

Living Hope Church



Annual Report 2009

Pastor's Annual Report 2009

In recent months there seems to be a growing attitude in our church... a holy discontent... a sense that the Lord has something bigger and more powerful and far reaching in store for us than what we have been experiencing. It is a growing hunger for God that is emerging from a deepening understanding of who He is and how rich and intimate He wants our relationship with Him to be. In short, there is an increasing desire in Living Hope Church to experience the manifest presence and power of God (manifest means, "to make apparent to the senses, to make public").

This holy discontent is a good thing. It attacks complacency and the desire to maintain the status quo and helps us stay focused on the commission to "go... make disciples... baptizing them... teaching them to obey..." (Matthew 28 19-20).

It has been exciting to see this attitude take root and begin to grow this past year as we focused on finding ways to show the love of God to people in tangible ways. A number of new ministries have been started this year that are beginning to build bridges to our community. Monthly ministries like the Great Food for All program and hosting the Prescription Assistance Network are beginning to open doors of opportunity. Last July we had about 85 people, almost half of whom were from the community, take part in our Family Fun Day. The relationships that we are building with the agriculture community through our annual Farmers and Ag Workers Appreciation Day and my involvement in the Farm Bureau, are beginning to impact others outside our church. In September we had the honor of hosting a regional wide training "Launch" for the XEE ministry sponsored by Evangelism Explosion. We have also seen our home Bible studies increase to 4 this fall, involving more people than ever before. Each Bible study is also focusing on putting into practice what they are learning by sponsoring at least one outreach event or ministry.

In addition to these outreach opportunities, we also saw our regular ministries reap a great harvest. To date, we know of 24 people who have prayed to receive Christ as their savior and 5 people have been baptized. These spiritual births have occurred as the Lord worked through the ministries of Vacation Bible School, the Hungry Missions Trip, C.A.M.P. @ M.C.R., as well as through the personal witness of individuals in our church.

Recently, we were impacted by the ministry and testimony of Rev. Richard Siple in our Deeper Life Conference. Lives were changed as we were taught what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and live lives of obedience and holiness. To lay the ground work for this conference several sermon series were presented this year to prepare our hearts and minds for this event. These included series on Peacemaking; The Holy Spirit; Spiritual Gifts and Personal Holiness.

As we look forward to 2010, we want to build on what has been started this year with a renewed focus on showing God's love in tangible ways in our community. To help us do that, we are reorganizing our committee structure to streamline it and become more intentional and organized in our outreach. In January, we will be implementing the XEE ministry with an 8 week, Sunday evening training series. Plus, we will be working to develop a new believer discipleship ministry to help new believers grow in their faith and become incorporated in the church.

As I look back over this past year, I see the Lord working in people's lives on a level I have never seen before. People are coming to Christ, healings are taking place, our times of prayer are growing in vibrancy, lives are being restored and there is an increasing hunger for God's Word as well as an increasing desire among our people to share the gospel with others.

I am excited about the future of Living Hope Church because the Lord is doing so much in and through us. I believe that exciting days are ahead.

In Christ,



"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" Philippians 1:6

Elder Report 2009

It's been a busy year for the Elders in 2009.

We organized and set up the Great Food For All ministry to help out people in need and to show the love of Christ in our neighborhood and community.

We also hosted two conferences this year. The XEE Launch conference to help teach this new outreach program. The Deeper Life Conference with Richard Siple was Nov 6-8. This five part series on revival and getting radical in prayer.

This fall we commissioned Carl and Laura Ralston to the mission field. Remember Nhu ministry is to prevent children being used in the sex trade around the world.

It has been a rough year financially for us, but through prayer and your faith the Lord has seen us through.

Please pray for the Elders as we look into ministries for the next year and years to come.

Ron Frank
Elder Secretary

Christian Education Committee Annual Report 2009

The Christian Education Committee oversees all the ministries of Living Hope Church that focus on teaching the scriptures. These ministries include: Small group Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, Teens Alive, Sunday School, Nursery, and Children's Church.

