

September @ hope

NHCC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER || SEPTEMBER 2022

The Ripple Effect

—Pastor Josh Huisman

Cedar Lake, IN is a small town in Northwest Indiana. Its close proximity to the Illinois border almost puts it in the category of being a suburb of Chicago, but it's just far enough from the hustle and bustle of city life to make it a weekend destination for boaters and fisherman. I was staying at a camp called Cedar Lake Ministries. In addition to summer camps and retreats they offer lodging to senior pastors who would like to have a little "lake time" during sabbatical. The lake is not very large, measuring around 781 acres, so it's easy to see from one side to the other.

It was a peaceful morning on the banks of Cedar Lake. For three days I had developed a simple routine of walking

down to the pavilion next to the water with nothing but my Bible and a cup of coffee. God had blessed me with three perfect days of weather and I found myself giving thanks for God's gift of peace and rest. The sun was bright, no clouds were in the sky, the temperature was pleasant, and the absence of a breeze kept the water completely calm. So calm, in fact, the water almost resembled a mirror that reflected the sky.



That's when I heard the sound of a lone ski boat engine zooming across the middle of the lake. At first the noise of the engine blended in with the serene sound of nature. But as the boat got closer the engine became so loud I had to stop my reading and wait

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for the boat to pass. I looked up and stared at the beautiful ski boat cutting through the glistening lake like a knife. The boat passed me. The engine noise disappeared into the distance, and I went back to reading my Bible.

A few minutes later there was another sound. Water began washing up onto the rocks of the shore. At first the waves were soft and small, but they quickly grew to large crashing waves that battered against the shoreline. I looked across the lake and saw that waves were crashing against both sides of the lake, and it had all been caused by one boat!

Almost immediately God spoke these words to my heart, "Behold the power of a ripple effect." It surprised me how quickly one boat that pulled a tube had completely disturbed the calm and peacefulness of a lake. The wake created down the middle of the water rippled all the way to both shorelines and brought crashing waves to once peaceful shores.

Proverbs 13:20

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm."

1 Corinthians 15:33

"Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals."

Proverbs 22:24-25

"Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare."

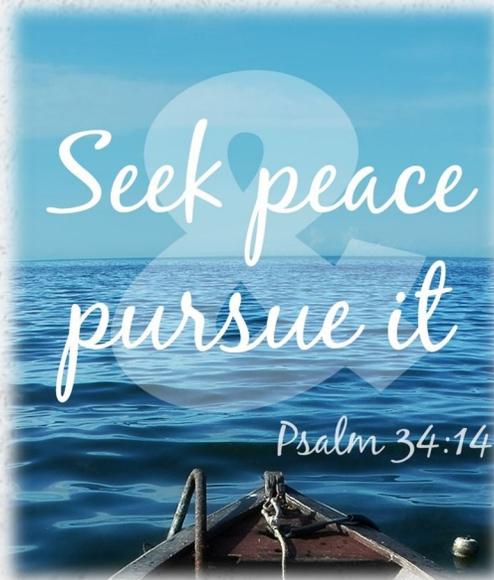
Watching the ripple effect on the lake that day reminded me of the importance of the character and integrity of the people in which I surround myself and call friends. Are those people pursuing Christ and desiring to be more like Him each day? If so, I will be more likely to find peace around them. But if I am around people who are addicted to drama and disturbing all kinds of peace, it's only a matter of time before those crashing waves reach me.

If you want peace and calm to be at the center of your life, surround yourself with people who are willing to walk in the ways of Christ, allowing His peace "which passes all understanding" to be the bond that brings you together. Guard yourself from anyone who would prefer to cut through your peace like a ski boat across a lake that

creates nothing but crashing waves! I realize you can't control who will walk in and out of your life each day, and you are definitely called to bring Christ to those who have no hope or peace in Him, but you must also carve out time for rest and recharging. That is when you must be guarded over who gets to enter that space.

The Ripple Effect is real. If there are waves crashing against your spiritual shoreline right now, look up and pay attention to where they are originating.

—Pastor Josh



SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

Nashville Rescue Mission is a Christ-centered community committed to helping the hungry, homeless, and hurting by providing programs and services that focus on a person's entire life—physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and social.

We are devoted to restoring the whole person through a Christian approach that helps the homeless and addicted learn how much God loves them and gain the biblical insight they need to lead a productive life in and for Christ.

