

Hope's Vivid Description of the future of the church



By 2030, we seek to reproduce a culture of discipleship which can be easily replicated in diverse locations, leading to changed lives, changed communities and changed churches. We see this as yielding a multitude of fruit-bearing forests from the acorns that God provides, people that He has endowed with tremendous potential to become mighty oaks of righteousness deeply rooted in Jesus Christ and continually fed by the Living Water of the Holy Spirit.

We see people being *freed from* that which has been leaving them withered and dehydrated, missing out on what God wants to give. We see people being *freed to* flourish in heart and mind, body and soul, as they benefit from life-giving environments built around God's Word, God's Spirit and God's people. We then see these people being *freed for* co-creating these same life-giving environments in which *others* can grow and mature.

Understanding that becoming a forest of mighty oaks was never meant to be done on our own, we seek to create growth opportunities at HOPE through weekly groups that form alongside HOPE's larger gatherings, thus sharing the contagious joy of following Jesus. Furthermore, we seek to extend our reach through our personal, online and community connections. Specifically at HOPE, this means taking advantage of existing partnerships with HOPE's Preschool and our faith-partner school at Arbor Ridge (K-8) to come together in God-friendly service and fellowship events. Finally, at HOPE, we are committed to digitizing our discipleship culture, thereby disseminating the life-giving message of the gospel to the world at large.

We see God releasing people from the limited vision they currently live under, seeing themselves as mere saplings, and instead growing from the acorns they were to the acorn-yielding mighty oaks God always intended them to be, faithful followers even when faced with hurricane force adversity. As new growth can bring life to a wanting landscape, we see people benefiting from replication of our discipleship culture, producing renovation in their families, neighborhoods, communities and in the church itself.

We see God doing many things in and through our congregation in the next ten years because we cannot do it on our own. *However, we can do it through Him who loves us and who has given His Son Jesus to die for us that we might live for Him.* While a typical oak takes at least 20 years to progress from acorn to acorn-producer, we believe that with God's help we can, in half the time, become the discipleship church that has matured into a mighty oak that has spawned a forest of discipleship churches throughout the Southeast and beyond by 2030.