

“HIS STORY”

Chapter I

We, the founding members of Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship want to share with you “His Story” concerning the birth of our church fellowship. We say “His Story” because the birth of our fellowship is the work of God, our heavenly Father. Therefore, what follows is really “His Story.”

In January 2001, Reverend Emmett Wheatfall, his wife Karen, sister-in-law Jackie Roberts, and niece Teresa Livingston agreed to come together in Christian fellowship. Meeting on Sunday mornings in the home of Reverend Wheatfall, these believers and their children met for bible study and fellowship. The names of the children were Felecia, Abrina, and Jonathan Wheatfall, along with Jaren Roberts. Thus, the foundation for a new fellowship was established.

In addition, they began meeting on Wednesday evenings to pray and plan for God’s leading concerning the new fellowship. It was during this period that God spoke to Reverend Wheatfall about the name for the new fellowship. It was to be called “Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship.” Also, God gave him the mission statement, which is, “to remind people of the hope that is in Jesus Christ.” This name and mission statement was affirmed by his wife, sister-in-law, and niece.

A lot of preparation took place during this time. June 2001 was the target date for the public launch of Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship. From the efforts of Ms. Livingston in securing sandwich boards and printing services, Mrs. Wheatfall’s development of the website, Ms. Roberts buying children’s resources, to Reverend Wheatfall finding a public meeting place, these represented just a few of the many tasks undertaken to launch the ministry. Prayer continued to play a major part in under-girding their efforts.

On Sunday June 3, 2001, Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship held its first public church service. The location for this momentous occasion was the Kingstad Meeting Center at 5933 NE Win Sivers Drive, in Portland Oregon. At the time of this writing, the fellowship had been in existence for a year and 2 weeks. The membership grew from 4 adults and 4 children to 21 members, with special guests and visitors attending periodically.

Special mention is made concerning the following persons: Chuck and Sharon Klien, for their financial support and encouragement (especially to Chuck Klien for assisting us in delivering 500 door-hangers announcing the start of the new fellowship); Dr. James E. Martin, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, for the monetary gift in support of our ministry; Tim and Gloria Childs, pastors of Better Life Christian Ministries, for joining Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship in a joint Sunday morning service; Arthur Spires of Maranatha Church of God who, on occasion, led the congregation in Sunday morning praise and worship; Dorothy Butler, who every 4th Sunday ministered in song; Joshua and Virginia Phillips, for their guidance and encouragement; especially Sue Hawkins and Desi Batiste, who were the first people to join Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship. Finally, to all those who committed to making Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship their church home.

Chapter II

On June 22, 2002 the fellowship held its first church banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel at the Airport in Portland, Oregon. The theme of the banquet was to say “Thank you” to all those who made a commitment to the fellowship and to those persons who took steps to help the fellowship in its ministry. The keynote speaker was Bishop Grace C. Osborn with Grace Covenant Fellowship, Inc., Portland Oregon.

In July 2002, the fellowship prepared the necessary paperwork required by the IRS in order to receive Religious Non-Profit Status under IRS code 501 (c) (3). Yvette Johnson of Johnson Business Admission assisted the church with its filing.

On August 17, 2002 the fellowship held its first annual church picnic at Blue Lake Regional Park.

In early September 2002, the Kingstad Meeting Center notified Rev. Wheatfall of the pending closure of the conference center. The final Sunday the meeting center would be available for worship service was November 24, 2002. This meant that the fellowship would need to find a new Sunday morning worship location. Reverend Wheatfall immediately began the process of searching for a new location.

On September 28, 2002 the fellowship held its first half-day retreat at McMenamins Restaurant at Kennedy School in Portland, Oregon. The retreat dealt with areas such as the church history, Mission Statement, Affirmation Statement, Ministry Description and Vision Statement. It also covered the Church Constitution and Bylaws, financial report, 501 (c) (3) Filing, and Kingstad Meeting Center status. A warm thank you is given to Melvin Eldridge who recorded notes on easel paper as pastor Wheatfall facilitated discussion with the membership.

A church meeting was held on October 6, 2002 wherein the following actions were ratified:

- 1) The fellowship’s Constitution and Bylaws dated October 2, 2002 were ratified
- 2) Ron Shoals, MaryEtta Callier, and Sue Hawkins were elected as members of the Board of Directors

This established the Board of Directors complement to consist of Reverend Emmett C. Wheatfall, Karen Wheatfall, Ron Shoals, MaryEtta Callier, and Sue Hawkins. Reverend Wheatfall is the Chairman of the Board. The congregation reaffirmed Reverend Emmett C. Wheatfall as the pastor of the church fellowship by a favorable majority vote.

