

# New Hope Community Church



## New Hope at 100

### A Message from Rev. Dave Brown Senior Pastor September 1978-1988



It seems like only yesterday that we celebrated Sunland Baptist's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Since that time in 1985, a few things have remained the same. Some familiar faces are still around (though looking a bit older). The church still meets at the same address on Oro Vista Ave., and the Small World Christian Preschool is still going strong.

But, as with all of life, many things have changed. You have seen the comings and goings of several pastors, staff members, and ministries. There have been increases and declines in membership and attendance all along the way. Many dear friends have gone to glory. An old building was torn down and a new one erected. The church's name was changed, and the Worship Team and worship style have evolved with the times. And you who carry the torch of New Hope Community Church into the future can expect more changes, and you can expect those changes to disrupt your spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational comfort level!

William Bridges (in his book, *Transitions*) makes an important distinction between "change" and "transition." *Change*, he says, is anything we do or anything that happens to us that is different from what we're used to (like moving furniture or losing a pastor or painting the kitchen a different color). Change happens all the time. *Transition*, though, is the *mental adjustment* to change. While change is external (and often out of our control), transition is *internal*: it is a matter of *attitude*. Change always happens in our lives, but the trick is to learn how to make it *positive* (or *transitional*, to use Bridges' term).

As you at New Hope celebrate 100 years of ministry, you will also be looking forward to the next 100 and the changes that will inevitably come in the days and years ahead. Just remember that change involves *risk*, and that requires *personal* self-assessment (because that's the stuff of which *transition* is made). So, how's the health of your personal devotional life? Are you currently *active* in corporate worship, group Bible study, and ministry? Are you *initiating* your personal gifts for the present and future health of your church, or are you passively allowing others to determine its direction?

It's time for a self-assessment of the *church*, too. Are you as a congregation as open to the needs of the world as you should be? Are there current ministries that need to be jettisoned in favor of new programs that better meet the needs of the congregation and community? Where would you like to see New Hope 5 years from now, or when you celebrate your 125<sup>th</sup>?

Your 100<sup>th</sup> isn't here yet, but it's coming! Unfortunately, because things never stay the same, a church anniversary offers a wonderful opportunity for self-assessment. So as you prepare for your tremendous celebration of 100 years of ministry in 2010, and as you look ahead to the next 100, how will you meet the challenges and changes that a new day brings?

As you allow the Holy Spirit to inspire, challenge, and guide you, you'll discover that *change* is not something merely to be tolerated, but it can, indeed, become *transformational*!

Love

Dave

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"Save The Dates."

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration Weekend

May 21-23

2010

First Baptist

Church of Sunland

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# New Hope Legacy

Dear Friends,

The economy is on the mind of everyone these days. It dominates the headlines on radio, on television and in the newspaper. And the news isn't good news. Words like recession, depression, downturn and uncertainty dominate the discussion.

Perhaps right now you are feeling financial stress, fear of the future or even the pain of uncertain economic times. Or maybe you are like so many and you simply don't know what to think! You may be asking, "How will this affect me?" "What will this do to my job?" or "How will this impact my parents or friends?"

The truth is, none of us know the future. But I do know that living our lives by the ups and downs of the market is a very stressful (dare I say, hopeless) way to live.

In times of great uncertainty, we have to break away from the 24-hour news cycles that compete for our attention and focus on the unchanging, the eternal and the solid truths of life.

I am not a fortune teller or a prophet, but I am a life-long student of Scripture and here are four TRUTHS that you can hold onto regardless of the economic news:

**1- GOD IS IN CHARGE.** God is still on the throne and He is not shaken by the economic uncertainties of life (or any other uncertainties for that matter). He still offers hope to those who trust in him.

