



Q & A



The Way Back to One Another
How to Live as People Created for Community

March 3, 2026 | \$18.99, 192 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1440-0

Phillip N. Smith is the Senior Development Ambassador at HOPE International. He previously served as HOPE's senior director of savings group programs, leading the organization's global team.

Jeff Galley is the Central Group Leader for Community at Life.Church, an innovative multi-site church that is passionate about leading people to follow Jesus and love their neighbors through the power of community. He leads the Community ministry team, which oversees small groups and missions for each Life.Church location.

Small Steps Toward Deeper Relationships

What led you to write this book?

Phillip N. Smith: There were two primary motivators:

1. In my role with HOPE International, I was responsible for building the global savings group ministry. As part of this, quite naturally, I visited dozens, if not hundreds of savings groups around the world. While the primary focus was alleviating economic poverty, each visit to groups had a common, noneconomic attribute. There was a relational closeness, care, and love for each other that left me longing for the same. I left group visits wishing I could experience those levels of relational closeness and community in my own life, small group, and church.

2. Long before COVID, I sensed that there was a shift toward more and more aloneness in our lives, that our new and accepted norms were leading us to be less and less connected (even while boasting of being the most connected of generations in history). I saw it on social media, which allowed me to distill a relationship to a single emoji click. I saw it in the busyness of my own life, which made building relationships a matter of future scheduling just to get together. I saw it in those random, transparent stories of a person's past and even present brokenness, stories that resonated deeply with me, that re-awakened that sometimes dormant—yet always present—longing for deeper relationships.

All this, combined with a steady flow of visits to savings groups, motivated me. Something was changing, missing for so many of us, and to a certain extent, we didn't realize it.

Jeff Galley: My motivation is to help followers of Jesus understand that we can actually solve the problem of aloneness plaguing modern America. We may not turn the entire culture around, but we have an incredible opportunity right in front of us—in our homes, neighborhoods, churches, and workplaces—to form the kind of relationships God intends for people to experience. We have both the privilege and responsibility of demonstrating what God's kingdom looks like through real love, genuine community, and committed relationships. When we do this, it is life-changing—for us and for everyone around us.



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What are five things you hope readers take from *The Way Back to One Another*?

Jeff and Phil:

1. Each of us has the power to do something about loneliness.
2. To become who God created us to be, we need the relationships he designed us to enjoy.
3. The Majority World often excels at building strong communities, and their example offers valuable lessons we can learn from.
4. Independence is overrated; interdependence is how we're meant to live.
5. Addressing loneliness means making intentional tradeoffs in how we structure our lives.



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Life.Church Leader Brings Back Biblical “One Anothers”

Jeff Galley is the Central Group Leader for Community at Life.Church, an innovative multi-site church that is passionate about leading people to follow Jesus and love their neighbors through the power of community. He leads the Community ministry team, which oversees small groups and missions at Life.Church locations across 12 states, including over 6,000 LifeGroups and 150+ local and global partner organizations.

As a part of the Global Lift Collective, Jeff serves alongside a group of Kingdom-minded churches and non-profit organizations working together to abolish extreme poverty and unleash the God-given potential of all people. He also serves on the boards of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development and Tearfund USA. He has a graduate degree from Colorado State University in Organizational Leadership.

Jeff’s first book, *Conversations: Turn Your Everyday Discussions into Life-Giving Moments*, encourages people to move beyond surface-level small talk to deeper, more intentional conversations. Jeff and his wife Christy live in the Oklahoma City area and have three married children and four grandchildren.

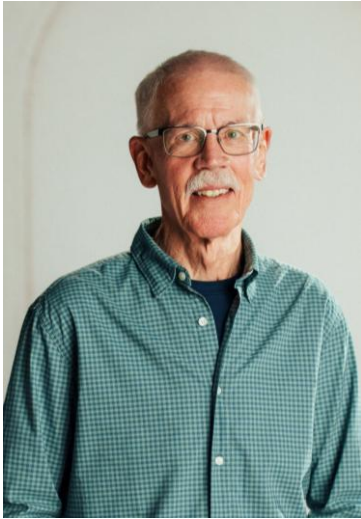


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HOPE International Leader Shares Antidote to Loneliness

Phillip N. Smith is the Senior Development Ambassador at HOPE International. He previously served as HOPE's senior director of savings group programs, leading the organization's global team. Prior to joining HOPE, Phil served as an executive pastor, corporate executive, and in senior leadership with World Relief, and has served on many boards over the years.

Phil brings a background of:

- Translating organizations' mission and strategy into a compelling unity of purpose
- Leading teams in developing clearly focused strategies to deliver superior results
- Expanding organizational capacity and culture by developing and empowering staff
- Embracing local cultural distinctives throughout over twenty years of cross/multicultural leadership

Phil and his wife Becca have lived in the United Kingdom, Canada, and Rwanda, and currently reside in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They have two sons, a daughter, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.



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