






Church of Hope

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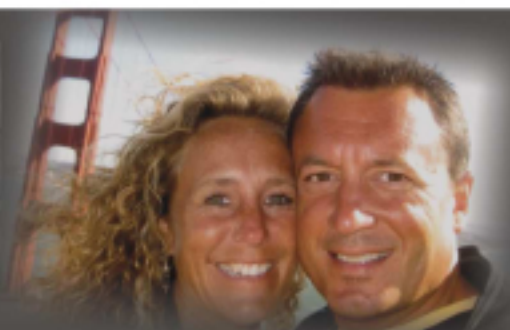
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hope is...

TABLE talk



Linda and Mark Cummins, Pastor

Church of Hope is . . . an amazing story of people who are discovering in Christ we have Hope! On November 30, 2008 God began to write chapter one, bringing friends and families together to TRUST God for salvation and in every situation, to LOVE people inside the church and the community and to INVEST our lives for God's glory.


As you look through the following pages, you will see and read stories of people just like you. Economic stress, addictions, debt, broken marriages, dysfunctional families, pain, loss, grief, failure ~ crushing experiences in life that try to steal Hope. However, that's exactly why God started Church of Hope – so you and I can experience "God's great mercy that he has given to us in a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:3)

Life can be crazy--ridiculous at times! That's why God sent Jesus Christ to give us Hope in this life and the next. Jesus Christ invites us to "come follow me"...not come "study me"...at Hope, Jesus is not a subject to study; He is a person to know...not a religious transaction to complete, but a conversation that connects us.

Our story is lived beyond the common, casual, comfortable Christian experience rooted in self-awareness and self-promotion. We are a living church being reformed into the radical image and likeness of, JESUS CHRIST!

Author Donald Miller asked, "What story is your life telling? If you aren't telling a good story, nobody thinks you died too soon, they just think you died". Church of Hope is living in the narrative of God's Story...written in Scriptures, modeled in Christ, directed by the Holy Spirit for the audience of one--God the Father.

It makes no difference what your story line has been or currently is...with Christ a brand new story is about to begin. I invite you to experience the story of Hope in Christ...



Mark

Partnering
with people *to*
DISCOVER that
in *Christ* we have
HOPE.

First Impressions

"Is this where the gays go to church?"

"Yep...everyone is welcome here." This question was recently asked to one of the parking lot Heroes. His response is so JESUS! Simply put, yet filled with HOPE! "Yep...everyone is welcome here." Come to find out, the question was asking about the Gays, a couple with that last name. It's a part of our DNA to be the place where EVERYONE is welcome...



"Finally I have found HOPE!" A mother from Michigan was desperately searching for a gathering of Christ-followers for her daughter and son-in-law. This particular Sunday was her last day in Ocala and she knew that if she were to find a church for her family, it would have to be that day. She drove around until she saw bright flags with the word HOPE written down the sides where man waved her into the parking lot. She parked her car and was amazed at the warmth she felt. "I started crying tears of joy because I knew that I had finally found HOPE! I knew that my daughter could finally have a place to call home."



CAMPUS CARE



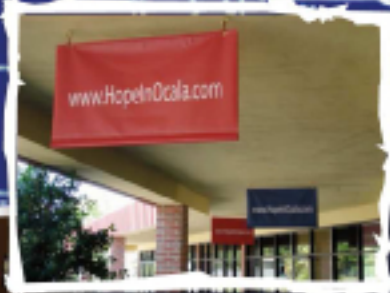
"WHENEVER WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, WE HAVE TO DO WHAT IS GOOD FOR EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS."

