



## Why go to Church

By Kevin McCauley

You may think because I am a pastor I think church attendance is important! Actually, I thought it was important long before I was a pastor! I went to church as a young boy but by the age of eight my family stopped going. Of course, there were reasons: changes at the church, different work schedule for my dad, elderly and infirmed grandparents, and other commitments. Church was not to be a part of my life for many years. While in college, I had several friends who started attending church and they soon asked me to join them. I had “all the excuses” and reasons not to attend. Through their faithful and persistent witness, I soon saw my need for Christ and came to faith in my sophomore year of college. It was then I needed to make a decision about church attendance. Fortunately, my friends were committed to church and attending with them made going much easier. Soon I saw that going was good for me! There were teachings I needed to learn as I changed and developed my own personal philosophy for life. There were activities - not just for fun - that helped me to grow and experience life in new and different ways! There was corporate worship that lifted my spirit and helped me to better understand WHO God is! SO church attendance became an easy decision long before I entered full-time ministry.

Recently I came across an article by Dr. Jay Kesler, President Emeritus of Taylor University in Indiana where he discusses reasons to go to church. Here are the five main points of his article:

1. It's the only organization that still deals with issues like salvation, death, judgment, grace, purpose, heaven and hell.

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2. It adds value and dignity to human life. We live in a secular culture that contributes to our sense of inner worthlessness. The church counteracts this negative message by preaching God's love and acceptance.
3. It provides a moral and spiritual compass. Society has revised, resisted and rejected absolutes, embracing relativism, but the church stands on the timeless bedrock of God's Word.
4. It's where you find compassion, healing, and community. There - we're all on par. There - God's Spirit is working to knit us together as believers, guaranteeing us all "equal access to the Father" (Eph. 2:18).
5. Unlike other institutions, it has motivated the most lasting, unselfish, essential, courageous endeavors on earth, things like missions, schools, hospitals, food pantries, rehab centers, and orphanages.

So, yes, I am committed to the church. I believe attending and being part of church is good for me... and you! Let's make 2018 the best year for Hope Church. This can only happen when/if the people of Hope are committed to the very things Jesus died for!

*"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Hebrews 10:24, 25 (NKJV)

### Who is Gary Eagan?



I reside in Los Gatos where I have lived for over 45 years. I am not married in this season of my life. I have two biological children and four foster children. My oldest, a foster child, is named Jeanne who is in her 40's and married. Then comes one of my biological children Kieran (KC) who is 35 years old and single. Next is my foster child Jenae who is 33 years old, married with three children,

two twin girls and a boy. Then biological child # 2 my daughter Chante' who is 31 years old. Finally, foster child # 3 & 4 Elijah and Nevaeh who are brother and sister and are young teenagers (they were a part of my life up until several years ago).

I am in the construction business as a licensed contractor that manufactures commercial cabinets and residential and commercial counter tops. I have owned my own business, Teammate Builders, Inc. dba Formatop in Campbell, since 1991. My two children, Kieran and Chante', work with me at Formatop. They hope one day to take over and run the business on their own. And I'm sure one day they will.

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My sports passion is rugby, which I played in my college years beginning in 1973 and finally hung up the boots in 2012 at the age of 58. In college I played for the Sacramento Capitals RFC. After college I moved to Los Gatos and my club became The San Jose Seahawks RFC. In my later years with the Seahawks I played for an international touring club named The California Bald Eagles. With the Eagles I participated in tours to South America, Canada, France, and South Africa.

### **What is your church background?**

I was involved with church from my infancy. As a young child my family attended the Episcopalian Church. It was a life full of ritual and tradition which I found fascinating. However, I really didn't have or understand what kind of relationship God wanted to have with me or what kind of relationship I could have with him.

In high school I was involved with the organization of Young Life. I committed my life to Jesus Christ at the age of 17.

Through college until now I have maintained my relationship with God. In pursuit of discipleship and by His grace and mercy I continue to grow in my relationship and knowledge of him.

### **What initially brought you to Hope Church?**

The church that I was attending moved from Mt. View to Redwood City. Therefore, I was looking for a new church.

I strongly desired deep and thought-provoking teaching and study of the bible. From what I knew of Hope I felt I would have that need and desire met.

### **What was your first impression of Hope?**

Very welcoming, warm, lively, and friendly

### **What do you like most about Hope?**

I love being under Kevin's teaching. I love the bond and fellowship of the men at Hope. I love the joy and happiness of the children and their parents as they learn about and pursue God. It is a beautiful journey to behold.

