



2026 VISION

FIRM FOUNDATIONS. FRESH FAITH.

NewHope has a rich and celebrated 75-year history that speaks of God's kindness and faithfulness. Ever since Charles Hemming and his family obeyed the call to establish a ministry in Blackburn North, God has been at work, founding and forming the community that is now called NewHope Baptist Church.

This story of God's call and the church's faithfulness is one that has been repeated over again for the past 2,000 years. Ever since Jesus commissioned his followers and the Holy Spirit fell upon the gathered believers at Pentecost, the Church has carried the good news of Jesus and profoundly changed the world. We have that same call to share the message of Christ at NewHope. The same foundations that Jesus taught and the Early Church practiced are foundational for us today. Love God. Love each other. Love your neighbour.

Jesus continues to call us to the same mission. The fields are ripe for harvest and God is on the move. There is a growing hunger in our secular communities for deeper meaning, hope and faith. Our hearts are full of fresh faith that we will see a move of the Spirit, that we will see more salvations, more baptisms and more families changed by the power of Jesus. God will do even more than we can imagine as we commit ourselves to his call.

In 2026, with fresh faith we will build on our firm foundations by:

1. **SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

2. **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH EVERYONE EVERYWHERE**

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35

3. **SERVING THE NEXT GENERATION AS WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST**

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts." Psalm 145:3-4

1. SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

In Luke 11:9, Jesus tells us to ask, to seek and to knock. Charles Spurgeon said that seeking is the law of the Kingdom. We are seeing God moving amongst us in our prayer and worship, and we believe that as we continue to seek him, we will see a greater move of his presence and power in our church and in our city. Here are some important ways in which we will create space in our ministries to continue to seek God in 2026.

- **Church-wide 21 days of prayer and fasting.** At the beginning of 2026 we are inviting the church to an intentional season of fasting and prayer, seeking God for his power and presence in our church.
- **Four 'all-in' church prayer meetings.** Each term we will invite the whole church to come together and cry out to God for fresh faith and for a move of his Spirit in our church, in our city, in our time.
- **Develop prayer ministry model.** Explore new ways to create opportunities for prayer ministry during our Sunday services and in our mid-week ministries.

2. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

There is a growing sense that people are desperate and searching for purpose and hope. There is a new openness to the Gospel and fresh opportunities to share our faith. Jesus tells us to open our eyes and see the harvest! We are all commissioned to take the hope of Jesus to those near and far. To our family and friends, to our work colleagues, to our community and those around the world. NewHope has and will continue to be a church that fulfils the commission to proclaim this good news. Here are some ways we will seek to proclaim Jesus in 2026.

- **Invitational services.** Throughout the year we will have special services particularly created to make it easy to invite our friends and family who don't normally attend church or know Jesus.
- **Alpha focus.** Building on the growth of Alpha, we will explore new and creative ways to equip leaders and run the program both in and through current ministries and outside the walls of the church through 'Alpha in the Wild'.
- **Encounters with Jesus.** A teaching series in Term 2 focussed on celebrating the life-transforming news of Jesus and sharing real-life testimonies of people changed by grace.

3. SERVING THE NEXT GENERATION AS WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

For seventy-five years, God has established and grown a vital gospel ministry in Blackburn North. Lives have been saved, families changed, disciples made, and leaders raised. Through the faithful obedience of generations past, we enjoy what NewHope is today. As we celebrate generations of faithful obedience, we remind ourselves of the call to serve, raise and equip the next generation of disciples and leaders who will continue to proclaim the greatness and goodness of God. These are the ways to do this in 2026.

- **Leadership gatherings.** These events will serve to identify, encourage and equip our emerging leaders in their call and gifting both inside and outside the walls of the church.
 - **Chinese young leader integration.** In celebrating 20 years of our Chinese congregation in March, we are focussing on raising the next generation of young leaders to integrate into our broader NewHope youth ministries.
 - **75 Year birthday celebration.** During the month of October we will celebrate the foundations that God has laid through the faithful obedience of many and look forward with fresh faith to the future.
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