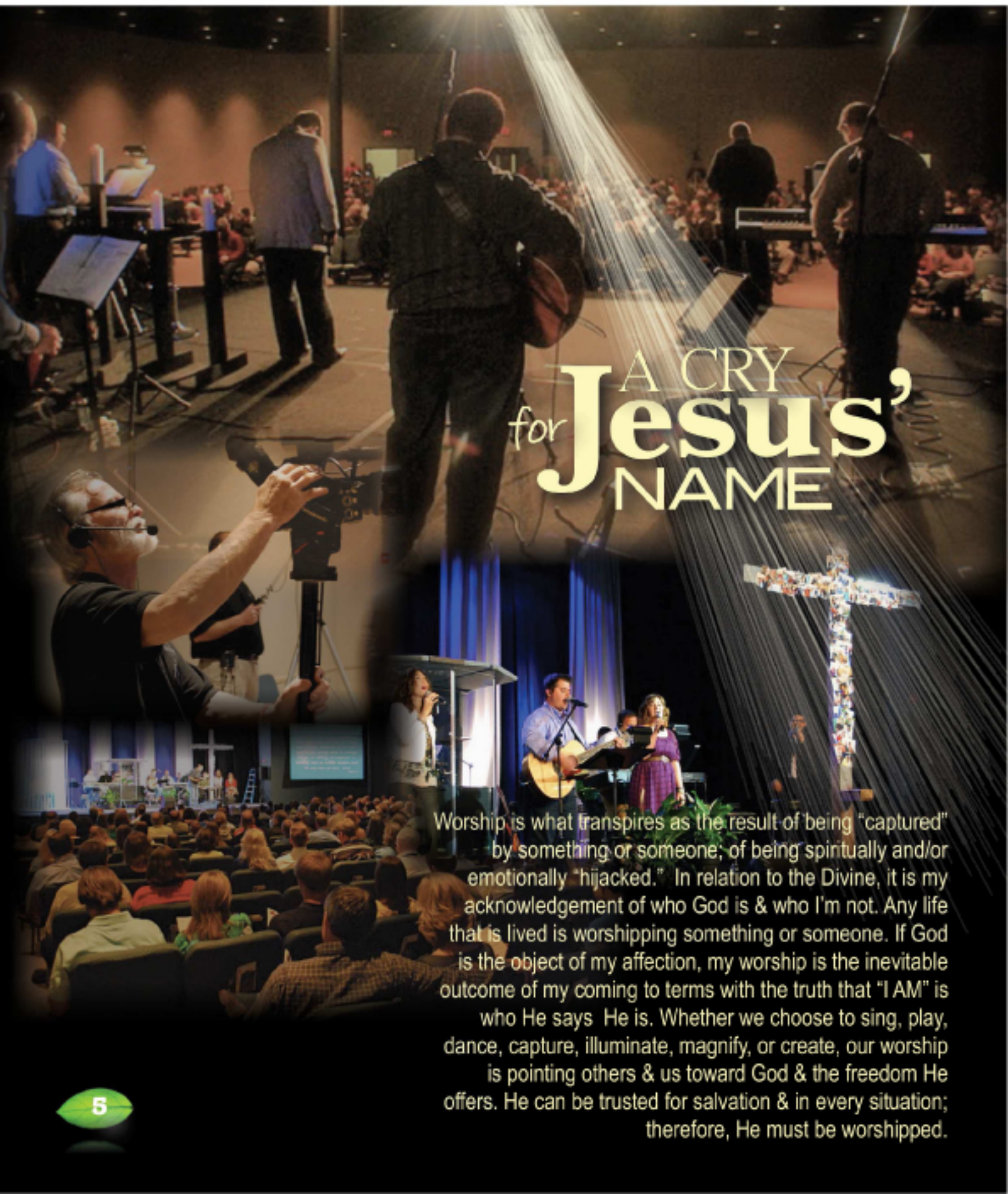
- GALATIANS 6:10

Some of the most significant elements of ministry are those that often go unnoticed. In that, a true servant's heart is revealed.

Five months ago, God blessed our body with the campus that we now call home. The move was an exciting experience, which has allowed us to grow tremendously. Through that increase, a whole new group of Hope Heroes has risen to help us be good stewards of what God has given.

Led by Mrs. Jan Hutchinson, this team of individuals cares for our campus each week. Their efforts and preparations illustrate the same dedication, kindness, and servitude that we see in the life of Christ. Because of their servant's hearts, these Heroes allow us to save kingdom dollars each week in order to use them on mission in people's lives. Whatever they find to do is surely done with all of their hearts. For they are not working for men, but for God. Every moment of themselves that they so willingly give, constructs another pillar in our platform. They touch all of our lives.





