

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 740

July 19, 2023

“His Protection is Secure”

We were at the beach on vacation last week. The place where we stayed has three outdoor pools and one indoor pool. Of the three outdoor pools, one is twice as large as the others and is considered the main pool for the complex. This is where most of the lounges are to lay out and sun and the place where most of the umbrella tables are placed. We could see this pool from our balcony.

Wednesday morning Terry and I walked out on the balcony with our coffee and noticed that the umbrellas were still down and there were closed signs on the gates of the pool. There was a worker who was putting caution tape around the ladders and closing off the steps with chairs. The owner of the condo sent me a text that she had received notice that the main pool would be closed. I thought it may be chemical related, because there seemed to be no other issues with the pool. This is a saltwater pool by the way. Later that day my suspicion was confirmed; they began to spread a powder chemical over the water and had a sprayer that they sprayed liquid chemicals over the entire pool.

On Thursday, the pool was still closed and the lady that works in the office was in the pool area and had a container of liquid and was pouring a measured amount into each skimmer.

On Friday morning there were two men in collared shirts that came into the pool area with the lady and they had suitcases. They opened them and began to test the water in several different areas of the pool. They finished and talked with the lady for a while and then left. I thought, YES, they are going to open the pool, but instead she posted a security guard in the pool area for the entire day. NO ONE in the pool.

Saturday morning the pool was still closed. BUT, at 12 noon on Saturday, that all changed and the pool reopened. Of course, floods of people now came into this main area of the complex to enjoy their vacation.

While Terry, Emma, and I enjoy the main area to swim and enjoy the cafe and mainly just sit and read under an umbrella, there were other smaller pools that we frequented during the main pool closer. But it was nice on Saturday to enjoy the main pool again.

I thought about the responsibility of the complex to protect their guests from harm. Evidently the chemicals were so out of line that the pool had to be closed for 3 1/2 days to get it back to a place where people would not be harmed by it. I'm sure they did not want anyone to get sick, harm their skin, or a child be harmed from swimming in the pool. And it seemed that these men who came to test the water on Friday morning delayed the pool from opening until Saturday at noon, even though the chemicals had been added on Wednesday and Thursday. Things were not yet right, so they continued to protect the people. Certainly this was the right decision to make, even though many may not have been happy about it.

Sitting on the balcony on Saturday morning, I was thinking about the complex protecting those that might have swam in the pool who did not

know about the unbalanced chemicals. Then my mind went to how God protects us. I began to think of some examples in scripture, such as God making clothes for Adam and Eve out of animal skins to protect them after they sinned and he sent them from the garden. God providing escape from the flood for Noah and his family. God providing protection from the fiery furnace for Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. When Jonah was tossed overboard, God provided a big fish to swallow him. This doesn't sound like protection, but that big fish tossed him upon the shore. Nehemiah was provided safe travel to Jerusalem by his king in the form of a letter to rebuild the wall around the city. I could go on and on with account after account of God's protection as recorded in the Old Testament.

But the ultimate protection from God is found in His inspired word of the New Testament. He provided a way from death to life. I don't know if we often think of it that way, but that is exactly what He did. Jesus took my sins to the cross so that by believing in Him I would not be punished for my sin but gain life, eternal life, through Him. Just a few examples here:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 6:40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

And if you want to see God's protection in vivid words: **John 6:35** “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” These verses are only from John's gospel. There are over a hundred more in the N.T. that say “who believe” will gain life.

Folks, God is for us. God loves us. It is His desire for us to reconcile ourselves to Him through Jesus Christ His Son, and He gives us life! The hurt, heartache, and darkness of this world is only temporary. God's ultimate perfect plan is victory with Him for eternity.

As I sat on the balcony with my coffee on Saturday morning wondering if the pool would open up before we left on Sunday, I was thankful for the ultimate protection I have from this dark world, that I have the LIGHT of Christ that will never dim over me and can never be taken away. His protection is secure.

Share the Good News this week folks with someone that is lost.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, July 19

Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 20

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, July 21

Family Fun Friday @ 6:30 p.m.
Team Bible Trivia

Saturday, July 22

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 23

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.
Confirmation Class @ 12:15 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - July 23
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - July 23
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - July 23
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - July 23
Diane Williams

Communion July
Sandra Pierce

Greeter - July 23
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - July 23
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

Ruth 1:14 - 18

"Living Well in a Broken
World - Walking In Loyalty"



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Canned Meats

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

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

The Computer Lab

Will not meet again until September

TLC Devotion

Today, Wednesday, July 26
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, July 22
@ 1:00 p.m.

Family Fun Fridays

This Friday - July 21 @ 6:30 PM
Team Bible Trivia

Invite friends and neighbors
to join in.

Let's have some fun this
Friday!

In August

Friday - August 4 @ 6:30 PM

Prayer Requests:

Reville & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, 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 Ministries

Wednesday Night Bible Study, & Prayer July 19

Devotion & Prayer Time
Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

Study of the Book of Jonah
Bring your Bibles

A Zoom Link will be available for
those who cannot meet in person.

Confirmation Class

Coming Dates

Sunday, July 23 @ 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 6 @ 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation Retreat

Friday, August 25th through
Saturday, August 26th

Quote of the Week

*"God's work done in God's
way will never lack
God's supply."*
Hudson Taylor

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

July	23	Isaiah 29
July	24	Isaiah 30
July	25	Isaiah 31
July	26	Isaiah 32
July	27	Isaiah 33
July	28	Isaiah 34
July	29	Isaiah 35

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827
Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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in the search box)