These ministries are possible because of the sacrificial work of many people who give of their time and talents to teach and help in these varied ministries. To you we say a big, "Thank You." Your efforts in teaching the Word of God and building the Kingdom of God are greatly appreciated.

We are excited to see our small group Bible studies grow to four studies. There are studies for couples, singles, women and men. The Men's Bible study has developed into a combined study group that include men from our neighboring church, Valley Chapel. It is great to be able to partner with them. A challenge that each of the small group Bible studies have taken on is to sponsor or take part in at least one outreach project during the duration of their study.

This summer we had another exciting and fruitful week of Vacation Bible School, followed by our annual "Family Fun Day". What is exciting is seeing the number of children and families from outside of Living Hope Church that are reached through these ministries.

We were saddened to realize that we would need to cancel the AWANA ministry this year due to a lack of available leaders. We are praying that the Lord will raise up the needed workers so we can re-start this exciting and effective ministry.

The Sunday School classes continue to provide excellent, age graded Bible teaching for all ages from pre-school through adults. If you are not involved in a class, you are missing out on an excellent opportunity. Why not join us this week?

The return of the Children's Church ministry in January was very timely. We stopped the program in 2008 because of a lack of children in that age group. But the Lord blessed us with more children, so we were able to restart.

The Teens Alive ministry has continued to expand. It is exciting to see the growth in the teens. They are currently working on fund raising so they will be able to attend the C&MA "Life Conference" in Louisville, Ky., this summer.

One area where there is constant activity is in the nursery. This vital ministry continues to be a challenge to keep staffed with qualified "Safe Place" personnel. If you would like to help out, please let us know and we will start the process of helping you become qualified to work in the nursery.

The Lord is working in amazing ways in and through these ministries. Please be praying for us and for each person involved in these ministries, as well as the programs themselves. If you are not currently involved, please be praying about participating in these ministries. God is at work.

Sincerely,
The Christian Education Committee
Molly Miller, Belinda Lumley, and Pastor Duane

Vacation Bible School Report July 13-17, 2009

Vacation Bible School '09 was an action packed, fun-filled week for kids in grades K-5. This year, the kids were transported back in time to the days of the early church as they studied the "Superheroes of the Faith". Once again the curriculum was adapted and developed by our Christian Education Committee, who did a great job.

The Lord raised up a fantastic team of adult and teenage teachers and helpers who made the VBS a reality. Thanks for a job well done. VBS would not happen without your prayers, time and hard work.

The most exciting thing about the week was the spiritual harvest. We had a total of 46 kids attend during the week a high daily attendance of 39. Of the children who came, 38 were from outside Living Hope Church. Everyday these kids were taught the Word of God through skits, puppets, discussions and song. Before the week was over, 17 children made professions of faith in Jesus as their Savior! Praise God!!

We are very grateful to the Missions Committee for coordinating the 3rd annual Family Fun Day as the closing program for the VBS, which was held on Sunday evening, July 19. This year we were able to have the "Wellness on Wheels" van from Aultman Hospital at the event to provide free health information and free blood pressure screenings. About 85 people of all ages joined us in this fun filled evening, of whom about half were visitors.

It is evident that the effect of this week goes far beyond the songs and Bible stories of VBS, it is impacting lives and families for eternity. We need to be praying for the kids who received Jesus, as well as their families. Also, be praying for this coming year's VBS as preparations will be starting before we know it.

In Christ,
Pastor Duane and Molly Miller
VBS Directors

TAWLH

Teens *Alive *With *Living *Hope

This last year we've seen God do many, many things...including bringing the teens together who never talked to each other before and blossoming friendships that I believe will be lasting ones. Though we haven't seen a growth in quantity, there has been tremendous growth in quality with in our Youth Group. We also were very busy this year. Let me give you a run down of the various activities and ministries we were involved in!