A CRY for Jesus' NAME

Worship is what transpires as the result of being "captured" by something or someone; of being spiritually and/or emotionally "hijacked." In relation to the Divine, it is my acknowledgement of who God is & who I'm not. Any life that is lived is worshipping something or someone. If God is the object of my affection, my worship is the inevitable outcome of my coming to terms with the truth that "I AM" is who He says He is. Whether we choose to sing, play, dance, capture, illuminate, magnify, or create, our worship is pointing others & us toward God & the freedom He offers. He can be trusted for salvation & in every situation; therefore, He must be worshipped.



3 1/2 FT

Trusting Christ
Under The Water
And Over My
Life



Women of Hope



"I recently went to Church of Hope and decided to try something besides the Sunday morning worship celebration. I went to Refresh and I felt like I belonged there! My husband and I have been trying to find a church home...we may have just found it."

Women are not an after-thought to God. The King of Kings not only created us, but He has specifically designed us as women to influence those around us for His glory! That's what **Refresh** is all about...Real Women, Real Life, Read Hope.

Women of every generation are discovering that hope does not come in a pair of shoes or on a designer bag label, but in Christ alone.





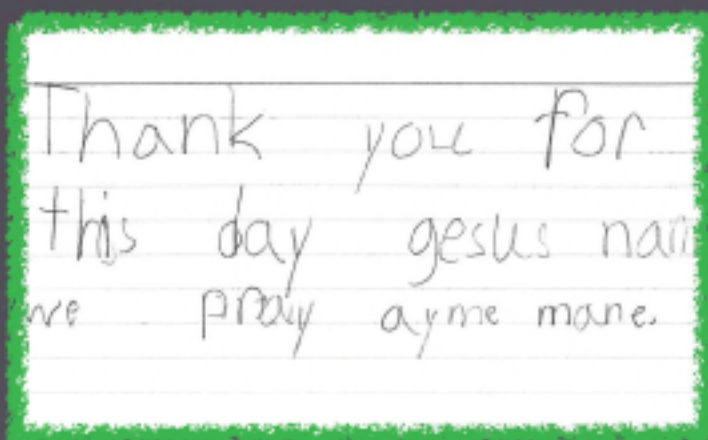
"Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers Deuteronomy....," sang six-year-old McKenzie

Todd several weeks ago around the lunch table. "Where did you learn that?" asked her mom. "HopeKidz" was McKenzie's quick reply. More than mere "playtime," HopeKidz exists to help kids discover that in Christ, they too have **HOPE!**

Kaylee Todd has also grabbed ahold of her big sister's passion for Jesus, and cannot wait to tell her

parents what stories she is learning. On a weekly basis, heroes partner with infants through fifth

graders to help them truly discover **HOPE in Christ!** What better time than **NOW** to help students learn to **TRUST** God, **LOVE** people, and **INVEST** their lives? Recently, one little girl ran excitedly up to a hero in her life and said, "My mom is here!" On a little index card, this precious girl asked HopeKidz to pray for her mommy to find **HOPE** in Jesus too... and she is!



MISSIONS

Trusting God, Loving people, and Investing our lives is a daily journey for the missions team. We invest our lives in our community, our region, and around the world so that people can discover that in CHRIST they have HOPE.



“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...

Throughout the last year, we had many opportunities to exemplify the discipleship process, but this CHRISTmas story says it best.

In December, we got a call from Julie Floyd, the director of treatment for AMI Kids Gainesville. She had received news from the board of directors that they were going to have to cut the budget and she did not know if the needs of the children would be met. For these kids, just having basic necessities such as toiletries and grooming items, is a blessing. Church of Hope stepped up in a huge way. Every child received undergarments and two pairs of khaki pants, along with two of their own items off of a wish list that each child provided. Each present was wrapped separately and tagged with a child's name. On the next page, you will find an e-mail from Julie that speaks for itself.



Dear Rob and Billy,

I told myself I would not cry and I managed to hold back the tears as the kids saw the gifts under the tree, and their names on the bags. But, I must admit that as soon as I got in the car to leave the tears began to flow. Today, I saw hope in the faces of the kids who do not have much hope, and I would not trade that moment for anything. I have to tell you, AMI Kids Gainesville is very important to my heart. I feel very passionate about meeting the kids emotional and physical needs as well as providing support and encouragement, but unfortunately, as a non-profit organization, we have limits. After hearing about budget cuts this year, I did begin to worry about whether



or not the needs would be met, but I never imagined the outpouring of support that we would receive. GOD has truly blessed our school. Thank you for giving us HOPE!!

