

Our vision at New Hope Baptist Church is:

**to be a multiethnic family of faith,
united by God's grace,
remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ,
growing in obedience to God's Word,
and**

sharing the Gospel with a distinctive witness in word and deed.



March 2022... the Contact ... Vol. XLIV Issue 3

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

Acts 14:13-14 "On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."

Taking place during Paul's second missionary journey, the story of Lydia's conversion is remarkable and provides several important observations concerning fruitful church ministry. At New Hope, if we are wise, we will consider closely what this passage teaches and follow it.

First, pray for opportunities to minister to others in the name of Jesus. Notice, it was in the context of prayer that Paul and his fellow missionaries experienced the blessing of the conversion of Lydia. It was the Sabbath, and they were looking for a place to worship and to pray. This leads to their encounter with Lydia. Was it a mere coincidence that Paul met Lydia? Of course not! Through Paul's devotion to pray, God directed Paul to Lydia. When we are consistent in prayer, our minds are receptive to the mission opportunities, whether to encourage a believer in need, or, as in this case, to share the Gospel with an unbeliever. Let us pray that God will use us to minister to others in the name of Jesus. God will answer and provide us opportunities to share the good news concerning His Son.

Second, when ministering to others, consider where they are at spiritually. Luke describes Lydia as a "worshiper of God." She was likely a God-fearer, a gentile who worshipped the God of Israel but who had not fully converted to Judaism. While she was not a Christian, this does indicate that she was open to the message of the Gospel. When seeking to serve the Lord, look for those who show interest in the Gospel. Of course, being interested in Christ is not the same as trusting in Him, but it can indicate that God is moving that individual in the direction of trusting in Christ. Be ready to share the Gospel with those who are ready for it. When doing so, we may see more immediate fruit of the Gospel and it will inspire us to continue reaching out to others in the name of Jesus.

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Deacons on Call

March 6

Don Jordan

March 13

Jim Hartis

March 20

Jeff Smith

March 27

Gerald Freeman

Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Join us on Facebook

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H₄F (Hope for Families-cloths & food)

Birthdays for March

3/10
Courtney Morgan

3/20
Debra Hart

3/24
Becky Hubbard

3/31
Mackenzie Cooperwood



March 13th



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Third, we must trust the Lord for He alone produces the fruit of ministry. Paul shared the Gospel with her, but Paul could not bring her to saving faith. Only the Lord could save Lydia, and He graciously did. I love the statement, "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." This is the testimony of every true believer. If you trust in Jesus, it is because the Lord opened your heart to do so. We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Let us pray that God will open more hearts to the Gospel through the congregation of New Hope Baptist Church. Let us be faithful in what God has called us to do and trust Him for the rest.

In Him Pastor Jason

