



CHILDREN'S PASTOR REPORT

Dear Church Family,

What a whirlwind year it has been for us here at **HopeKids!** It's officially been one whole year since I became your Children's Pastor. I've had the time of my life walking in this path God has sent me on! It's been such an **honor** to serve the same church that quite literally grew me from my childhood to the woman I am today. For the first time in our church's history, we have a dedicated pastor to run all of the children's ministries at Hope. This has allowed us to bridge all formerly separate kid's areas into one streamlined ministry.

When I first came into this position, I observed some foundational work was necessary. I began going through our children's volunteer base, making sure that all of our current volunteers were up to date on their background checks. During this, I realized that our children's areas were in serious need of volunteers to help serve. I endeavored to fill our ranks with amazing church members who were willing and happy to come into the children's ministry.

I then started to undertake a blueprint for all children's ministries here at Hope. I knew it was imperative all of our volunteers in any areas that have children involved needed a firm foundation of policies when it came to security and structure that represented Hope Fellowship as a whole. I set in motion formal security policies for all areas and started framing protocols to put in place to cover any and all possible scenarios that can arise in a children's space. I also began planning for safety measures in case of a fire (**cue: cheeky video on Sunday morning!**) or medical emergency. I employed the use of security pagers and nursery pagers for Sunday morning services. Official training was held in September when the policies and procedures were fully developed.

Hope Kids Clubs in 2019 was a rounding success! Our Rangers and Mpack Girls grades K-5 had a busy schedule. Students were focused, working diligently on their merit badges. Our students raised over **\$300** for BGMC (**Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge**) which helped to build a Tabernacle outside of Nairobi. We were honored that Hope Fellowship was able to contribute to this worthy mission. They also raised an additional amount of **\$200** for the Hynson Family to contribute to their future in the mission field. This was able to happen because of pocket change and a little healthy competition between the boys and the girls! I'm proud to say the girls won in both semesters last year and took home the bragging rights! It was a little unfortunate for our male leaders who were **SLIMED** for the first defeat, and then attacked with **PAINT** for the second defeat. **Bless them, maybe next year!**

We also had a great time with two separate service projects for our students. The first service project was working hand in hand with the **Kent Food Pantry**. They have a program called "**The Backpack Program**", which packs easy to prepare snacks and meals for elementary and middle school aged children to take home over the weekends. Our students gathered the food for this program and then went on site to pack the meals for

their fellow students. I was so proud of the way they wanted to help their fellow peers. The consideration and care they took in this responsibility was amazing. They focused on the scripture:

**“And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.”
Hebrews 13:16**

The second service project was closer to home. We planned an appreciation dinner for all of the people who were in senior leadership here at Hope. The students spent some time learning how a church governing body was vital to the health of a growing church. They hosted a spaghetti dinner and happily served all those who attended with enthusiasm and glee! The students learned just how much our elders, board, pastors and staff do here at Hope. In fact, they all came to understand that without these select leaders, our church would not have the ability to provide valuable programs like Kids Clubs at all. They focused on this scripture:

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” Hebrews 13:17

As you know, summertime is VBS season here at Hope and I selected the theme *“To Mars and Beyond”* and modified the layouts of our traditional VBS rotations and schedules. The students learned this verse:

***“Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!”
Ephesians 3:20***

They sped their way through the galaxy learning to explore where God's power could take them! I added a fun live interaction stage production every night with a brilliant puppet named **EP320!** I also added in a great science rotation for the students. Of course, none of the success of VBS this year could have been without the MVP’s of the week, our volunteers. We had a record number of volunteers this year and it showed!

New events were planned this year to encourage more outreach in the kids areas. Pancakes and Pajamas brought in the highest attendance numbers of [HopeKids](#) church this year. I am happy to say that we were able to retain some of visiting kids into our regular Sunday services. We also had a great night with Nerf N’ Nachos! It was a high energy night of meeting new friends and working in teams together! Volunteers came out and supported this event, and I daresay they had just as much fun Nerf guns in the sanctuary as the kids did! I believe we are still finding Nerf bullets in the sanctuary today!

This past fall we took on for the first time a Children’s Ministry Intern, Delaney McCreary. It has been just fantastic having her. She has been an exceptional student, helper, and all-around beautiful soul for our children’s ministry. She will stay an intern until this upcoming fall when she will embark on her new adventure... college! So, if you could, pray for her future, her walk, and continue to love and encourage her as she finishes up her internship here. Also pray for me, because I will dearly miss her!! I hope to continue the internship program next year, so if you know of any interested students, please send them my way!

In the Fall, we began to practice for the Christmas play. I had such an amazing time watching our adorable kids acting in “The Nazareth Evening News”. I jumped at the chance to put in commercials during the production. Who can forget Big PJ’s? It is clear by the amazing feedback that all of you are enjoying the short video clips, so I will continue to use that format throughout the coming year for fun announcements. **Stay tuned!**

With all of these amazing events, I knew it was essential to be able to communicate with our community and church so I decided it was time for our Ministry to be seen on social media. I put together our own Facebook page. It has been a huge success! Please take a moment to visit the page and give us a like!

@MinistryHopeKids.

This whole year I have been moving the ministry towards the future, knowing that as we grow and evolve we need to stay up with the times in all areas. It has been a mighty busy year, but so well worth it. I know that all of the foundational work had to be done in this area, and now we are ready to launch into **2020** with spectacular **VISION!**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Amen! Amen! We are going to honor this verse by planning events for children both during Sunday services and on weeknights coming up this calendar year.

Our **VISION** this year also includes one very bittersweet goodbye. Our beloved Frank Hynson will depart for the mission field in April. I encourage all of you to take a minute to thank him for his faithful service in our kids departments. He has been a staple here at Hope and we have benefited greatly for having him!

And finally, I just want to take a minute to give all the volunteers who made all of this possible a huge **Thank You**. The volunteers in my department astound me with their amazing love and willingness to put God first through Children's Ministry. They show up with smiles on their faces and love in their hearts for our children, and they deserve not just my thanks, but thanks from **every** member of this church. If you are interested in joining our amazing crew, please reach out to me! I can truly state that we are the "coolest" ministry here at Hope...but then again, I'm extremely biased!

But seriously, we are the coolest. And, if we are being really honest here...we have snacks!

With Love and Profound Gratitude,
Pastor Molly Mullen
Children's Pastor