In a Determination Letter from the IRS dated October 25, 2002, Remember The Hope Christian Fellowship received notification that it was granted Religious Non-Profit Status under IRS Code 501 (c) (3). This was the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by Reverend Wheatfall and Yvette Johnson of Johnson Business Administration.

Reverend Wheatfall believed God had given him a target area for the permanent settlement of Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship. It was during one of his many trips through the target area that he came across Russell Elementary School located at 2700 NE 127th Street in Portland, Oregon. What is so special about this location is the fact that approximately 5 months prior,

while looking for a potential new facility, Reverend Wheatfall had observed the school. He distinctly recalls the warm feeling he had when he viewed the exterior of the gym connected to the school. It just felt like a great place to hold Sunday morning worship service. However, because the Parkrose School District had laid-off its evening and weekend custodial staff, he assumed it would not be rentable on Sundays.

Needing a place to meet due to the impending closure of the Kingstad Meeting Center, Reverend Wheatfall visited Russell Elementary School and inquired into the possible rental of the gymnasium, despite his assumption. There he met with the principal, Jeff Rose. He is an extremely nice young man who was more than cordial and helpful. Mr. Rose went out of his way to assist Reverend Wheatfall with his request to rent the gymnasium. As a result of Mr. Rose's efforts, Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship was granted permission to rent the gymnasium for at least 1 year. December 1, 2002 was the first Sunday the fellowship was permitted to use the gym for worship service. Many blessings to Mr. Rose and his family, Michael Taylor, Superintendent of the Parkrose School District, and the school district itself.

Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship has experienced additional growth since June 2002. The addition of experienced Christians as well as new believers has, and continues to be a blessing.

Special mention is made concerning the following persons: Dr. T.A. Bethel, pastor of Maranatha Church of God who made available his church for a baptismal service. Also, for his kindness, friendship, and general counsel to Reverend Emmett Wheatfall. In addition, a thank you is extended to Dr. Paul L. Metzger with Multnomah Biblical Seminary for delivering a sermon to our congregation, as well as his encouragement to Reverend Wheatfall. "The Praise Band", which consisted of Dave Mersereau, Tim Blakely, Carl Wilson, and Marty Henninger. Also, Arthur Spires of Maranatha Church of God, Vernell West and family of Maranatha Church of God, and Marvin and Joanne Spires of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church who came and ministered to us in song. Jeff Rose, principal of Russell Elementary School for his help in our rental pursuit of his school's gymnasium for worship services. Finally, to all the people who decided to make Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship their church home.

Chapter III

In 2003 Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship continued to experience many wonderful acts of God. In January, the Annual Planning Meeting was held. The fellowship affirmed the proposed budget for the year, and was encouraged by the faithful work of the pastor and Board of Directors.

The fellowship held its 2nd Annual Church Picnic at Blue Lake Park. In advance of the picnic, the fellowship purchased T-Shirts for all the members and guests who expressed a desire to attend. God did a wonderful thing as a result of the fellowship's expression of faith and love by paying for the T-Shirts. The same week in which the shirts were purchased, a visitor to the Sunday morning worship service gave an offering in the approximate amount of the cost of the shirts. The Lord had reimbursed the fellowship for its benevolent act of kindness in purchasing T-Shirts at no cost to the membership and guests. This represents one of the many wonderful acts of God's favor and blessing upon the fellowship.

In October 2003 a new fellowship ministry was born called Hope Kids. This ministry represents the fellowship's effort to minister to adolescents who attend Sunday Worship Service. The organizing members of the Hope Kids ministry team are Ruth Moyer, Susan Henninger, Nina Hinden, Yolanda Cano and Nikki Jay.

In addition, Hope Kids Youth was formed and led by Todd and Nikki Jay. This group of teenagers met for youth fellowship and activity every 4th Sunday of the month.

Susan Henninger was asked to join the Board of Directors in order to add to the compliment of church directors. The fellowship affirmed her addition by ratifying her selection to the Board of Directors. At the time of her addition, members of the Board were Ron Shoals, MaryEtta Callier-Wells, Sue Hawkins, Karen Wheatfall, and Pastor Wheatfall.