*"Therefore, since we are receiving **a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."*

– Hebrews 12:28

**2- GOD WILL GIVE YOU PEACE IF YOU CALL ON HIM.**

Turn off the anxiety-producing news reports and open the Good News of God's Word. Spend some time reading your Bible and praying each day. And remember this promise:

*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you." – 1 Peter 5:7*

**3- GOD WILL GIVE YOU ALL YOU NEED IF YOU PUT HIM FIRST.** While it's tempting to 'take control' of our finances when the future is uncertain, let me challenge you to do the opposite. Give control of your finances to God and put him first. If you do, he will give you all you need.

*"God will give you **all you need from day to day** if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." – Matthew 6:33*

**4- GOD WILL USE YOU MORE IN A TIME OF CRISIS THAN IN CALM.** While none of us would have wished for this time of difficulty, there is an opportunity for us, as God's people, to model to the world that our faith is not just a 'sunny day faith.' Throughout the ages, it has been during times of crisis that Christianity and God's people have had the most impact. Let me challenge you to model with your life and lips the 3 truths above and put feet to your faith by:

- being a person of generosity while everyone else is hoarding (John 3:16);
- being consistent in faith while others are fearing (2 Timothy 1:7);
- showing great love and concern for your friends and inviting them with you to The Journey so they too can find hope (1 Peter 2:12).

I trust that these truths will be an encouragement to you!

Blessings

Rick Denogean  
Board Member

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.  
Ephesians Chapter 3

## July Events

Adult Bible Study Wednesday  
Nights 6:30 pm  
The Garden Room

Women's Fellowship Thursday  
Nights 7:00 pm in  
The Garden Room

Friday Night Swim and Potluck  
Movie Nights 6:00 pm  
Call Church Office for Details

ST 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade  
Church Float

Kids Klub Summer Fun Night  
Jul 2 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

Jr & Sr High Summer Camp at  
Thousand Pines July 5<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>

Theater Arts/FPAC  
Summer Performance Rehearsals  
Ongoing in the Activity Center  
Call Church Office for Details

Hollywood Bowl Night  
July 11<sup>th</sup>

Countdown to  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration

10 Months !

## A Special Greeting from Mr. Richard French.

Can you believe that First Baptist Church of Sunland will soon be 100 years old? Yes, I know that we are now known to the community as New Hope Community Church but our legal name is still First Baptist Church of Sunland.

The New Hope in our name is most appropriate because we want to express the new hope in which is found only in Jesus. And we hope that the total community will come to salvation by accepting and following the ultimate gift of God for all people of the world, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

This fellowship of believers, a part of God's family has always wanted to preserve and protect the mystery of our faith. From the very beginning to the present day, we have honored the Bible as our authority and guide for the mission we have accepted. We have practiced the tradition of baptism by immersion, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the dedication of children in accordance with the instructions handed down by our forebears, and based on Scripture.

There is a mystery about our faith. Why did God choose the way of the terrible cross as our path to eternal life? A mystery to us but not to God who understands everything and does all things to perfection.

We have come to understand the depth of His love for us through Jesus, the perfect expression of God. We honor Jesus because of his perfect nature, we obey Him to express our acceptance and follow Him to fulfill His marching orders until He comes again as promised.

The fellowship wants to set the stage for the next 100 years and beyond with your help as you have expressed in the past. You have been a part of all of this and our hope is that you will join in celebrating this joyous event.

Love

Richard French



## Our Vision of a New Hope

We believe that God has invited us into His story of redemption: a story that is about God healing our lives, our communities, and our planet through the work of His people, the Church.

In the beginning, God created everything. The entire world was beautiful and good. But sin entered the world through the rebellion of Adam and Eve. Because of the actions of these two, everyone today is born into sin.

God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus as a sacrifice to remove the stain of sin. We believe that all it takes to receive this free gift of salvation is having faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord who died for us and was raised again to life for us.

We believe God has called us as a church to be a place that shares God's new hope with the Sunland-Tujunga community. This includes new hope for healing in our lives, our families, our schools, our communities, and our world.

Thus, our vision is: **To be a ministry of ongoing transformation in our community.**



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10438 Oro Vista Ave  
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Friend's Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip Code