

Dear Hope Family,

*"Behold, I will do a new thing;
now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)*

On April 7, 2024 our elders notified us that our finances were in dire straits! At that meeting the elders told us that at the rate we were using our savings to "stay afloat" we had only months to exist as a church. The elders also informed us they were looking for alternative - and creative ways to continue. The idea of merging with another church had been an idea that the elders had been praying about for more than a year. Yet finding a church that believed as we do; had a similar style of teaching and worship; and would be interested in moving to Pollard Road seemed daunting!

Several churches were contacted - and the elders engaged in some deep and frank conversations with each. At seemingly the last minute (very typical of our God), He brought a church to us that we had not previously known - who were in a rental facility and had been praying about having their own permanent facility.

Since becoming aware of this church we have had many meetings, emails, phone calls, texts and of course prayer! We believe God is having Hope Church join together with **Garden City Church**, and create a stronger church to impact the kingdom! We encourage you to go to their website <www.gardencity.life>- read through the material - listen to a sermon (or 2) - read the bios of their staff and elders. The Hope elders have met with each of the leaders of Garden City and have found a compatibility and love for them! The Lead Pastor of Garden City is Justin Buzzard. He is an excellent teacher of the Word - has a profound love for Jesus - and possesses a real Shepherd's heart!

At this point, our elders are excited and believe God has intervened in a miraculous way! We are asking you to pray - and be open to what the Lord will do in the days ahead. While there are always "growing pains" or adjustments to be made - we believe that if God is in this we will come out of this process stronger.

We will welcome the Garden City congregation to our campus on **Sunday, May 19** for a get-together/ bbq lunch. This is an event to allow both churches to meet one another - and for the Garden City people to see our facility first hand. We want to encourage you to be part of this event - and celebrate with us what God is doing! (The two churches will officially join together in August 2024),

We want to hear your thoughts and concerns about this potential merger.

This link will take you to a questionnaire:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpjU4qa_9o9XOpeBdGXCjONifkXMnhrvPvP5oGc6YYU7Gaxq/viewform?usp=pp_url

Let us know what is on your mind!

Yours in Christ.
Kevin McCauley
Bart Ruebenson
Ray Wolff