In November 2003, the Board of Directors held its Annual Planning Meeting for 2004. At this meeting, items such as the budget, mission, vision, ministry activity, and overall church health were discussed with decisions and recommendations determined. This was an all-day meeting held at McMenamins Bed and Breakfast located in NE Portland, Oregon. The newly formed Auxiliary Team was asked to attend the afternoon sessions of the meeting. The Auxiliary Team members are those members who lead ministries but are not members of the Board of Directors. The members were: Nina Hinden, Mel Eldridge, Marty Henninger, Ruth Moyer, Marion Reid, Sandra Woods and Gretchen Reuter.

In December 2003, the fellowship was asked to host the Sunday morning worship service for the Women of Purpose, International organization at the Holiday Inn - Airport Conference Center located in Portland Oregon. This worship service was a blessing. Many people were in attendance from the conference, as well as the fellowship and the Lord moved mightily among the people. Pastor Wheatfall shared a biblically-based message.

During the month of December 2003, Pastor Wheatfall and his wife, Karen were able to go on their first vacation since the founding of the fellowship. In their absence, Ron Shoals had

pastoral responsibility for the fellowship and MaryEtta Callier-Wells along with Reverend John and Vivian Parker were invited speakers for the Sunday morning worship services.

Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship held its first Christmas program and play in 2003. The play was written by Mrs. Sandra Woods. The fellowship had a joyous time.

Special mention is made concerning the following persons: Dr. Paul L. Metzger of Multnomah Biblical Seminary came and shared a gospel message with the fellowship and Kent Walton, a city pastor, shared a biblical message at a Sunday morning worship service. In addition, a sincere thank you is expressed to Arthur Spires, Marvin and Joann Spires, and the West family for coming at various times during the year to minister to the fellowship in praise and worship.

Chapter IV

In January 2004, the Women of Hope ministry was established. This ministry was formed to bring the women together in Christian fellowship. The group's first order of business was to purchase tickets for the Women of Faith Conference scheduled for October 2004.

January 25th was Dave Mersereau's last Sunday as the fellowship's keyboard player. Dave's ministry is helping new churches get started with their praise ministry. Our praise band consisted of Marty Henninger on drums, Don Simmons on bass guitar, Jeff Barnes on lead guitar and John Moyer Jr. on guitar.

The following Sunday, Grammy-nominated musician and keyboardist, Janice Scroggins replaced Dave as our fellowship's keyboardist.

In February of the same year, Multnomah Biblical Seminary's student choir came and ministered in music. This was an outstanding concert. Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship was truly blessed.

In May 2004 the Women of Hope held their first Mother and Daughter Tea. Wanda Warren of Maranatha Church of God was the speaker for the evening. It was held at Parkrose United Methodist Church.

The Men of Hope ministry was formed. The men held their first meeting on May 8th. Shaun Hames and Clarence Owens coordinated the first meeting. Shaun Hames was also added to the newly formed Elders-In-Training team which included Ron Shoals and MaryEtta Callier-Wells.

Of special note in the month of May is a performance of Spirit and Truth Dance Troop from Northwest Christian Fellowship Four Square Church during one of our Sunday morning worship service. They are under the pastoral leadership of George and Mary Merriweather.

Signs of Hope, the sign language expression team, was formed in June and started meeting in July at the home of Marion Reid, who agreed to teach church members how to minister songs using sign language. The group included Sue Hawkins, Ruth Moyer, Sandra Woods, and Susan Henninger. Lolita Allen from Irvington Covenant Church visited our church and saw the group witness through sign language and requested permission to attend the classes. Pastor Wheatfall granted permission, with the understanding that she would utilize the skills at Irvington covenant as she became more proficient.

In June the Annual Church Banquet was held at Shilo Inn – Airport in Portland, Oregon. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Dr. James E. Martin who was accompanied by his wife, Lynn Martin.

Chapter V

On the weekend of July 4th 2004, the Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship Praise and Worship team was invited to participate in the annual Blues Festival held at Waterfront Park in downtown, Portland. This was a momentous occasion for our church.

We were selected to minister to a crowd of approximately 20,000 blues and jazz fans during the Gospel Hour portion of the festival on Sunday and we knew that this was the work of the Lord. The RTHCF Praise and Worship team consisted of Ron Shoals, MaryEtta Callier-Wells, Felicia Wheatfall, Marty Henninger and Janice Scroggins, accompanying Linda Hornbuckle, a well-known northwest blues and jazz singer.

In August, we held the annual church picnic at Blue Lake Park. Approximately 100 members, including their guests attended. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with great food, games for the children and lots of laughter.

September 2004 was a busy month. The RTHCF Praise Team, along with Linda Hornbuckle, performed at MusicFest Northwest, which was held at the Old Church.

