

Here's the Funding Plan

Prompted by the news that the building New Hope has been using rent free for the past seven and a half years has been sold, it is time to share with you the vision God has given us for the future of this ministry. Over the past couple of years, He has been planting seeds of an expanded vision for New Hope to include *retreats*, in order to take groups of people through the New Hope materials in a shorter amount of time. This would allow the people to know what's in the materials, not only benefiting from it themselves, but to be more quickly equipped to use the materials to help people in their own ministries or outreaches. God is also giving us an understanding of the great impact day and night prayer and worship can make on not only a ministry, but on society. A great longing of our hearts is to also include a New Hope Prayer & Worship Room where continuous prayer and worship will take place (see *Day & Night Prayer & Worship* article for more details).

Through much time spent in the Lord's presence, we have come to know that this building need and expanded ministry is much *too big* and *too impossible* to do by focusing on fundraising. As we desperately sought the Lord on what to do about our situation, He brought three books to our attention: *Wrestling Prayer* by Eric and Leslie Ludy, the biography of *George Mueller*, and *Rees Howells Intercessor*, by Norman Grubb. The Holy Spirit has worked powerfully in us as we (the Leadership Team and Board Members of New Hope) read these books, spent much time in prayer, and in His Word. We know that the new strategy we have been given has come from Him. *We have made the decision that we are not going to put our focus on fundraising. We are going to do as Rees Howells says: Look to God only as our Source.*

But we were a little unsure as to how that translates for us, in *this* ministry. This is not one person's ministry like George Mueller's or Rees Howells' was. And sometimes, God told George and Rees different things at different times. George Mueller was never to buy a property without all of the money in hand. But God told Rees Howells to buy property even when he didn't have more than a dime in his hand, and to trust Him to provide the money when the payment was due. After much prayer about, *How does this translate for us*, everyone has come to the consensus that if we are going to be led by the Spirit, then we can't really make any definite determination that we *always* follow. We must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Everyone had testimonies of times that the Holy Spirit told different people, in different situations, something different to do. We must pray about every idea or money raising decision individually, to hear and obey what the Spirit tells us to do each time. We want to be *led by the Spirit*—which may not always be exactly the same in every situation concerning funding a ministry. Please be praying with us for the Holy Spirit's leading, God's clear instructions in every situation concerning funding for a new building and running this ministry, for the New Hope Retreat Center/Worship Center, and that we always know that He alone is our Source.

This will probably sound completely upside down to the world, but that's the problem. So much of the time, fundraising is done in the way of the world and men get the glory. God's strategy is: *Give Him all the Glory*. As He performs His miraculous work, only He can get all the credit for all that is done. You see, what *has been* happening is that we have worn ourselves out for all these years, trying to come up with and do fundraising. It doesn't seem to matter what we do, it always turns out the same. We always fall short of what we need. We've struggled back and forth, back and forth, with the two differing views of: *Yes, God is our Source, but He expects us to do something*. Through all that God has done around us and in us over the past couple years, we are now at the place where we don't just agree in our heads that He is our Source—we now know and understand with our hearts that He is our Source. If we look to no other source—He will provide for the work of His ministry in a way that will surpass anything we can even think or imagine. He is the God of Immeasurably More (Ephesians 3:20)! Do you know what the very next verse in Ephesians 3 says? It says: "To Him be Glory..." It's really only when we come to look

to *Him only* as the One “that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,” does He receive all the glory.

