

2023

MISSION PLAN



HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION PLAN SUMMARY FOR 2023 “Into the Deep”

Summer is fast approaching and with it hopefully the promise of warmer weather and the chance to enjoy a kiwi summer favourite, swimming! Whether you enjoy swimming in pools, rivers, lakes, or the sea, alongside that joy of being refreshed, is the knowledge that a sensible level of caution and hesitancy is required around water. This is particularly true when we are heading out into deep water. We all know that moment when your feet lose contact with the ground and we are faced with the moment of decision: to keep going or to retreat to the shallows.

For many of you the decision will be easy: no way are you prepared to head out over your head! Who knows what's down there?! For others the deep unknown has a certain allure and beckons you to come and discover it!

As we come to the end of the year and begin to shift our gaze to 2023, it seems that everywhere we turn, God's Spirit is impressing on us His imagery: new wineskins for new wine, a fresh wind – the desire for a move of God individually and corporately, among Hope Presbyterian, the wider Church, and in our communities and neighbourhoods. Something fresh that will cut through the status quo, the familiar and safe and lead us out deeper in Him. Stirring within us the desire to discover all that is found in Him, as we take a risk, feel our feet leave the ground and push out further in Him.

The leadership have been reflecting and praying about a similar sense, that God is beckoning us as his people out into the deep. We sense that is desperately desired and needed.

What we will find out there in the deep can't be created or conjured up, it isn't something we will have to struggle to achieve, find in our own strength, or that we can control. This has echoes of Isaiah 40:29, which says:

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”

The idea is that when we feel our feet lose contact with the ground but make the choice to move out from the safety of the shore into the unknown, it is God who is calling us there and He who will lead us. When we have gone as far as we can in our own abilities and power, it is God who will give us His strength and power.

A recurring scripture for us has been Ezekiel 47:1-12. Ezekiel, in a vision, sees a river of water coming out from the temple - a river whose waters brought life and flourishing wherever they went - which is a wonderful picture of the blessings of God that flow from His throne in Revelation 22. Ezekiel is led into the water, which gets progressively deeper - moving from ankle depth, to knee depth, waist depth, and finally so deep that he could no longer touch the ground and had to swim. Just like Ezekiel, we are being invited to leave the safety of the shore and to step out further and further into the depth of this river.

As Charles Spurgeon said “...we start out ‘floating in faith,’ somewhat passively, just keeping our head up out of the water. We then progress to swimming by faith.”

At Hope Presbyterian, we believe God is calling us deeper in Him. That, irrespective of where we currently stand in that river, his invitation is to move forward, letting go of what’s gone before and trusting Him to lead us. He is calling us to a depth that comes from exchanging the ankle-depths of walking for the knee-depths of praying; and these for the waist-depths of purity; and these for the length, depth, breadth, and height of the love of Christ and the power and strength of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. (Meyer)

“The river was not something for Ezekiel to simply look at or think about; it was something for him to enter into.”

And the invitation is for us to go INTO THE DEEP in 2023. We believe that will involve:

- Abiding with God in His Word, conviction, and truth. Learning to draw from him and moving with the Holy Spirit to see his people equipped and empowered.
- Stepping into the deep together as we focus on discipleship and mentoring while caring for one another and fostering intergenerational connections.
- Moving forward in our missional opportunities.

We know that stepping into the deep brings with it elements of uncertainty. We will have to learn to let go, to trust! But it also brings with it an amazing sense of freedom, life, and vibrancy. We believe that, as we step into the deep, God wants to refresh his people to flourish and produce fruit that will neither “**...wither, nor fail.**” To be people who regularly “**...bear fruit because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. People “whose fruit/ lives will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”** (Ezekiel 47:12)

Into the Deep: ACROSS SITE GOALS*

"Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:12

Implement the across-site Hope Presbyterian Growth Group Strategy

Implement the across-site Hope Presbyterian Pastoral Care Strategy

Implement the across-site Hope Presbyterian Discipleship Strategy

**Across site goal means all sites are working towards the initiative*



Into the Deep:

LOCAL SITE GOALS

"He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep." Ezekiel 47:4

Focus

Outcomes

Worship/Prayer:

We desire to more deeply experience a revitalised and fresh sense of worship and prayer through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Hornby:

Consistently share and celebrate both in Worship Services and during the week, the stories of God moving in our lives and ministries throughout the week.

Rolleston:

Continuing to encourage and lead our people in the physical building process. Preparing for the transition both physically and spiritually to a new worshiping home. Investing in building the community of faith; relationally, spiritually and organizationally alongside the physical building, in order to steward the people and resources God entrusts to us. Strengthening our prayer ministry teams (Sunday AM).

West Melton/Halkett:

Integrated, open and intensified prayer culture while creating avenues for expressing surrender/worship.

Connection:

We desire to form and grow deeper connections.

Hornby:

Implement the New People's Process identified in the Hope Network Pastoral Care Strategy by April 2023.

Rolleston:

Out working a neighbourhood strategy that would see geographical neighbours of all generations connecting and growing in relationships, faith and outreach together.

West Melton/Halkett:

Established welcome team, trained to be hospitable and on the look out for new people.

Pastoral Care:

We desire that the we will care well for our people not out of our own strength but due to the strength that comes from the living water of God. Providing support regardless of where people are walking in life.

Hornby:

To form an intentional Care Team to help with pastoral care and support by Term 2.

Rolleston:

Continuing to implement the culture and processes necessary to ensure that at Hope Rolleston, we care for one another well.

West Melton/Halkett:

Identify site driver for across site Pastoral Care Strategy.

Into the Deep:

LOCAL SITE GOALS

"He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep." Ezekiel 47:4

Focus

Outcomes

Discipleship:

We desire to create an environment that enables all generations to identify and take their next step in relationship with Jesus.

Hornby:

The recommendations of our recent check-in with our Children's Ministry are enacted beginning early in 2023. To identify and develop leaders to help drive and monitor the Network Strategic Goals of Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Growth Groups in 2023.

Rolleston:

Discipleship Go teams are implemented, refined and made part of our culture as a church throughout 2023. Intergenerational mentoring connections continue to grow.

West Melton/Halkett:

An implementation plan for Intergenerational Faith Formation at WM is presented to WM elders and church by end of term one 2023.

Outreach:

We desire to discover new areas where God is calling us to partner with Him in sharing the hope and love of Christ through local and global mission.

Hornby:

New opportunities to serve South Hornby Primary School are implemented to build our relationship with the school community.

Rolleston:

New opportunities for ministering to families in the church and Rolleston community are identified as we continue to seek the Lord's leading.

West Melton/Halkett:

A missionary family is identified for WM/Hk to support and stay connected with for the next five years.

NEXT STEPS

1. Reflect over the summer what “Into the Deep” means for you, your family, and your relationship with Jesus. Commit to sharing these with your growth group or mentor.
2. Prayerfully consider the mission goals for your site and how you may be involved. E.g. committing to prayer, offering ideas and suggestions, or stepping into an area to volunteer and help push the mission forward.
3. We will provide a 2023 Hope Presbyterian budget in due course. Currently the team is working on the resources needed to see the plan come to fruition. Please be praying about how God would have you respond in this area.

We are full of anticipation about 2023 and extend our thanks for the prayer that has been covering this process to date.

With thanks and blessings,
Steve