Also, Hope Kids held a puppet show which the kids enjoyed and a potluck followed for the congregation.

John Reuter proposed marriage to Kim Nguyen, she accepted and they were married on Sunday, September 26th during the morning church service. This marked the first wedding for RTHCF. The reception followed at the home of Kim's parents.

In October, 2004 some members of the Women of Hope attended the Women of Faith conference at the Rose Garden.

December brought a new venture for the church which involved a few members of the fellowship. One of our newer members Michael Weaver, organized and coordinated a wood bundling event at his planter box factory, which would help to raise funds for the church. Church members bundled the wood, placed it on palettes and it was then sold to Thriftway Stores. We received a percentage amount for each palette and raised approximately \$500.

Within this month, we held our annual Christmas program and play. Susan Henninger ministered a song through sign language for the first time in a solo appearance. What an outstanding job! The congregation was so blessed.

On December 14th, Pastor Emmett presented the opening prayer for a Patrick Miner concert at the Old Church. This event was a fundraiser for cancer research.

Chapter VI

2005 marked the continuation of Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship reaching out to other church bodies. In January RTHCF joined with Maranatha Church for a joint service. Pastor Emmett brought the teaching entitled, “Living in a World Within a World”.

The RTHCF Praise and Worship team (Ron, Felicia, MaryEtta, Marion, Janice, Marty and Don) participated in a celebration concert for Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Lewis and Clark College.

In February 2005, Multnomah School of the Bible Choir came to our church and ministered through song. We hosted them afterward to a potluck provided by church members.

In March, RTHCF gave a “thank you” program for all the members. Marion Reid and Young C (Carl Henderson 111) gave an outstanding sign language performance.

On May 3rd we held the annual bowling party and potluck.

In June, Pastor Emmett and wife, Karen celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They held a celebration at IRCO and invited all adult church members and other personal friends. It was a beautiful event.

On July 4th the RTHCF praise team (Ron Shoals, MaryEtta Callier-Wells, Felicia Wheatfall, Marty Henninger, Janice Scroggins, Don Simmons and Marion Reid) along with Linda Hornbuckle performed for a crowd of approximately 20,000 people at the Blues Festival, in Portland. This was the second year that the group was asked to participate at this venue. They received a wonderful welcome and appreciation.

Pastor Emmett developed a relationship with Pastor Eric and wife, Rita from Portland Eastside Foursquare Church. Pastor Eric asked Remember the Hope Christian Fellowship to join their church for a joint service on Sunday, August 7th. The RTHCF praise team led the praise and worship that morning which was followed by a message from Pastor Eric.

In August we held our first ‘Pack ‘em Back to School’ event. We handed out fliers in the Parkrose neighborhood, as well as the K Mart store on NE 122nd. On August 27th we gave out backpacks and school supplies from 10am to 2pm. It was a successful event.

We also had fun events for the children, along with a raffle every 30 minutes for gift cards to stores like Wal-Mart, Target and K Mart. Supplies that were left over were taken to an apartment complex on 138th and Sandy Blvd. With the manager’s approval, they were handed out to residents who were unable to make it to the event. RTHCF members were NOT allowed to collect supplies for their children because these were only for the community. Similar events are usually hosted in the ‘inner’ Northeast community and not the ‘outer Northeast areas. We have our church services in the Parkrose area and this is the reason why we chose to have the event here. We pray that next year’s event will be even bigger and better.

In August, we held our annual church picnic at Blue Lake Park. It was a tremendous success. We had lots of games for the children, raffle items and lots of delicious food.

In October 2005, Portland Eastside Foursquare Church visited our church and their praise team led the praise and worship and Pastor Emmett brought the message.

On November 5th, the church held its annual church banquet at JJ North. We had a short program with singing by the praise and worship team and a sign language song by Marion Reid. The youth of the church were honored with gift certificates for the work they do helping out with Hope Kids every Sunday and volunteering to help with setting up the sound equipment and just being available to help where needed.

December 10th marked the 12th anniversary of Women of Purpose, Int'l. The RTHCF Signs of Hope team was invited to present a sign language song at their banquet at Emmanuel Temple in Portland.

On December 18th the church held its Christmas program. Sandra Woods presented a great program that included a short play, songs and recitation presentations by the children.

Some of the male members of the church agreed to learn a sign language song, "I Exalt Thee". The group included Pastor Emmett, Carl Henderson Jr., Carl Henderson 111, Marty Henninger and Michael Weaver. They did an excellent job and the congregation really enjoyed their presentation.