Trust is a big thing with God. And that’s what all of this has been about from the very beginning. He wants us to trust Him. He wants to know if we really *do* trust Him. He wants to see if we really *will* trust Him. Even knowing all of this, and feeling like we were living through the real life examples we were reading about in those books, it has still been the struggle of our lives to step off the edge of the cliff, not only trusting that He *can* catch us, but that He *will* catch us. It’s so easy to fall into thinking, *Sure, He did it for people like George Mueller and Rees Howells, but I can’t believe He would do it for me.* Did you catch what I just said?... “*I can’t believe.*” That’s not true! I CAN believe! I think God just wants to be believed! I know He always has multiple purposes in everything He does, but one thing I truly do believe is that He often gives people the most *seemingly* crazy or impossible visions of their future, *because He wants to see who will believe Him!* He is looking for people who will believe Him, no matter what. There are so few people who really do. But do you know what He can do with people who *do* believe Him?! *Immeasurably more than they could ever ask, think, or image!* He has brought us to the place where we are ready to prove to Him that we believe Him, and that we are going to keep on believing Him, *no matter what.* We’re ready to go all or nothing with this ministry. It’s His ministry anyway.

We are sharing with you the vision He has given us—the picture of the future He is asking us to believe Him for. It’s appears big and totally impossible—just the kind of vision He gives to see if people will believe Him. We are not going to begin by asking you for money. We are asking you to join us in purpose, passion, and prayer. We are going to ask our entire 1200+ person mailing list (many of which are couples, so the total is more like 1800+ people) to become our *New Hope Building Project Prayer Warriors* for this vision of God “expanding our borders.” We are going to post all of the details of God’s leading on our website for those of you who like more details. It’s quite a story. (Go to the “Vision for the Future” tab at www.NewHopeMinistryCC.org and then “Journal Entries: God’s Sovereign Hand”). Then we will post updates periodically.

We want you to be able to see what God does for us (you included). The moment you commit to being on this *Building Project Prayer Warriors* team, you become one of “us.” As you unite with us in prayer, you unite with us in purpose—which makes you part of the ministry team. As a part of the ministry team, you truly can pray saying “we” and “us,” and anytime we say “we” or “us,” it includes *you.* *Will you join with us and see what God does for us?*

Go with us on this faith journey. This is our opportunity to live the New Hope Phase III materials. Why would we ever think that we wouldn’t be thoroughly tested on everything we’re teaching? We thought we *had been.* Why would we think we wouldn’t have to live what we’re teaching? We thought we *were.* But now we see that we have only just begun.

Oh, how we long to be used by God as an example of proving His faithfulness and trustworthiness. (That’s a big part of people’s problems in counseling—they think God is not trustworthy.)

George Mueller was an example from the 1800’s. Here’s a quote about him from Eric and Leslie Ludy’s book, *Wrestling Prayer*:

“George Mueller demonstrated to an entire generation of Christians that God is a prayer-answering God. Without ever bringing financial needs before the public, he sought to prove that by confiding only to God his needs—through the power of wrestling prayer—a man can live, thrive, and change this world for Jesus Christ.”

Others like Rees Howells lived and impacted the world in ministry the same way, even though at times others were made aware of the needs, he still never asked people for money. There are also modern day

heroes of faith, like Eric and Leslie Ludy, who look only to God as their Source. Everything that is in us wants to follow their examples.

There's no denying that God has set up these specific circumstances we are in. Yes, He has *set us up*. He has set us up perfectly to bring Himself much glory and to magnify His Name, His power, and His provision for His work (no matter what the economy is). This is *so big* and *so impossible* that only He can deliver—and only He can supply. It's too big for *us* to do through fundraising, that's for sure. And it's not like He hasn't been training us for this all these years. It has been a walk of faith every month (actually every day). Our income and expenses have grown bigger over the years, but the proportions have been pretty much the same. Here's what our budget has looked like for a long time now:

Monthly Expenses: \$6000
Assured Monthly Income: \$2500

Where does the other \$3500 come from every month? *We never know!* Every single week we are so totally dependent upon Him to do something—and He proves His faithfulness to us over and over again. His timing makes us nervous sometimes—and His timing is not always our timing on things (like wages)—but He has used it to teach us to walk by faith and not by sight (or feelings), and it eventually comes in. There are so many times that He tells us in His Word to “wait on Him.” They all hold promises and they all apply to this current step of faith He is inviting us to take. If *you* are going through a time of waiting, let these promises be an encouragement for you as well. Here are just a few of our favorites:

