

September 10, 2023 "Real Hope" Rick Raines rraines@fairmountcc.org

What the world needs now is hope.

The first time the word "hope" is used in the Bible is in an episode of **hopelessness**.

Ruth 1:11-13

But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!"

Where God has a plan there is always hope.

In reflecting on the <u>hopelessness of the age</u> in which we live, our elder team molded a <u>new vision</u> for our church for the foreseeable future.

Our **mission** will always remain the same.

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

How we accomplish that mission is through a **bold and relevant vision**.

Real **hope** for real **people**.

In times of great hopelessness **God has provided** hope.

Regardless of what any of us are going through, there is always hope.

2 Timothy 2:8-10

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is a message the world needs to hear.