Chapter VII

The year 2006 arrived with excitement as we looked forward to what the Lord planned for this year. On Monday, January 9 at 7:00 pm, Pastor Emmett and the RTH praise team were invited for a joint service with Maranatha Church of God. They asked the church to provide the praise and worship and asked Pastor Emmett to speak.

Jan. 16th marked another year that the RTH Praise and Worship team participate in the MLK Jr. Celebration at Lewis & Clarke College. This year there was a wonderful band from New Orleans, fresh from surviving the hurricane Katrina tragedy.

On January 21st the RTH Communications Team was introduced to the church body:

Jammie Carr - East

Denise Getman - South

Stephanie Henderson - North

Debra Howard - West

Karen Wheatfall - backup for the above and Communications core team lead.

The annual church business meeting was held on Sunday, January 22nd. There is usually an abbreviated service on that day to ensure that a sufficient quorum of members is able to attend the meeting immediately after the church service ends.

On February 18, 2006, RTH held its first couples dinner at Shenanigans Restaurant, 909 N. Hayden Island Dr. Sixteen couples were invited to attend. Saundra Woods coordinated this exciting event. Mike and Brenda Weaver were asked to lead the RTH couples group.

RTH had a joint service with Parkrose United Methodist Church, 11111 NE Knott on March 5, 2006, 10:30 a.m. There was a potluck after church service and members were able to interact and fellowship with members of both church bodies.

Karen Wheatfall created a bulletin with a new look for the church body. It was sent by email to all members having internet access. Many thanks to MaryEtta for all her work on the previous bulletins!

The RTH youth enjoyed a bowling party on March 12th at Riverside Bowling Alley in Camas, Washington.

The first meeting with the senior members of RTH was scheduled for March 18th at 11am at Elmer's Restaurant on Sandy Blvd.

Reverend John Parker was invited to speak at RTH on March 19th.

On March 31st Dorothy Butler, a friend of the Wheatfall's and an experienced vocalist, ministered in song to our church body.

A number of members attended a theater play by PassinArt production company which starred our own Portia Payton in a leading role.

On April 29th, a number of members attended Jonathan Wheatfall's school play, 'The Pirates of Penzance'. He did an excellent job was the true star of the play.

April 30th marked the first annual "***Dreaming of a Building***" concert held at Russell Elementary in the gymnasium. The Multnomah School of the Bible choir, Destiny performed along with others such as Linda Hornbuckle, Janice Scroggins and Ellen Whyte, SEI Drumline, True Warriors, Jesus 4 Life, Pastor Emmett signed a song with Susan Henninger, with contributions from Marion and one of our youth, Marissa. The concert and silent auction raised \$4,300 towards the building fund.

On May 4th, RTH joined with a number of other local churches for The National Day of Prayer service which was held from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Baptist church. Pastor Emmett spoke on 'Focus on the Family'.

The Women of Hope organized a Mother and Daughter tea event at Eastside Foursquare Church.

On Memorial Day weekend, RTH celebrated the FIRST retreat for the youth. The location was the beautiful Timothy Lake Lodge and approximately 14 teenagers participated along with 12 adults for supervision. They truly enjoyed this retreat.

In the month of June, all school graduates were congratulated and hosted to a dessert celebration after the morning service. RTH also celebrated its first college graduate, Felecia Wheatfall, who graduated from the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon.

RTH hosted Parkrose United Methodist Church. Their praise team ministered along with the RTH praise team. Our church body treated them to a potluck after the service and we were able to become more acquainted with their church body.

July: Pastor Emmett and Marion Reid ministered through sign language at New Hope church.

Some members of the RTH praise team ministered at the Blues Festival on July 4th.

The updated church website was launched! What a wonderful accomplishment for the church. The web site is www.rememberthehope.org.

In the month of August, we had our annual church picnic at Blue Lake, as in previous years.

The Packem' Back to School decided this year to adopt an apartment complex and was able to hand out about 75 bags of school supplies to the children there.

In September RTH couples held their kick-off dinner organized by Mike and Brenda Weaver. It was held at Caruso's Italian Dinning in Keizer, Oregon. Mike presented us with plans to make our couple's ministry exciting in the Lord.

In October, we enjoyed a 'thank you' potluck for members and their guests. Each of the four regions were responsible for bringing specific food dishes.

I would also like to add as of October 22, 2006, 196 people have been part of RTH at some time or another. We keep our numbers exact because these are people God sent, not people who came because of us.