Sincerely,
Julie Floyd, MA
AMI Kids Gainesville

CHRISTmas for Ocala



Habitat for Humanity



Once upon a time, there was a group of students in pursuit of Christ. It was their desire to grow, to learn, to serve, and to love. As their faith became a lifestyle, the light of God's Good News radiated from their hearts, bursting forth in the form of kind actions and encouraging words.

A trust in Christ is more than a singular experience. It is a never-ceasing adventure that changes lives forever.

1440

"When you truly surrender your entire life to Christ, He will do things with you that you would have never expected."

- Chris Lovell

The Church of Hope student ministry is producing the most valuable fruit of all... lives captured by God's grace and students that understand what it means to be a Christ-follower. As these believers are equipped, they minister to their

campuses, to their friends, and to their world. If God used eleven men to change the course of history, how can we doubt that He will use this body to do the same thing?



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These students have become "walking billboards" who are living God's love out loud in a powerful way. If seeing is believing, then watch as Chris Lovell, a junior at Forest High School, leads a Bible study of his peers. Already an active leader in many of Hope's ministries, Chris has caught the vision and is working out his salvation. He will be spending this summer on mission in Romania, helping countless children discover the same hope that he has found in Christ.

Walking with God has no age limit; it only requires one to courageously follow His example. Middle school student, Madi Kebrdle, has proven herself to be fearless when it comes to chasing after

her God. "Don't be afraid," she says. "With God, all things are possible." That spirit of confidence is a reflection of Christ's boldness. Joining her parents as a missionary to our community, Madi leaves comfort behind to share God's love with everyone she meets. For her, being in a non-

Christian environment is not a challenge, it is an opportunity. Wherever she goes, she brings Jesus with her.

Both of these students

exemplify what it is to live a transformed and purpose-filled life from the inside out.

That is what 1440 is... a body of believers seeking to bring glory to Him. We are a place for students to trust God, love people, and invest their lives.

1440 is... A group of fun-loving students making it their priority to earnestly seek Christ during their one thousand, four hundred, and forty-minute day.



"Well, that was different..." were the initial thoughts Jordan Willis had after he went to the College and Twenty-Somethings Hope Life Group for the first time. Not totally into the "church scene," he was hesitant to get involved, but quickly changed his mind after establishing authentic relationships. The environment and people he found in the group energized him and created a sense of accountability. Jordan says that his life has changed radically over the past year, and he is not kidding.

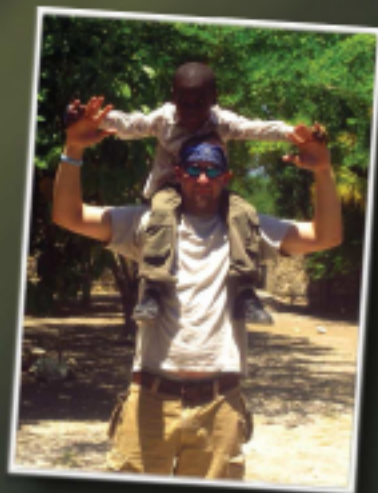


Jordan moved to Ocala from Gainesville because of a job opportunity and started coming to Church of Hope with his family. He quickly saw that Hope is a movement of people who are all on this dusty trail called life and felt at home. He knew that something needed to change, and that led him to a relationship with Christ.

Since his life changed one year ago, Jordan has learned to trust his Father in every situation—including through the death of one of his close buddies that was serving in Iraq. He has found that Christ-centered friendships can make a world of difference. Through a transparent and ever-growing faith, he is able to love, and he has built meaningful relationships with his peers. Jordan continues to invest his life through missions and ministry. He traveled to Haiti to serve those in need and is currently reaching back into the very Hope Life Group that helped spark the change in his own life.

Jordan was right when he said that his life has changed radically. This twenty-two year-old man, who a year ago did not understand the value of Christ's saving grace, is now a team leader for mission trips and an active leader in the College and Twenty-Somethings Hope Life Group. To Jordan, "The only way to be a leader is to serve others."

That is what makes all the difference.





