

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 672

March 30, 2022

“Put On The FULL Armor”

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

Some of you will remember the story that broke on May 28, 2016, when a small boy fell into the gorilla exhibit at the Cincinnati Zoo. The gorilla was named "Harambe". There was outrage by many that Harambe was put down because of the incident and the parents faced no consequences for their actions by endangering their son in the way they viewed Harambe. The Zoo had a protective barrier in place.

Our North Carolina Zoo also has protective barriers of cinderblock or thick plexiglass in place for those animals deemed too dangerous for only wire fencing. Several years ago the HOPE4Kids ministry took a trip to the NC Zoo. I remember many of the kids standing right next to the plexiglass looking at the gorillas, the polar bears, and other animals. This “invisible” shield of protection was the difference in being safe and alive or in danger and even dead.

We may not be in danger of wild animals attacking us daily, but we are being attacked. The Lord God has addressed that in His Word. **1 Peter 5:8** states: ***“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*** Do we even think that way? Do we have our guard up against the Prince of this world? Do we even think about protection against the devil? We should! In fact, the Bible not only tells us to be alert, on guard, but says we are to ***“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*** (Ephesians 6:11).

This invisible spiritual armor of God is our protection. ***“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with***

the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints...” (Ephesians 6:12-18).

James, the brother of Jesus, reminds us to submit to God and resist the devil (4:7) and we do that by employing the armor of God (Eph. 6:11), which causes the devil to flee from us. Jesus showed us how to use the Sword of the Spirit, God’s Word, to resist the devil. He resisted the devil in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-10) and “the devil left Him” (verse 11). Be on guard folks, the devil is prowling around to devour someone 24/7.

And just like the plexiglass protected our kids from harmful animals at the NC Zoo, when we put on the FULL armor of God, we are protected from the evil one. We can ensure the devil will flee from us, for the devil will never ever be a match for the awesome power of God. Thank you Jesus!

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, March 30

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 31

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 2

Workday @ 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 3

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, April 4

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Men of HOPE @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - April 3

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - April 3

Benjamin Pierce

Communion Steward - April

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - April 3

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - Apr 3

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

John 11:1 - 46
"More Than a Friend!"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Apr. 3	Numbers	30
Apr. 4	Numbers	31
Apr. 5	Numbers	32
Apr. 6	Numbers	33
Apr. 7	Numbers	34
Apr. 8	Numbers	35
Apr. 9	Numbers	36



Sunday School for all ages This Sunday

Our Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month" for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry. **March:**

Canned Vegetables and Canned Soup

We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help prepare meals for others. See Christina Johnston with questions.

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, March 26th
@ 1:00 p.m.

The Computer Lab

To Resume on Saturday, April 16th

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Week 2022

April 10

Palm Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

April 14

Maundy Thursday @ 7 p.m.

April 15

Good Friday

Sanctuary open for Prayer

7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 17

Easter Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

(No Sunday School)

Quote of the Week

"Christian! Consider that the trials and troubles, the calamities and miseries, the crosses and losses that you meet with in this world, are all the Hell that you shall have!"

Thomas Brooks

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi Haswell & family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.

Wednesday Night Supper, Tonight (3/30) @ 6:15 p.m.

Menu:

Stew Beef & Rice
Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert

Ephesians Study Continues

Schedule:

6:15 p.m. - Supper
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study
7:00 p.m. - HOPE4Kids
7:45 p.m. - Break
7:50 p.m. - Prayer Time

Church Workday
Saturday, April 2nd
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Great Opportunity

We have a family that would like to challenge the HOPE congregation to match their \$5000 contribution to the EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund by the end of March 2022. This family would like to remain anonymous. The EPC World Outreach Disaster Relief Fund is currently helping with Ukraine relief. If you would like to contribute towards the "Challenge", please mark your checks "EPC Relief Fund". The Challenge ends at the end of March 2022.

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh" in the search box)