

## **New Hope Family Church is moving out of our Melford Church – We need help**

Jim Boothby  
October 8, 2020

Dear New Hope Family,

How are you? We hope you are staying healthy and doing well during this ongoing pandemic. It has become apparent the pandemic has rendered our Melford worship location unusable and financially unsustainable. Our earlier subtenant church did not renew the sublease during the pandemic. Despite an exhaustive effort to negotiate with the landlord, he is not willing to accept a lower rent.

In addition, despite the hardships of the pandemic, the landlord will not end the lease unless we use the exit clause in the current lease, which is buying our own building. Therefore, after extended deliberations, Pastor Jim, and the New Hope Family Council together with Pastor Achille and Pastor Ernest concluded to move out of Melford.

**To accommodate a ministry “home office,” to host small gatherings,** prayer breakfasts, study groups, etc., and youth-oriented activities, we are looking now to buy a community-centered residence. We are very grateful for the extraordinary level of financial contributions by all members during this ongoing pandemic and are carefully evaluating all purchase options. Pastors and councils nation-wide are researching options to restart in-person worship services. Nevertheless, for the near future, Sunday worship services will remain online. Once it is safe to meet again, we still have options to rent space for worship services.

We would like to start packing our belongings at Melford this coming weekend (Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11) and conduct the moving out on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 & 25 into a storage facility (still to be decided). The chairs are the bulkiest item. We would like to ask for volunteers to come and stack them up this weekend. Rex Butler will be available to schedule times for volunteer groups or individuals (301-832-4018).

He will be at Melford this Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. On Sunday, October 11, Christoph Wilkening will be there

from 1 to 5 PM. Rex will come also on Monday, October 12, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a wrap-up. We would like to ask the following groups to schedule a time to come to Melford and pack up their materials.

- The Sunday school classes.
- The youth group.
- The band.
- **Volunteers for items in the kitchen, and the "baby-room."**
- Volunteers for miscellaneous items throughout the facility.

Please be aware items not packed up and considered unnecessary by Sunday, October 18, will be discarded. After October 25, the dumpster will be removed. For any questions or concerns other than the move-out planning, please contact Pastor Jim or any of the council members. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

*Pastor Jim Boothby*

New Hope Family Council

*Rex Butler, Daniel Hess, Kevin Kawasaki, Ron Musiol, Denis Manor,  
Christoph Wilkening, Ndassi Yorkzarh*

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