Hope Life Groups

"Loving People" can seem like a Christian cliché these days. However, at Hope it is the second step in our discipleship process. Jesus said, "people will know that you are my disciples by the love that you have for one another". Loving one another inside the church and in the community is a priority at Hope! That's why we build wheel chair ramps, clean out gutters, deliver food and visit hospitals and jails--because we love people. We have discovered the best place to love people is in small groups; we call these groups Hope Life Groups--a gathering of people who connect the story of their lives with one another through God's Word while caring for and praying for one another. That's exactly what Sue and Dave Layman experienced when Sue received the news that she had cancer. During months of treatments, loss of her hair and health--when Sue and Dave thought there just wasn't any life left to live--their Hope Life Group loved, cared and shouldered the weight of her cancer as Sue and Dave discovered in Christ there is Hope and He still works miracles!

Hear Gods Word
Care for One Another
Pray
Expand into the community
& other groups



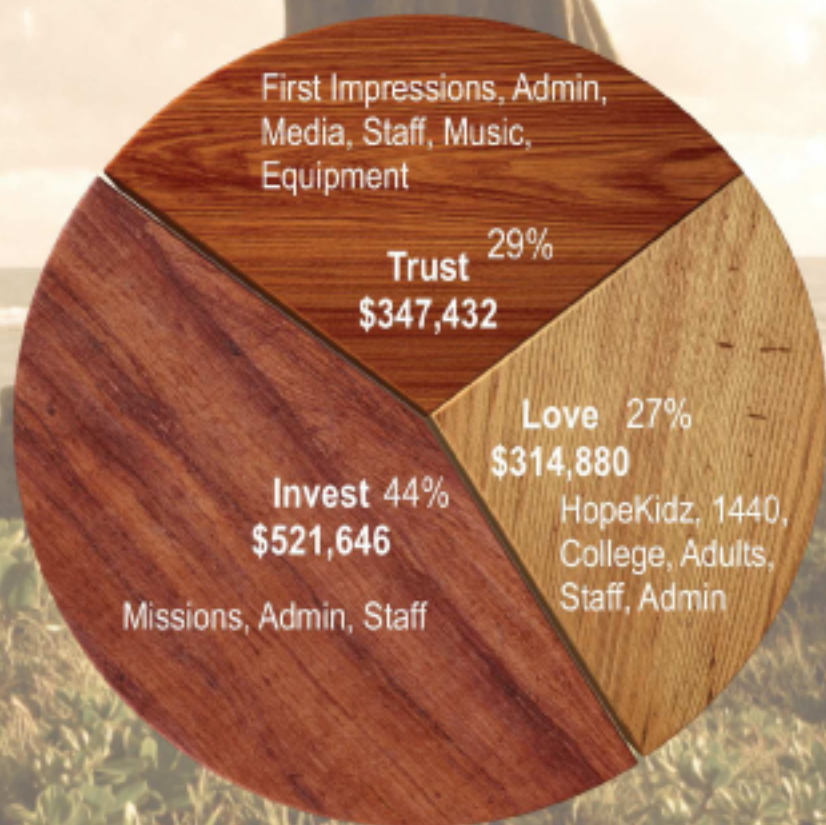
ON MISSION... *financially*

Operating Budget represents the annual financial needs to fulfill our Mission in *partnering with people to discover in Christ we have HOPE!* A summary of accounts, dollar value and percentage of total budget are represented in each quadrant.

Finances are a part of our worship. God owns it all, and it is our responsibility to insure every dollar is on MISSION in Ocala and around the world. Quarterly our financial procedures, receipts and expenditures are audited by an independent team from the receipting and expending income team. For more information on financial procedures and accountability please contact Jeff Ruttenber at jeff@hopeinocala.com

2010-2011

2009-2010



Leading Voices

John Alvarez

HOPE is
Helping Others
Pursue Eternity.



Jeff Ruttenber

HOPE is the thrill of
being a part of
God's family that
has the opportunity
to share with our
community how we
TRUST, LOVE,
and INVEST.



Tom Cothron

Church of Hope is a
group of believers
seeking to both
experience & share
the joy & freedom
that a genuine
relationship with
Christ provides.



Terry Upton

Because we
are in Christ,
we should
never give
up Hope!



Kevin McDonald

Hope is what
I find in and
through my
relationship with
Jesus.

