

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 699

October 05, 2022

“People Helping People”

What a week it was last week. I think most people, at least on the east coast, had their eyes on Ian. We watched as it crossed Cuba and headed into the Gulf. We were told by the experts that it would gain strength. Many thought it might be a category 2 or 3 storm, but few thought it would reach high Cat.4 winds bordering on a 5. Watching these storms gain strength on television is almost addicting. It is almost like thinking, I've got to watch what is next.

Of course we know what was next this time. Tuesday lead into Wednesday afternoon with Ian hitting land near Fort Myers Florida. Winds were in excess of 150 miles per hour. The devastation was massive.

For me, it happens with every storm like this. I switch between The Weather Channel coverage and local coverage. I watch the reporters standing out in the wind and rains and think, it's bad, but not that bad. And then the aftermath pictures show up and it is like, "What? The wind and water did that?"

Where the eye of these storms come ashore is very important, as we all know. That is why a movement in any direction is so important to broadcast. It is around the eye wall that the winds are the highest and most destructive. As you move north or south of Fort Meyers the destruction diminishes more and more.

Those of us that have experienced these types of storms in North Carolina understand. I lived at the coast in Wilmington for a number of years of my life. Hugo, Bertha, Fran, Floyd, Matthew, David, Florence are just a few named storms I've experienced. I remember walking in knee deep water on the road in front of the parsonage in September of 1996 when Hurricane Fran hit. Remember, Hurricane Bertha had just come through in July.

When Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina in September of 1999, I was still living in Wilmington. The pictures that came out of some areas, like Tarboro NC, were absolutely horrifying. The damage that flood waters can do is amazing. The men of our church formed a team and bought materials and went to the Tarboro area to help resident tear out and rebuild their homes. You could ride down the road and on the side of the roads as far as you could see was drywall piled high from house after house.

The other thing I saw following Hurricane Floyd was people helping people. Groups from around our nation came to help others. It didn't matter whether you were black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, etc., people were helping people.

We will see some of the same in Florida, but probably not as much as in past storms. Our country is in a different place than it has been before. We are divided. We have already seen political maneuvering taking place. This group blaming that group for not doing, or not saying whatever they think should have been said or

done. It is more about sticking it to someone else than helping someone else. It saddens me so.

There will be those that help out. One news channel interviewed a man from Miami that loaded his truck down with water and non-perishable food and drove to Fort Meyers and gave it out to ANYONE who wanted it. That is people helping people.

The Great Commandment: **Matthew 22:36-40**

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"
37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
38 This is the great and [a]foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

This commandment nowhere states to love only your neighbor who looks like you, has the same skin color, same economic status, same education, same political party as you, etc. The command is to love your neighbor. People loving people! People helping people. This doesn't mean you will agree with all your neighbors or like what that are doing or condone those living in sin. You absolutely may disagree with them, but that doesn't mean you hate them, persecute them, or want harm to come to them. To love them is to want the best for them. To love them is to want Jesus in their heart and lives. To love them is to pray for them, not harm them with your words or actions.

Many times, the storms of life will bring people together. We saw that on 911 (September 11, 2001). Our churches were full for about 2 weeks. People worshiping together! People helping people. But that quickly came to an end. Blame started again. Name calling and finger pointing. When will it end?

The answer, when Jesus comes back. But until then BELIEVER, we are still to be about people helping people. Yes, physically helping others if possible, but if it is impossible to help physically, each of us can pray, offer a kind word, encourage one another in the faith.

There will be some great stories that come out of Florida over the next few weeks and months. We will hear some amazing stories of how people helped others. What if we created a few here in Raleigh North Carolina or wherever you live. Let's go for it! People helping people has to bring a smile to our Heavenly Father's face.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 9

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, October 10

Staff Meeting @ 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, October 12

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



Outreach Ministries

OCTOBER "Food of the Month"
for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry **Canned or Boxed Meals**
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.

Next TLC Devotion

October 27 @ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, October 8
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!
Starting a new book soon. See Sherif Mikhael for information. We would love to have you join the group.

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, Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley and son Jude, 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, Study, and Prayer

Tonight @ 6:15 p.m.

Menu:

Country Style Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Black Eyes Peas, Rolls, & Dessert

Sound Board Volunteers

Needed: The worship team continues to grow, and there is a need to have someone operating the sound board during services. Previous knowledge in this area is not required, and we will be holding a training clinic for those that would like to serve the church in this way. This is a different person from the one that handles ProPresenter with Worship slides.

Contact Lori Estelle if you are interested:
loriestelle@hopechurchraleigh.org

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - Oct. 9

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - Oct. 9

Sherif Mikhael

Communion Steward - Oct.

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - Oct. 9

Joan Rollinson

Volunteer for the Nursery - Oct. 9

Volunteer Needed

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon
Matthew 5:4

*"Blessed Are Those
Who Mourn"*

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Oct 9	2 Kings	23
Oct 10	2 Kings	24
Oct 11	2 Kings	25
Oct 12	1 Chronicles	1
Oct 13	1 Chronicles	2
Oct 14	1 Chronicles	3
Oct 15	1 Chronicles	4

Quote of the Week

"The measure of our spirituality is the amount of praise and of thanksgiving in our prayer."

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

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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)

Stewardship

2023

***Count Your Blessings
Name Them One by One***

What is Stewardship to you?

How has HOPE Church blessed you?

Please submit your answer to Pastor Marty

