

CHURCH  
"Hope of the World"  
Week of January 17, 2015  
Matthew 16:18

**CENTRAL TRUTH: The local church is the hope of the world...because God has entrusted the church with the message of Jesus.**

1. Do you believe that the institutions of this world (governments, corporations, universities) are able to solve the major problems of the world?
2. What unique opportunities does a local church have to help change the trajectory of the people in its surrounding community?
3. The local church is the hope of the world. How would you explain this statement to a friend who was just hearing it for the first time?
4. What do you feel is your role within the church?
5. Share about a time when you felt God tapping you on your shoulder, inviting you to a special role to play in building the local church. Do you feel God tapping you on your shoulder now? If so, how will you respond?
6. Read "My Morning Prayer" by Bill Hybels. How do you feel YNCC would change if everyone began each day by genuinely praying this prayer (and meaning it)?

**MY MORNING PRAYER**

*God, this is a new day. I freshly commit myself to the role you have invited me to play, as you are building your church in this world. I am awestruck again today that you include me in this grand life-giving, world-transforming endeavor.*

*So today I joyfully offer you my love, my heart, my talents, my energy, my creativity, my faithfulness, my resources, and my gratitude.*

*I commit all of myself to the role you have assigned me in the building of your church so that it may thrive in this world. And I will "bring it" today. I will bring my best. You deserve it. Your church deserves it. It is the Hope of the World.*

7. PRAYER TIME: Pray that YNCC will be a most compelling and relevant place to encounter Jesus as our people answer God's tapping on their shoulders and gain clarity about their specific call to ministry in the local church.