

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 744

August 16, 2023

“Enjoy Each Moment!”

I read a story written by Billy Rose in the book, *Stories for the Heart* (1996), and it caused me to pause and think. Maybe it will do the same for you.

There once was a fellow who, with his dad, farmed a little piece of land. Several times a year they would load up the old ox-drawn cart with vegetables and go into the nearest city to sell their produce. Except for their name and the patch of ground, father and son had little in common. The old man believed in taking it easy. The boy was usually in a hurry...the go-getter type.

One morning, bright and early, they hitched up the ox to the loaded cart and started on the long journey. The son figured that if they walked faster, kept going all day and night, they'd make the market by early the next morning. So he kept prodding the ox with a stick, urging the beast to get a move on.

“Take it easy, son,” said the old man. “You’ll last longer.”

“But if we get to the market ahead of the others, we’ll have a better chance of getting good prices,” argued the son.

No reply. Dad just pulled his head down over his eyes and fell asleep on the seat. Itchy and irritated, the young man kept goading the ox to walk faster. His stubborn pace refused to change.

Four hours and four miles down the road, they came to a little house. The father woke up, smiled and said, “Here’s your uncle’s place. Let’s stop in and say hello.”

“But we’ve lost a hour already,” complained the hotshot.

“Then a few more minutes won’t matter. My brother and I live so close, yet we see each other so seldom,” the father answered slowly.

The boy fidgeted and fumed while the two old men laughed and talked away almost an hour. On the move again, the man took his turn leading the ox. As they approached a fork in the road, the father led the ox to the right.

“The left is the shorter way,” said the son.

“I know it,” replied the old man, “but this way is so much prettier.”

“Have you no respect for time?” the young man asked impatiently.

“Oh, I respect it very much!” That’s why I like to look at beauty and enjoy each moment to the fullest.”

The winding path led through graceful meadows, wildflowers, and along a rippling stream - all of which the young man missed as he churned within, preoccupied and boiling with anxiety. He didn’t even notice how lovely the sunset was that day.

Twilight found them in what looked like a huge, colorful garden. The old man breathed in the aroma, listened to the bubbling brook, and pulled the ox to a halt. “Let’s sleep here,” he sighed.

“This is the last trip I’m taking with you,” snapped his son. “You’re more interested in watching sunsets and smelling flowers than in making money!”

“Why, that’s the nicest thing you’ve said in a long time,” smiled the dad. A couple of minutes later he was snoring - as his boy glared back at the stars. The night dragged slowly, the son was restless.

Before sunrise the young man hurriedly shook his father wake. They hitched up and went on. About a mile down the road they happened up another farmer - a total stranger - trying to pull his cart out of a ditch.

“Let’s give him a hand,” whispered the old man.

“And lose more time?” the boy exploded.

“Relax, son...you might be in a ditch sometime yourself.

We need to help others in need - don’t forget that.” The boy looked away in anger.

It was almost eight o’clock that morning by the time the other cart was back on the road. Suddenly, a great flash split the sky. What sounded like thunder followed. Beyond the hills, the sky grew dark.

“Looks like big rain in the city,” said the old man. “If we had hurried, we’d be almost sold out by now,” grumbled his son.

“Take it easy...you’ll last longer. And you’ll enjoy life so much more,” counseled the kind old gentleman. It was late in the afternoon by the time they got to the hill overlooking the city. They stopped and stared down at it for a long, long time. Neither of them said a word. Finally, the young man put his hand on his father’s shoulder and said, “I see what you mean, Dad.”

They turned their cart around and began to roll slowly away from what had once been the city of Hiroshima.

WOW! Cause for pause, right? I could sit here and write so much from this story with many different angles. But maybe it is best to just take a look at our hurried life and slow down and enjoy each moment, for none of us know what tomorrow may bring.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 16

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

Thursday, August 17

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, August 18

Leadership Meets w/Ken Priddy @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 19

Congregational Training Event w/Ken Priddy @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 20

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.
Confirmation Dinner @ 5:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - August 20
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - August 20
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - August 20
Jane Davis

Live Streaming - August 20
Al Floyd

Communion - August
Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - August 20
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - August 20
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

Psalm 103:1 - 5

“The Gospel Solution”
Dr. Ken Priddy Preaching
Our Guest EPC Teaching Elder

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Aug 20	Isaiah 57
Aug 21	Isaiah 58
Aug 22	Isaiah 59
Aug 23	Isaiah 60
Aug 24	Isaiah 61
Aug 25	Isaiah 62
Aug 26	Isaiah 63



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

Wednesday, August 23
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 26
@ 1:00 p.m.

Revitalization Weekend

REBOOT NOW

W/Ken Priddy/The GO Center

Friday, August 18th

Ken meets with the Session & Staff
@ 7 PM

Saturday, August 19th

Congregational Training
9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Lunch Provided)

Sunday, August 20th

Ken Preaches & Leads our Sunday
school time

Quote of the Week

“Faith is to believe what we do not
see, and the reward of this faith is
to see what we believe.”

St. Augustine

Prayer Requests:

Revill & 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 August 16

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

Next Session Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 10 @ 12:00 p.m.

Congregational Training Event
Saturday, August 19 @ 9 a.m.
All Invited to attend.
Please let me know if you plan to
attend so that we have planned
lunch with you included.

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

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org
www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh
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in the search box)