### **At your time at Hope, have there been any meaningful experiences you would like to share?**

My most meaningful experiences have to be the quite casual conversations with Kevin. I also draw a lot from the interaction with the guys as we discuss God's Word at the Monday Night Men's Bible study. I always come away having learned something new or having something to look up and study further that week. The Book of Luke has been very thought provoking and interesting.

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**Why did you decide to make Hope your home church?**

God had been nudging me toward reconnecting with Hope for several months. Having previously attended Hope with my family, I found it easy to walk through the door on my first return visit. I also had greatly anticipated hearing Kevin speak since I knew of him through mutual friends.

**What groups at Hope are you involved with?**

I regularly attend the Monday Night Men's Bible Study. Additionally, I love getting out with the other church members and making the church look beautiful on the monthly work days. Finally, I have been seriously considering attending the Thursday Night Bible Study.

**What gifts or special talents do you think God has blessed you with?**

God has blessed me with the gifts of service and support. I find great satisfaction in exercising these gifts.

**How do you see yourself serving God at Hope and/or outside of Hope?**

That is a very good question. Which is code for "I have no idea". I am open and seeking God's direction on this. Maybe it will be just helping where ever I can, filling the gap when needed and providing support, and whatever God calls me to I am available for.

In terms of outside of Hope I am inspired to participate and serve in a couple of different areas:

1. Bridging the Gap Africa. This is an organization that builds bridges over dangerous rivers and streams to help safely connecting villages with the outside world. This helps promote access to schools for the children and medical clinics for the general population as well as greater access to other everyday needs.
2. Becoming involved in one of the organizations that provide clean water systems to the third world such as Central America and Africa. This would involve the drilling of wells and installing delivery systems as well as water purification systems. These projects have been on my radar for several years. Both projects bring tremendous hope to the world and create the opportunity to present the hope that is in Christ.

**Do you have any message for people who are seeking God or striving for a closer walk with Him?**

First and foremost, stay focused on the cross in your pursuit of God. It is all about the cross and the work that was done there by God.

Pursue joy, peace and love not only with your friend but also your enemy. Sometimes walking away is the pursuit of peace.

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Be Strong and Courageous as you pursue his will for your life in this fallen world.

Finally, I can think of no better place than Hope Church where one can experience these things and succeed in putting them into practice.

## Hope Church Partners with Some AMAZING Missionaries

### Brian WO and the BAATC



Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery. This scourge to society is prevalent across the globe and in our backyard. Brian is the director of Partnerships with the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition. The Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition(BAATC) believes that eradication is possible only when the collective impact of individuals and groups comes to bear upon this multifaceted issue. The BAATC exists to facilitate the collaboration of individuals, communities and other

organizations in order to build a united response to the injustice of human trafficking. As they mobilize the public to engage the issue, a slave-free San Francisco Bay Area can be possible. The BAATC works to equip individuals, empower communities and engage non-profits with best practices to sustain in the fight against human trafficking in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

### ***Nadim Costa and the Near East Organization***



The Near East Organization(NEO) was created to make an impact for the Gospel in the Muslim world. It is designed to create a movement of followers of Jesus by using existing believers, training of church leaders and the planting of (house) churches. Nadim leads this work and has partners in fourteen Muslim nations in the region. Various techniques, methods and ministry opportunities are used to present Jesus in a life-changing way to the people.

Many have been involved in “Discovery Bible Study” where the person examines the Word of God and looks for direct application to their own life. NEO has trained many in this Bible study program and thousands have come to faith in Jesus as a result!

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2*

## Some upcoming events at Hope Christian Church

### Hope Workday – Saturday, Jan 13, 8am - noon

There is always a lot to do at a Hope Work Day! Come for a bit or stay the whole time and help take care of our buildings and grounds. We always have a good time serving together – and getting things done! Coffee and bagels provided! For questions, please contact Oscar Gomez (oog1978@icloud.com).

### Praise & Prayer Night – Wednesday, Jan 17, 7pm – 8pm

There is something special about the family of Hope joining together for praise and prayer! Join us for this one hour that will help you draw closer to Him and lift your spirit. For questions, please contact pastor Kevin (kevin@hopesearch.org).



### A look ahead at Sunday Messages

Jan 7	Luke 7:18-35
Jan 14	Luke 7:36-8:3
Jan 21	Luke 8:4-21
Jan 28	Luke 8:22-25

### Hope Christian Church

**Pastor:** Kevin McCauley

**Music Director:** Ray Wolff

**Children's Director:** Deahna Rosch

**Youth Group Leader:** David Rosch

Please submit all articles/news for the next Hope Notes by **Monday, Jan. 22nd, 5pm.** Send to: Ed Auria eauria@sbcglobal.net



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