January

We attended WinterJam sponsored by Newsong and featuring Toby Mac and Francesca Battistelli. For some of the teens this was the first Christian concert they had ever attended and the idea that many of the thousands of teens in the Wolstein Center were believers too, was something that helped them feel less alone. We also hosted a Movie Night Fundraiser showing "Amazing Grace" to earn money for our trip to ALIVE in June.

February

We attended a Purity Conference for girls at Beulah Beach and had a Valentines' Day Party the following weekend. We also hosted another Movie Night Fundraiser where we showed "Fireproof".

March

We were involved in the Peacemaker Program using a study geared more to the teens. We also held an aluminum can drive which continued through April at which time a small group of us planted a garden on the church's property in order to give the harvest to anyone in the congregation who could use or needed it! We want to say a sincere THANK YOU, to the trustees who tilled the ground for us!! You really were a blessing!!!

May

We were involved with the 30 Hr. Famine again this year and spent a weekend fasting and engaging in ministry on 3 different levels.

1. At home--meaning helping someone in the church with a need that needed met.
2. In the Community-- we took part in the E. Canton Rt. 30 garage sale where we sold baked good to raise money for the Famine as well as passed out literature about Living Hope's programs such as GFFA and the Prescription Assistance Program.
3. In the world by raising the money for the 30 Hr Famine, in order to help feed as many children as we could, with just \$1 a day. We also gave a presentation and took over as the worship team on Famine Sunday!

June

We attended the Alive 2009 Christian Music Festival on it's Friday night. We spent time as a group eating, swimming, listening to the concerts, and the guest speakers as well as shopping in the merchandise tents! It was the pinnacle of the summer for us!

July

We had an overnigher to break up the summer, then suspended activities because I was out of the country through the middle of

August

September

We had a parents' meeting to get feedback and discuss the plan for the upcoming school year. We resumed normal Youth Group activities. We had a special Youth Worship Night that most seemed to enjoy, using the worship videos from Youtube.com and playing them on the big screen in the sanctuary.

We also began a new study in Daniel using curriculum from the Billy Graham Association called "Dare to Be a Daniel". We decided on a theme verse for the year, I Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." To encourage leadership we meted out jobs such as sending cards to those who are absent for awhile or those that have visited, or taking attendance, or writing down our prayer requests. We even hosted and organized a church wide rummage sale to help raise money for the trip next year to our District's Youth Conference called LIFE 2010. (We have a very long way to go to raise money for this trip...if you would like to sponsor a teen or donate to the Life 2010 trip please let Teresa or I know!) As a group we also attended the Missions' Conference Night that was held at Whipple Heights and the teens were able to interact with the teens from their youth group.

October

We had planned a Fall Retreat to the Miller's Cottage in Vermillion but had an accident on the way. I just so happened to miss the exit for the Turnpike and had to take the next exit where I blew a brake line and slid into the car in front of me as we were stopping. God totally protected us in two ways. First their were no injuries or damage in and to either vehicle and secondly had we made the right exit...we would have been going 60+ on the Turnpike when the brake line blew and it could have been very bad! Than you God for YOUR faithfulness and protection!!! Needless to say we didn't make it to the cottage but the sanctuary fit the bill! The next morning we traveled with the rest of the church to the Miller's Orchard to go on the Fall Family Adventure or as we called it the Falling Family Adventure! :) I saw teens forget that they weren't suppose to like doing things with adults and actually had fun. They were a great help to me and Teresa as we had to scale down a 2 story high cliff, concerned for our safety and helping direct us to the right foot and hand holds!

November

We took 14 people to Judgment House in Hudson, Oh including Bobby's cousin Heidi Clouston who accepted Jesus as her Savior. WOOHOO! And to the surprise of both Teresa and I there were many teens who frequently attended the Revival led by Rev. Richard Siple. Another ministry we were involved with was Operation Christmas Child. Not only did we help organize this event we also made 10 shoeboxes to be added to the 10 that you the congregation donated!!!!

