

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



**HOPE**  
CHURCH | RALEIGH  
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 692

August 17, 2022

## “Take a Good Look Ahead”

Some of you may have chickens or maybe grew up where there were chickens around. We had chickens where I grew up. Being the youngest, I had to feed the chickens and gather the eggs everyday. Most of you have seen a chicken coup even if you have not raised them. The chicken coup, which is basically a wire cage, often has boxes in it. They are closed in on the top and bottom and three sides. There is usually a half piece of board on the front to keep the straw from coming out so that in the box the hens can nest and lay their eggs. Everyday I would go into the chicken coup and reach my hand into the nest inside the box and gather all the eggs that had been laid since the day before.

One day I was gathering the eggs and reached into the nest inside the box and felt something wrap around my hand. I jerked my hand out of the box and a chicken snake had wrapped himself around my hand. It had gotten into the pen, into the nest box and was eating the eggs.

I shook my hand and arm, as hard as I could to get the snake off of me. Yes, I know a chicken snake is not poisonous. But that didn't matter to me. My life long outlook on snakes has been a dead snake is the best snake. I have been cropping tobacco and picked up a copperhead with the leaves in my arms. I have hung tobacco in a tobacco barn and grabbed hold of a copperhead laying on a tier pole. I have killed a rattle snake on our farm that his head touched the front of our truck with an eight foot bed and with the tailgate down (an additional 2 feet) the rattles hung off the tailgate. My Aunt Opal was bitten by a copperhead. My dad was chased by a black runner snake. And this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to my run ins with snakes. Do I need to say again how much I hate snakes. Oh, and by the way, when I shook that chicken snake off my hand, I had to go into the house and change my pants, if you know what I mean.

I could not see into the nest box that day. I knew that there were supposed to be eggs in there, but it never crossed my mind that I might have needed to be concerned about a snake. The chicken box was dark inside, hard to see in, so on faith that I would find what I was looking for, eggs, I reached my hand into the nest.

It seems that many in our society day are doing the same thing. They are blindly reaching out (their life) into things they believe are safe, they believe are beneficial for them, thinking they will find what they are looking for, but blindly get hold of something they

didn't expect, something that is a detriment to them. In fact, society tells them, “Oh, don't worry. It's all good! It's safe! It's fun! Just enjoy!” When in reality, there is some BAD stuff out there.

What would happen if we all lived our life, instead of blindly listening to others, the world, or Satan, and would use the lens of scripture and Jesus to guide our decisions? Would there be some bumps in the road (life)? Yes, I would say so. But I can guarantee you that the end result would be good. The ultimate result would be good. The long lasting, forever result would be perfect. It really seems like a no brainer, right? What if, instead of decisions that are a detriment to your health, your future, for eternity, you were to surrender all things to Jesus and live for eternity with Him?

Listen to **Romans 10:8 - 10**: **“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”** How great is that? It is the known, not the unknown. Salvation in Jesus gives life, but death eternal separation from Him. You will no longer be blindly leading your life hoping all goes well. But instead, you will confidently lead your life knowing all is well. In **John 10:28**, **Jesus states: “...and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”** This is just one of His forever promises.

I will never ever reach blindly into something when I have no idea what it holds for me. The scriptures say, **“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.** I figure since I have the light of Christ in me, I'll let that light shine in my path that I might clearly see what God has ahead for me and can bless others and glorify God. And if I can't see it, but He calls me to it, then I know it is good, safe, and in His will and purpose for me, so why worry. He will never leave me or forsake me as a Believer. Taking a good look ahead, is always a good thing. Oh, I still hate snakes. Live ones, dead ones, fake ones. So never ever plan to scare me with a fake snake. That will not end very well.

Blessings my friends,  
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh  
Worship . Grow . Serve

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, August 17

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer  
@ 7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, August 18

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

## Sunday, August 21

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, August 22

Staff Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.

## Wednesday, August 24

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer  
@ 7:00 p.m.

## Helping Hands Ministries

### Fellowship Food - August 21

*Church Will Provide*

### Soundboard - August 21

*Dave O'Dell*

### Communion Steward - August

*Terry Duffell*

### Greeter - August 21

*Volunteer Needed*

### Volunteer for the Nursery - Aug. 21

*Terry Duffell*

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon

*Romans 14:13 - 23*  
*"How to Live With  
Christian Liberty"*



## Outreach Ministries

### "Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food  
Pantry **Boxed Cereal**  
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.

### TLC Devotion Returns in September

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### Sunday School

**This Sunday for all ages**

### Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

(Zoom Link available for those who  
cannot meet in person)

### WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 27

@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

### MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, September 6 at 7 p.m.  
A ZOOM link for the meeting will  
be sent out beforehand.

Join us!

## Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell &  
family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn  
Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams,  
Diane 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.

## Exercising Your Spiritual Gifts & Talents

There are several opportunities for  
you to serve at HOPE Church  
Raleigh. The Computer Lab needs  
a few individuals with basic  
computer skills to help out one  
Saturday a month. The Worship  
Team is conducting a survey for  
those who wish to sing/play with  
the Worship Team. The Live  
Streaming and Soundboard/  
ProPresenter Tech area needs  
additional persons to help out. We  
will be putting together a new  
Communion Steward Schedule for  
2023 and can use more help there.  
If you would like to volunteer or  
want more information, please  
contact Pastor Marty and he will  
put you in contact with the right  
person over those specific  
ministries.

## HOPE Church Raleigh An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

[www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org](http://www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org)

[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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

## Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Aug 21	2 Samuel	20
Aug 22	2 Samuel	21
Aug 23	2 Samuel	22
Aug 24	2 Samuel	23
Aug 25	2 Samuel	24
Aug 26	1 Kings	1
Aug 27	1 Kings	2

## Quote of the Week

***"Remember whose you  
are and whom you serve."***

Oswald Chambers