

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 746

August 30, 2023

“How Beautiful Are Those Who Bring Good News!”

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...”

Jody was a commercial fisherman. He was a hard, callus man, a no nonsense type of person. Black is black, white is white, and very little else. His parents had raised him to know right from wrong, but he had no Christian upbringing. His dad would often tell him, “If God was real, he would show himself.” So Jody had no use for what he considered a fictitious person.

Each day he would board his boat and head miles off shore in the Atlantic, often to the Gulf Stream, and fish. It was the only way of life he knew. Sundays were what he called his “down days”. A day he would stay on shore and clean things up, wash things down, and prepare for the week ahead. His family suffered because of his marriage to his work, but he would say, “Do you want food on the table and a roof over your head, or to look at me?” Thus his wife and children put up with his lifestyle, year after year.

If any of you know anything about commercial fishing, the captain/owner of the boat will go through a number of first mates/help mates onboard. About the time you have taught them what to do, you lose them. This was no different with Jody. Often his help mates would leave a little sooner because of his harsh, somewhat gruff style of leading.

But one day a young man came answering Jody’s advertisement on the docks. He had a few tattoos, shoulder length hair, and a smile on his face. Jody talked to him for a few minutes and hired him. He really needed the hands onboard, so as long as he was willing to work, he was willing to pay him.

The first day they set out, Isaiah was on cloud nine. He had never been off shore on a boat like this. He was taking it all in. Jody was telling him what to do as they headed out for a day of fishing. Isaiah listened attentively to all he was being told to do. He was trying his best, but when he would do something wrong, Jody would yell and curse at him, “No, get it right!” Isaiah would smile and take another shot at it. This went on for days and into weeks.

While out on the seas, Isaiah would hum songs, talk about the beauty of creation, and on his short lunch time, pull out a New Testament Bible to read.

One day Jody asked him, “Why do you read that stuff? It’s not true. There is no God.” Isaiah didn’t push back on his beliefs at first. But as he continued his routine, Jody continued his belittling of Isaiah about his faith in God. Then one day, Isaiah asked Jody if he had ever looked at the ocean for anything else besides his job. Have you looked at the ocean, which I believe God made, for its beauty instead of just a pool of fish? He said no. But on the way in that day, Jody began to look around him and see the ocean in a different way. The exchange that day began to open up a conversation between Isaiah and Jody. In fact, they began to have conversations they had never had before. It seemed that Jody was opening up to a friendship with Isaiah and the two grew close.

One day while out in the Atlantic, Isaiah was humming “Just As I Am”. Jody questioned him on what he was humming and Isaiah said, “Can I sing you the song?” And Jody said yes. He asked where he had learned it and Isaiah said, “At a Billy Graham Crusade.” “What is that?” Jody asked. And there was the opening God provided. Isaiah presented the gospel to Jody. He didn’t give his life to Christ that day, but he sure had a lot of questions about Jesus in the days to follow. Isaiah would pull out his Bible each time and say, “Let me read this to you.”

One day as a storm rose up on the Atlantic and Jody and Isaiah decided to head in, Jody was anxious and Isaiah was calm. As they docked the boat safely that day, avoiding the brunt of the storm, Jody stopped for moment and said to Isaiah, “I saw how calm you were in the storm, I want what you have.” That day Jody surrendered to Christ.

Isaiah 52:7 “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 30

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

Thursday, August 31

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

Labor Day Holiday
Office Closed

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - September 3
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - September 3
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - September 3

Live Streaming - September 3
Franklin Johnston

Communion - September
Lynn Joyner

Greeter - September 3
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - September 3
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Sunday

1 Samuel 1:1 - 8

“Living Well in a

Broken World -

Dealing with the

Trials of Life”

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Sep 3	Jeremiah 5
Sep 4	Jeremiah 6
Sep 5	Jeremiah 7
Sep 6	Jeremiah 8
Sep 7	Jeremiah 9
Sep 8	Jeremiah 10
Sep 9	Jeremiah 11



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”
for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Boxes Cereal

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

Wednesday, September 27
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, September 9
@ 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

“O God our Help in ages past,
our Hope for years to come,
be Thou our Guide while life
shall last, and our
eternal Home.”

Isaac Watts

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 30

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.**

Baptism

On September 10th at 4:00 p.m., we
invite you to join HOPE Church Raleigh
at Sandling Beach (Falls Lake) off of
Highway 50 for the Baptism of Ezekiel
Terribili (Lori's son). We will gather at
Shelter #1. We have the shelter
reserved all day on the 10th, so if you
want to get there early and enjoy the
lake, that is okay. We will enjoy some
fellowship time following the baptism
with grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs.

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

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in the search box)