



The Village Hope Fellowship is a dispersed community united in our ***'concern for the church in rural Britain, and in particular that it be supported and empowered during this time of social change and spiritual challenge'***. We are gathered around a pattern of shared values, a framework of prayer and a desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

The goal of the Fellowship is to provide a context of relationship, necessary disciplines, resources and encouragement for its members to deepen their walk with God, empower their service to the rural church, and to strengthen and channel them in their witness to the world.

The Fellowship is, first and foremost, a family of believers, and its emphasis is on relationship with each other and with God. Many of its members live and work in small village communities, isolated geographically from each other and from other Christians. The Fellowship provides a vital link, joining members together in the exciting personal journey of seeking God, and providing opportunities to minister together in rural contexts throughout the country.

All members affirm the Evangelical Alliance 'Basis of Faith'.

## Values

Our Fellowship is built around four core values. Drawing from the Bible and particularly the example of the Lord Jesus Himself, they represent aspects of our walk and witness as disciples of Jesus that are especially important to those seeking to follow Him in the particular circumstances of rural Britain.

### 1. DIRECTING LIFE TOWARDS GREATER PRAYERFUL COMMITMENT.

Heb 2:1, 2 Cor 7:1

Giving careful attention to the voices of God's Holy Spirit and Christ's example for direction and power to walk in an intimate relationship of holiness, obedience and truth with the Father.

### 2. SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Col 4:3-5, Eph 1:8

Stepping through every door of opportunity to bring the transforming hope of the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who live in rural Britain.

### 3. ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IN OUR WALK OF FAITH.

Col 3:16, 1 Thess 5:5

Deep allegiance to our fellow travellers, encouraging each other with shared reflections and experiences, as we journey together as children of light in the darkness of this present world.

### 4. CELEBRATING GOD THROUGH EXPERIENCING HIS CREATION.

Ps 145:10, Gen 2:15

Fully embracing the inspiration of God's creation and acting on our responsibility to care for it.

## **Prayer**

Our 'Fellowship Prayer' is an expression of the heart cry of God's people for the villages and rural places of Britain:-

Father of lights, hear our cry.  
We declare Your praise, for You called us  
out of darkness into Your wonderful light.  
Pour down Your Spirit on our forgotten communities,  
and forgive us where we too have lived in the shadows.  
Fuel the fire of Your faithful saints,  
and set us high on a stand against deepening darkness.  
Shine on suffering hidden by rural beauty,  
and light the footpath of those looking for You.

James 1:17, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 John 1:5-7, Mark 4:21, John 3:20-21, Matthew 7:14

'Day Prayer' and 'Night Prayer' are short prayers provided each month as part of our 'Prayer Framework', to help frame existing prayer life and commitment, provoke prayer twice a day and thus help with the discipline of regular prayer. Members use these prayers however they see fit. The content is contributed by any Fellowship member who feels led to shape prayer for the coming month.

## **On-line community**

The Fellowship has a website, accessible only by username and password combination, where members can blog their thoughts (and comment on the thoughts of others) or share more informally via our message boards. This can help those in isolated rural situations tremendously.

## Sharing

The challenge of our Fellowship is to selflessly give of ourselves in order to bless others who are in similar situations. This can be done in many ways:

- By sharing how God is leading you, both personally and in the church, and how that has translated into examples of good practice that may inspire others. We want to build a picture of what God is doing in the countryside, and therefore understand His voice speaking to us in these changing and challenging times.
- By travelling to gatherings and conferences - there is no substitute for meeting together.
- By making prayer requests, and committing to pray for others.
- By getting to know others in the Fellowship, and therefore building fruitful, committed relationships in the Lord.
- By submitting content to our monthly Prayer Framework. This could be in the form of prayers, but could also be poems, pictures (photos or other artistic creations), commentaries, testimonies, or anything else that flows from Divinely bestowed gifting in order to encourage others in their walk with the Lord.

## Gatherings

Twice a year we provide the opportunity to gather for a day in a local church or meeting place to worship, pray and seek God together. We seek to bless each other with prophetic prayers of strengthening, encouragement and direction. Our times together are in God's hands and He uses them as He sees fit.

We also hold a one-day 'mini-conference' every year with a specific theme and speakers to develop it.

The Fellowship also consists of a number of people who are unable to travel, and they support our gatherings in prayer. We believe that it is the power of prayer that changes things.

To learn more about the Village Hope Fellowship, or to request our short application form, please contact us:

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Village Hope is a registered charity, number 1146236, and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