Established in 1954, the Mission first opened its doors to provide food, clothing, and shelter to homeless men in Nashville. In 1968, services were expanded to include women and children. Today, the Mission serves over 800 men, women, and children on a daily basis. We are driven by the desire to share the Gospel, and we strive each day to spread this unending message of hope.

Providing hope for today, hope for tomorrow, and hope for eternity to the hungry, homeless, and hurting.

Nashville Rescue Mission gives life transformational hope to everyone who walks through our doors. It's why we say, "*Hope Lives Here!*"

—Mike Cowles

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Check out page 6 for information about an opportunity to serve and volunteer at this important ministry to our community!

As the old hymn says, "On Christ the solid rock I

stand, all other ground is sinking sand." But Satan comes to steal kill and destroy, and he is very crafty in his work. Sinking sand can be something as simple as our feelings (which often lie to us). Sinking sand can also be idols that sneak into our lives, our schedules that have become way too busy, the news, our worries and anxiety, lies pushed at us in endless forms that cause us to obsess over everything except Jesus. And the enemy tries to sink our kids in the same lies!

God's Word says in Ephesians 6:11 to "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." And verse 14 says "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist."

In light of what God's word says, our children need to be taught at home to be reading God's Word every day, and it is very helpful if they have a devotional. A devotional provides direction, context, and perspective on applying God's Word to their daily lives. In addition, as they get older, it is good for them to choose a book of the Bible and read a little bit each day.

Our family does not have this down perfectly! It's a challenge, but we just keep trying! My kids may get away from it and I struggle sometimes too, but then I



am reminded of how much we all need God's Word. So we try to set a routine again and make it a habit early on for each person to have time with God and his Word every day.

In case you don't know where to even look for a devotional, I have compiled a list of them that our family has used in the past. You can order them at christianbook.com or you can check at

Christian Publishers Outlet in Murfreesboro. Amazon or Thrift Books online may even have some of these books:

- **Indescribable** by Louie Giglio
- **Made To Create** By Lauren Duncan
- **The Kids Book of Devotions** by Mark Littleton
- **3 Minute Devotions For Teen Girls**
- **3 Minute Devotions For Guys**
- **Brave Girls Devotional**
- **One God One Plan One Life** by Max Lucado
- **Lies Girls Believe** by Dannah Gresh
- **365 Days to Knowing God for Guys**
- **365 Days to Knowing God for Girls**
- **Our Daily Bread for Kids** by Crystal Bowman and Teri McKinley
- **Wild and Wacky Things in the Bible** by April LoTempio
- **Brave Girls Beautiful You** by Tommy Nelson Publishers
- **365 Daily Devotions for Teen Guys By Teen Guys**

Let me know if you have questions. I pray that all our kids are becoming rooted in God's Word!

—Sarah Huisman

UPCOMING EVENTS



Perfectly Imperfect will meet in the café at New Hope **on October 1st** for a night of fellowship, food, and a time to give back by making scripture boxes for someone you know that may need encouragement. Suggested \$10 donation. Scan the QR code to sign up for this special night!



SCAN ME

There are more than 8,000 children in foster care in Tennessee. In our state, like many others, children entering foster care are given a black garbage bag to gather their belongings. Through its Helping Hands Ministry, Tennessee Action Council (TAC) donors address this issue by providing large new duffle bags to children entering foster care. Since beginning this ministry a little more than five years ago, Helping Hands has donated more than 3,000 bags to DCS in Williamson and six surrounding counties. TAC leaders are pleased to announce that the ministry is now expanding to cover *the entire state of Tennessee!*

The mission of Helping Hands Division is simple - to provide dignity and respect for foster children during a most vulnerable time, when they move into foster care, by replacing garbage bags with beautiful new duffle bags that signify value and worth.

TAC's fundraising goal is straightforward: Each bag costs a little over \$10, and five thousand bags are needed in Tennessee for 2022-23. So, the goal is to raise \$50,000. Funding for Helping Hands comes from tax-deductible donations from generous people like you. Tennessee Action Council *has no paid staff—all work is accomplished through volunteers, allowing 100% of the funds to be applied directly to the mission.*



SCAN ME

To support expansion of the Helping Hands ministry, you are invited to the inaugural dinner event: *"See A Life, Impact A Life" at the Old Natchez Country Club on Thursday, September 29th, from 6PM to 9PM with Dr. Ming Wang as the keynote speaker.* On-line registration for this opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable members of our community is available at the TAC website; scan the QR code to sign up! If you have questions, please contact May Bennett at 615-415-3763.