As you can see it's been a busy year and one filled with challenges! Please continue praying for our teens and Teresa and I as leaders. Teen ministry is a very difficult thing in this current day. The teens are pummeled by constant sexual temptations and wrong teachings about God, sex, drugs, and alcohol, through the media, from the internet to music and movies. They face so much more than we ever did when we were their age and they need our protection and honesty and love more than ever now. Please remember that youth ministry should begin in the home and be supported by the church. They are watching us as adults for examples to live their lives by. Pray that we would show Christ and His love for them, first and foremost.

Thank you,
Kimberly Rollins



2009 MISSIONS REPORT

OUR 7TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION WAS HELD THE LAST SATURDAY OF MARCH. A LITTLE OVER \$3000.00 WAS RAISED FOR THE HUNGARY MISSIONS TEAM.

THIS YEAR KIMBERLY ROLLINS, AND KRISTI KINDLER WERE THE ONES FROM LIVING HOPE TO GO TO HUNGARY. THEY ALONG WITH 6 OTHER WORKERS FROM IOWA LED TWO BIBLE BASED ENGLISH /SOFTBALL CAMPS.

WE RECOGNIZED THE AG WORKERS THIS YEAR WITH A SPECIAL SERVICE WITH GUEST SPEAKER NICK KENNEDY FROM THE OHIO FARM BUREAU.

AGAIN THIS YEAR FOLLOWING BIBLE SCHOOL WE HAD A FAMILY FUN NIGHT. GAMES FOOD AND "THROW WATER BALLONS AT PASTOR" HIGHLIGHTED THE EVENING.

IN SEPTEMBER WE HELD OUR ANNUAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE. THIS YEARS SPEAKERS WERE MR. TREY MARTIN AND MRS. HELEN WHITE.

THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING A SPECIAL SEND OFF SERVICE WAS HELD FOR CARL AND LORI RALSTON, AS THEY WILL BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE REMEMBER NHU MINISTRY. A CARRY IN DINNER FOLLOWED THE SERVICE TO LET EVERYONE GET A CHANCE TO TALK WITH THE RALSTONS ABOUT THEIR MINISTRY.

PLANS ARE ALREADY IN THE WORKS FOR OUR 8TH SILENT AUCTION COMING UP THE LAST SATURDAY OF MARCH 2010.

WE, MARY ANN AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO HELPED THIS LAST YEAR. WITHOUT ALL OF YOU NOTHING WOULD HAVE WORKED THE WAY IT DID.

RANDY KINDLER
MARY ANN KINDLER

Women's Ministry Report 2009

In the beginning of the year 2009 the secret sisters was already in progress we had exchanged name in the end of the previous year. There were several new ladies in it this time which was very exciting. We will wait until January to exchange names again so we can have it from January to December ending the year with some type of exchange and a Christmas dinner. We also had the womens luncheons during the last school year and we ended them when school let out. At this time we have not started them back up . This will be announced at a later date. Several women were involved in a rummage sale the church had to benefit the youth . We also recently attended a ladies night out which was an outreach from the ladies Bible study that is lead by Bev Frank. We look forward to a number of different things we would like to do this next year which will include four quarterly events that will allow fellowship as well as outreach to our community.

Thank you –Womens Ministry

Penny M Tice
Emma J Patterson

Deaconess Report 09

This past year the deaconess committee has been involved in many different things in the church. On a regular basis coffee was prepared for the Sunday morning service , as well as the elements for when we have communion. We also oversee the cards and the flowers that were sent out on needed occasions. We appreciate the great help from the other ladies in the church in both of these areas. We also provided the preparation for the ice cream social during the missions conference. We set up when there was a dinner after church. We kept the inventory for the kitchen so it would be stock with needed items. We are also responsible for the set up and updating of the prayer chain. The prayer chain is going to be revised so that we can start sending the request out by text message and email as well as the phone calls that we use now.

Thank you –Deaconess Committee
Penny M Tice Teresa Hoffer