

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 745

August 23, 2023

“God Has a Plan”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

As many of you know, I received the call to ministry as a teenager. Having been accepted to my denominational college, my plan was to go to college, then seminary, then serve in the local church. God had other plans for my journey to ministry.

In July 9, 1976 I joined the United States Air Force. I told my recruiter the day that I signed my enlistment paperwork that I wanted to serve as a Chaplain’s Assistant. That was an option I had researched and it sounded like a great compromise to me not going to college right out of High School. He said he thought that was a great idea.

On the next to last day of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas, my Squadron was called over to the training hut to receive our Tech School orders. Or in other words, to find out what our job would be in the Air Force. My Drill Sargent was calling out names one by one, “Jones, finance.” “Smith, mechanic.” He got to my name and he said, “Duffell, Cop.” I said, Oh, no, I’m signed up to be a Chaplain’s Assistant,” to which he said, “Not for the next 4 years. You are going to be a cop!” Best laid plans. God had other plans for my journey to ministry. As my Drill Sargent had said, for the next four years I was a cop.

After my time was fulfilled in the USAF, I got out to attend college. What is next in my life? Well, I had decided that I could answer that call my serving as a youth leader in the church, on the Leadership Team, in the Choir, etc. God had other plans.

While in college and then after college I worked for a National Furniture Chain in management, still running from the call of God, but not from God.

What is interesting to me is at every stop along the way in this journey, God used me. In Basic Training, I was the one people came to and asked me to pray for them. I was the only one out of 42 men that didn’t cuss or drink. My Drill Sargent identified me as a Squad Leader and I become one of his righthand men. God had a plan.

In Tech School, The United States Air Force Police Academy, people would see me reading my Bible and ask me why I spent time doing that. I would often end up in a conversation about Jesus with them. God had a plan.

While in Tech School, during lunch, some one would see me pray over a meal. Nothing overt, but they would sit down and ask me why I do that. God had a plan.

While working in the business world, I was asked on more than one occasion to cut corners, fudge the sale books, overlook this situation, but I couldn’t. I would say, “That is not the way I do things around here.” God had a plan.

Not everything ran perfectly nor was I perfect all those years. Far from it! But looking back, God had a plan. Over those years from July of 1976 to March of 1991 I watched God work. His Holy Spirit used me to lead people to Jesus. Show what a righteous life looked like in many ways. Again, I was not perfect, but I watched God present opportunity after opportunity for me to share Jesus.

In March of 1991 God’s plan of full-time ministry began to unfold in my life and I was absolutely blow away. I could not believe how things began to fall in place. Hired in March of 1992 as an Associate Pastor (no seminary education yet), getting into The Divinity School of Duke University was a miracle in itself, and serving the churches I served while in seminary and after were all a part of God’s plan. Being asked to help plant a church called HOPE, all part of God’s plan. He is so good.

Then I come to this past weekend at HOPE Church Raleigh and the challenge that Dr. Ken Priddy of THE GO CENTER gave to us. The Great Commission mandate, to Go!!! God has a plan and His plan is perfect. He knows who He will save. And He wants to use us to be a part of sharing the gospel of Jesus with others. Are you and I going to answer that call? Is HOPE Church Raleigh going to make a difference for the Kingdom? I say yes! It has already and will continue to. God has a plan! Let us live into that plan for His purpose.

Thanks you Jesus for the opportunity to share our faith with others.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 23

TLC Devotion @ 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study &
Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, August 25

Confirmation Retreat - Virginia

Saturday, August 26

Confirmation Retreat - Virginia
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 27

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

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - August 27
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - August 27
Bill Joyner

Soundboard - August 27
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - August 27
Diane Williams

Communion - August
Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - August 27
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - August 27
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday
Selected Verses from
Ruth 3 & 4
"Living Well in a
Broken World -
Through Redemption"

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Aug 27	Isaiah 64
Aug 28	Isaiah 65
Aug 29	Isaiah 66
Aug 30	Jeremiah 1
Aug 31	Jeremiah 2
Sep 1	Jeremiah 3
Sep 2	Jeremiah 4



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
Saturday, September 9 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion
TODAY, Wednesday, August 23
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE
Saturday, August 26
@ 1:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday September 17

Confirmation Sunday is schedule for
Sunday, September 17th. Our
Confirmands will profess their faith and
join HOPE Church that day.

We want to celebrate this day with them,
so please plan to attend worship that day.
We also want to love on them, so we will
have a **Covered-Dish Lunch** following
Worship. Please plan to bring several
dishes to share, for we will have a number
of guests with us that Sunday.

Quote of the Week

*"Being a Christian is less about
cautiously avoiding sin than
about courageously and actively
doing God's will"*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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,
Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law,
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 23**

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.

**Wednesday Night Supper, Study, &
Prayer will resume on September 13th.**

AED for HOPE Church

The HOPE Health Team Ministry and the
HOPE Session would like to ask the
congregation to consider donating towards
an **AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)**
for our church. The cost of the AED, that
was recommended to us by our instructor
Kevin who provided us CPR training, is
\$1,934 before tax (shipping is free).
If you would like to donate funds for the
purchase of an AED for HOPE Church,
please note on the "For" line of your check
"AED" and our treasurer will know where to
designate the gift.

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

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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