Helping people find HOPE

in Jesus Christ



A small group from our church visits the Nashville Rescue Mission **the first Monday evening of each month** to serve both women and men dinner. We would love to see this team grow in number. Can you join us?

Requirements:

- Complete a background check through the Mission
- Be able to arrive at the Mission on Lafayette by 4pm
- Be able to stand and serve for two and a half hours

Questions? Email Randy Smith at:

rglensmith@gmail.com

A graphic with a red background. At the top, there are three white icons: a fire hydrant, a medical cross, and a police star. Below the icons, the text "DRIVE-BY THANK YOU DINNER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS" is written in white, uppercase letters. Underneath, it says "WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 FROM 4:00 - 7:00 PM" and "NEWHOPECHURCHTN.ORG/EVENTS". At the bottom right, there is a small logo for "new@hope COMMUNITY CHURCH".

On **Wednesday, 9/7** from 4 to 7pm, we are inviting any/all first responders to drive by the church for a meal as a thank you for their service to our community! If you're able to help serve at this event, please visit our church website to sign up to help!

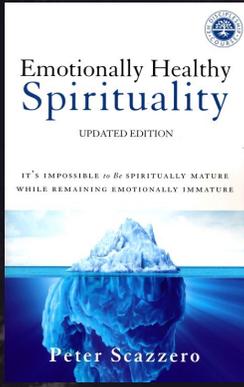
Questions? Contact Mel Alba via email at: cldrn4@gmail.com

A graphic for a food packing event. It features a row of icons representing various food items like cans, boxes, and bottles. Below the icons, the text "I AM HAITI WITH KIDS AGAINST HUNGER" is written in red and black. Underneath, "FOOD PACKING EVENT" is written in large, bold, red letters. Below that, "SEP. 17, 2022" is written in red. At the bottom, there are logos for "I AM - Haiti", "Jennifer Wilson Kids Against Hunger", and "VOLUNTEER BY VISITING: NEWHOPECHURCHTN.ORG/EVENTS" with a small "new@hope" logo.

The Starfish program provides nourishing meals for children in Haiti at schools sponsored by IAM. Due to recent and ongoing issues, it has been extremely difficult and dangerous to do any type of humanitarian work in Haiti. Additionally, the support and supplies for Starfish have dwindled. In order to provide food supplies and carry on the work of the Starfish program, IAM is partnering with



another non-profit called Kids Against Hunger. This organization helps plan and coordinate meal packing events that supply well-packaged, easy to cook, nutritious meals to communities in need. **On Saturday, September 17**, New Hope Community Church will host a packing event to help out with this cause. What we need from our generous congregation is 100 volunteers to form teams of 10 who will use an assembly line to pack the boxes. Our goal for this event is to provide 40,000 meals, or 185 boxes. After we are done, IAM will ship the boxes of meals to the proper schools located throughout Haiti. If you and your family would like to be a part of this cause please sign up on the church website. **Questions?** Contact Nicole Gray at (615) 479-0056.



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality is one in a series of "Emotionally Healthy" books by pastor and author Peter Scazzero.

While I was on sabbatical I chose this as one of the books I wanted to read over the course of the month. Unfortunately, as soon as I picked it up I wasn't able to put it down. I finished it in

A Book You Should Read

less than a week. If you struggle in dealing with conflict, working through past family hurt, people-pleasing, and flat-out getting to the bottom of why you feel burned out and far from God...this is a must-read. I plan on leading a Connect Group through this book at some point in the future, and I know I will reference it in sermons over the next year or more. It's that good!

—Pastor Josh

Update: The Reason We Removed Trees



A few people have asked why we removed the trees that ran alongside the west side of the Fellowship Hall and

the Holly trees that were next to Wilson Pike. The four trees that were next to the Fellowship Hall had become overgrown and were hanging over the lower level roof of the kid's classrooms. This was creating a constant maintenance issue with the gutters and decreasing the life of the shingles in that area. In addition, we recently discovered that the roots of the trees were causing damage and issues with rainwater drainage pipes that run under the sidewalks. We have hired a company to come out and repair the damage and fix any concrete that needs to be replaced from the repair.

The Holly Trees next to Wilson Pike had become overgrown to a point that visibility was starting to become limited when

turning onto Wilson Pike. The north entrance of the church has always been a dangerous place to pull out of because of speeding traffic. We felt that removing the trees would increase visibility and open up that space so drivers could see better. In addition, the removal of the Holly trees has made it so New Hope's facility is better seen from the road. We want people to know



where New Hope Community Church is located and the removal of the trees has given us

much better curb appeal.