnoticed by our Lord.

I need to personalize this and consider how I serve and affect others in my busy schedule. Perhaps it involves responding to a specific request to visit and pray with a hospital patient, the mother of a youth that attends church. It may include accepting the offer to assist a fellow senior to set up online banking with patience, and helping a neighbour who knocked on my door and needed a battery boost. Perhaps I affect my curling teammates by showing grace or giving encouragement whether winning or losing.

Opportunities arise constantly, and we can affect others for good by helping to meet the needs of those who live around us, even when they don't belong to our faith community.



~Mary Keesic

LHNM Bookkeeper and active member of New Hope Fellowship, Thunder Bay.

A Heart to Serve

Our church is one of the larger churches in the Parry Sound area, and is active with the Teen Challenge ladies in Aurora On. We have a heart for those who struggle with alcohol and drugs. A number of the ladies have come to the Lord, shared their testimonies, and been baptised at the church or the town beach during a summer service.

We've recently hired a youth and community outreach pastor, and are actively looking for a location to start a youth centre for community outreach. We also have a heart to possibly start a rehab and retreat centre, not sure exactly what that looks like yet. We're praying into that, and seeking the Lord's leading and blessing on how that may unfold. We truly feel our church is in a season of revival and are very excited for the upcoming months and years!

The addition of the new pastor has opened things up for the other two pastors to expand their horizons to be out in the community more and concentrate on deeper prayer and bible study ministries. Due to the number of people involved in the church there's lots of ministering going on behind the scenes and a strong team of prayer warriors. Overall, we have a big heart to see people delivered, restored, renewed, and healed from brokenness and addiction in Jesus' name.

~Jamie Thornton

LHNM staff in Parry Sound. Attending Bayside Family Church.



Powerful Partnerships

Tonight is our Winter Fire event with the River Drop-in staff and youth from our community - an opportunity to connect with creation and Creator God. We've named our gatherings: Traveling the River Together, Pinaaz-i Zibi Maamawi in Anishnaabemowin, and House of Prayer for All Nations. Our home church and house church gather to reflect our commitment to right relations, reconciliation, and community.

As an active member of the Golden Lake and area community, we recognize and honour the original peoples of these lands, the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, the Omàmiwininag, Algonquins. In all our activities we seek to honour the diverse

traditions and our shared histories of our community, under the guidance of local Elders, Grandmothers and leaders, and celebrate unity in our diversity, being present in our communities as learners and representatives of Jesus.

We partner with a local church from Pembroke in operating the weekly River Youth Drop-in at the local community center, providing resources to support the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental health of youth and families in our community, directing them to other ministries and services as necessary and providing young people with a place to share and learn from each other and community Elders and leaders.

We also partner with the local township in providing a community garden at the local community center, where we work to provide workshops and seminars around creation care and food safety and preparation. In addition, we support the local food bank as volunteers and operate the Shop Clothing Bank in the local public school.

At all times we do our best to support and be present at cultural and community events and services as able and where the Spirit leads.

~Rob Dilts

LHNM associate in Golden Lake, ON.