- “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” (Psalm 27:14).
- “Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it” (Psalm 37:34).
- “For in Thee, O LORD, do I hope: Thou wilt hear, O Lord my God (Psalm 38:15).
- “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him” (Psalm 62:5).
- “Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God...” (Psalm 123:2).
- *Did you know that He also waits for us?* “And therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for Him” (Isaiah 30:18).
- “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isa 40:31).
- “The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him” (Lamentations 3:25).
- “It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD (*the Hebrew word for “salvation” here is Strong’s #8668 – meaning: rescue:-- deliverance, help, safety, victory*)” (Lamentations 3:26).
- “Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me” (Micah 7:7).
- “For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it (*it may look and seem like it is tarrying, but it's really not*); because it will surely come, it will not tarry” (Habakkuk 2:3).

To “wait” is all about *timing*. Awhile back, God sent someone to us with a message from Him. It was: *God is always right on time. It's all about the timing for something to be delivered—it's going to be right on time*. This came from a friend of ours who lives in Tennessee. Here are a few of the other things she told us that day:

“It’s about being obedient. God will arrange opportunities for Him to say to you: *Do you trust Me to take care of you?*”

“We need to be willing to go out on a limb and take the risk of doing what God’s asking us to do.

“If you trust Him—He’s going to see to it that it’s right on time. You definitely can’t judge timing in the natural (what it looks like, or feels like, or seems like). He’s so right on time.

“The question is: *Can I trust Him enough to know that He knows what He is doing?*”

Everything may feel, or seem like it’s flipping upside down, but He wants us to see things *from His perspective*. We can get so caught up in the natural that we stay grounded in the world. We need to get our feet ungrounded in the world’s ways and get them planted “in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 2:6). That’s going to look like we are upside down, but we will actually be *right side up*, in an upside down world!

This whole vision for the future of New Hope is completely impossible for us to do in the natural. He usually wants everyone to know that before He does anything great. We have made the decision to throw in *our everything*—to truly cast our *all* on Him. That’s what He wants all of us to do. That’s probably why He has set us up like this—so that we will cast our all on Him—once and for all. Once we do this—there’s no turning back. As Eric Ludy says: “God will get you to the place where He says to you: *Are you in, or not?*” We stand here today and say to our God: *We’re all in.*

What do you think an 1800+ group of Prayer Warriors could accomplish in the spiritual realm? The world is due for another Rees Howells or George Mueller to rise up—and in the power of God alone, completely running on Kingdom Principles, give the world an example of accomplishing something great for the Kingdom of God (without *pleading* with people to give money to their ministry). Rees Howells and George Mueller were only *individuals* who decided to believe God—and look what God did with them! What could He do with *a whole God Company of people* who decided to come together in one accord and believe Him?!

I believe that when this is all done, *we* will be able to say to the Lord: *We will praise You for ever, because You have done it: and we will wait on Your Name; for it is good before Your saints (Psalm 52:9).* Right now, we say: *We wait for the LORD, our soul does wait, and in His word do we hope (Psalm 130:5).*

Will you wait with us, and watch and pray (and pray and watch what He does)? We are asking you to pray for money to come in for this building need and the future of *New Hope* (of which *you* are included). If you sign up to be on our *Building Project Prayer Warriors* Team, you can download from our website a document called: “Prayers and Proclamations for the New Hope Building Project” that will provide you with specific examples of what to pray with us. Or if you don’t have access to the Internet, let us know and we will mail you a copy. Just return the sign up card in the enclosed envelope. We believe that God reveals to us *what* to pray to bring about His will on earth as it is in Heaven. He gives us strategic words to pray in His Word. We teach people through New Hope, that when they have a problem or situation, to find Scripture that speaks of that particular thing and read, pray, and proclaim it. Where is there an example in the Bible of a *building project*? The book of *Ezra* provides a good example from which we can learn so much—whether we have to build the structure ourselves or not. Please join with us in these prayers and proclamations of words from the book of *Ezra*.

We will keep you posted!