

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 693

August 24, 2022

## “A Public Display”



My family and I were in the Boone area a few years ago and I could not help but take a picture of this truck parked in the parking lot of a restaurant where we were eating lunch. The kids laughed. I chuckled too, but then thought about the implications of a man driving around with a wooden picture of “The Lord’s Supper” strapped to the back of his pick-up truck. By now, my guess is, you have already said to yourself, “There is no way I’d ever do that. It looks silly.”

Now if you look closely and I know that is hard to do with this picture, but this is the “traditional” picture we are used to seeing of “The Lord’s Supper”. It actually is very well done on this piece of wood as its canvas. The painting of each figure is true to the usual pictures you see. But, what you cannot read is the caption below the picture carved into the wood. In dark letters it reads, “Fam Sagaon”. When I first saw that caption, I thought, “Did the carver of the picture mean “Family” for “Fam” and meant to “Sagaon” to be “Season”? A family season with Christ seems to work. But then I look up the word “Sagaon”.

The city of Sagaon is located in Maharashtra, India. Sagaon is home to what a Google search says is an impressive selection of attractions and experiences.

Also, Sagaon is the name of a rock band. Go figure, right? How did “Fam; Sagaon” make its way onto a carving of The Lord’s Supper? And why? We will never know, I suspect.

But here is my assumption of the picture, discounting the phrase underneath. I know, I said my assumption, I do know a little about the residents of western North Carolina.

I saw the picture of The Lord’s Supper and immediately thought, this man is a Christian and saw this carving and decided that he was going to display it on his truck. What better way than to strap this huge wood carving to his tailgate. He most likely was not concerned what people thought of it. He most likely did not care what tourist to the Boone area or families bringing their children to App State from all over the world. He was a resident of those mountains and he was comfortable strapping a wood carving of

“The Lord’s Supper” to his tailgate BECAUSE of what it stood for to him and his faith.

You can say, “Big assumption Pastor Marty.” And that is fine. I kind of like my assumption though, so let’s roll with it.

What are some ways that you display your faith in public? I know many, maybe even most of you reading this article, I am pretty sure I will not say a wood carving of “The Lord’s Supper” strapped to the tailgate or bumper of your vehicles. But the question still remains valid. Do you express, show, display your Christian beliefs in public? Would a single person today see that you follow Christ as Lord in some tangible way?

It could be as simple as stopping to pray over your lunch today. I am so surprised at the number of Believers that never offer a pray for their meal in public and especially when with co-workers or others. I love to be sitting out in public and see an individual or family pray together before eating. Our family have had several walk over as they were leaving a restaurant and say to me, “I saw you and your family praying together before you ate. That was such a blessing to us”. Maybe the next time you see a family praying in public, you could encourage them in their faith, blessing them with a compliment.

I would encourage you to look for ways to show whose you are. It can be subtle. You don’t have to strap a picture of Jesus to your vehicle. But a cross piece of jewelry, a Bible on your desk, a Bible verse printed on something and placed on your wall in your office or cubical are just a few things that would work. Consider publicly praying over your meal, even if your co-workers who are at lunch with you don’t.

I don’t know if this artist liked the rock band Sagaon or not. I don’t know if he or she had been to Sagaon, India or not. Maybe the artist was of Indian decent. Maybe I’ve miss the meaning of this phrase altogether. I don’t know. But for one man in western NC, this carving found its way onto the back of a tailgate for all to see. And, that’s okay!

As for me, it prompted a thought process. Who would do this? Why? And the answer, in my mind, brought a smile to my face. He wanted to share his faith and what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him. Nothing more and nothing less. And if you happen to be in Boone North Carolina, you too may see this man and his pick-up truck. I’m guessing the picture is still strapped on his truck. No reason to take it off, right?

And maybe, just maybe, we could be so bold as to publicly display our faith in Jesus in some tangible way to bring HIM glory for what He has done for us.

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

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, August 24

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

## Thursday, August 25

No Worship Team Practice Tonight

## Saturday, August 27

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

## Sunday, August 28

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

## Monday, August 29

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

## Wednesday, August 31

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

## Helping Hands Ministries

### Fellowship Food - August 28

*Church Will Provide*

### Soundboard - August 28

*Benjamin Pierce*

### Communion Steward - August

*Terry Duffell*

### Greeter - August 28

*Volunteer Needed*

### Volunteer for the Nursery - Aug. 28

*Terry Duffell*

This Sunday  
Scripture Text and Sermon

*Romans 15:1 - 13*

*"Christ, Our Example"*



## 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.

## Wednesday Night Supper, Study, and Prayer

**Will resume on Wednesday,  
September 7th @ 6:15 p.m.**

### Schedule each evening:

Supper: 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ephesians Study led by Dave Logan:  
7:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

HOPE4Kids Ministry: 7:00 p.m. to  
7:40 p.m.

Prayer Time: 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

## 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 28	1 Kings	3
Aug 29	1 Kings	4
Aug 30	1 Kings	5
Aug 31	1 Kings	6
Sep 1	1 Kings	7
Sep 2	1 Kings	8
Sep 3	1 Kings	9

## Quote of the Week

**"Every single believer is  
a God-ordained agent  
of evangelism."**

R. B. Kuiper