

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 752

October 11, 2023

“GO”

In the summer of 1975 I attended my second round of “Evangelism Explosion” with Dr. D. James Kennedy at the Omni in Atlanta. The Omni has since been torn down for the new Mercedes Benz Arena, but then the Omni would hold about 23,000. There were around 18,000 in attendance that week for “EE” training. All of us had been to Phase One on an earlier date and now were back for Phase Two. I was stoked!!!

If you know anything about Evangelism Explosion (EE), you know it has to do with presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ in a very simple way to non-believers. In the mid-seventies, churches, especially in the south, were putting together EE teams to go out and present the Good News of Jesus to anyone who would take the time to listen. I believe, as Dr Kennedy stated, we are to “GO” and share the gospel. I believed then, as I still do today, that we live in a very lost world that needs to hear to the gospel message.

After that week of training in Atlanta I decided to drive down to North Myrtle Beach, (Ocean Drive) is which about 20 minutes from the farm and walk the strand talking to anyone who was willing to stop to listen. As you might imagine, not many on the beach were willing for me to present the Good News of Jesus with them. I would hear responses like: “Dude, No!” Or “Man, just leave me alone.” “I’m not interested. Please leave me alone” “I came to enjoy the beach, not be bothered by you.” There were other comments that maybe I shouldn’t share here. But, like in sales, if you keep asking you will eventually get to one who will listen. So, while walking the strand I found a few that would allow me to present the gospel, it was only a few.

I decided to move off the strand and up onto Ocean Blvd and walk the sidewalk and sit down besides individuals sitting on benches along the way. I would strike up a conversation about the beach, or the weather, or my day, and then would say at some point in our conversation, “Let me ask you a question: Do you know Jesus?” I would stop and wait for them to answer. Depending on how they answered would dictate what I said next.

One day as I was sitting resting on a bench, a young man came up and sat down beside me. We talked for a few minutes as people walked by and then I asked my question. He said, “No, I’ve never heard about Jesus.” Over the next few minutes I shared the gospel with him and he said he wanted to accept Jesus as his savior. What a great day. One that was lost was found and God had decided to use me that day to make a difference for His kingdom growth.

I will tell you, I had to get up that morning and decide to “GO”. That day, Tim may not have heard the gospel and encountered someone willing to share it had I not decided to “GO.” Would he have come to Christ at some point in his life? Yes, if called by God! But God called me that day to “GO” and I responded and Tim gave his life to Jesus Christ. This is just one example of how to “Go”.

Jesus talked about “Go” all the time. You can search “Go” in the gospels and there are so many verses to choose from, but I’ve just placed a few in this article. Each one of these verses is Jesus talking. *(The “GO” caps and bold in each verse are by me.)*

Matthew 10:7 And as you **GO**, preach, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 18:12 “What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and **GO** and search for the one that is straying?”

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, **GO** and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Matthew 22:9 “**GO** therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.” *(The wedding feast is the wedding feast of the Lamb, Jesus.)*

Matthew 28:19 “**GO** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

In August the Session invited Ken Priddy of The GO Center to begin a revitalization process with HOPE Church. The entire weekend was centered around the Great Commission Matrix, how to GO. Are we going? If so, how are we going? Where are we going? To whom are we going? Do we know what to say if we want to GO? Over the past few years we have offered, Faith Sharing training, Spiritual Discipline training, Spiritual Gift training, in hopes to prepare us for GOING. Our REBOOT Vision Team will soon begin answering these questions and more. We have to ready ourselves to GO. As I heard at Presbytery last month, the New Testament structure of the church was not, “Ya’ll Come”, but was “Go and share.” Something to think about.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, October 11

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

Thursday, October 12

EPC Pastors Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 14

The Computer Lab @ 9:00 a.m.
Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, October 18

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



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, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

Wednesday, October 25
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, October 14
@ 1:00 p.m.

REBOOT/Revitalization with Ken Priddy Next Steps Coming!

Men of HOPE

Men of the church, be praying about whether God is calling you to lead this Men's group at HOPE.

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 Supper, Study, & Prayer October 11

@ 6:15 p.m.

Study of Exodus

Bring your Bibles

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

Menu:

Pork Roast, Rice, Yams,
Lima Beans, Rolls, & Dessert

Upcoming Dates

Annual Session Retreat

October 27/28

Annual Meeting of the HOPE Congregation

Sunday, November 19

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 2

Advent Season Begins

Sunday, December 3

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - October 15

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - October 15

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - October 15

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - October 15

Al Floyd

Communion - October

Terry Duffell

Greeter - October 15

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - October 15

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday
The Parables of Jesus

Matthew 12:29 (22 - 30)

"The Parable of the
Strong Man"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Oct	15	Jeremiah 47
Oct	16	Jeremiah 48
Oct	17	Jeremiah 49
Oct	18	Jeremiah 50
Oct	19	Jeremiah 51
Oct	20	Jeremiah 52
Oct	21	Lamentations 1

Quote of the Week

"God's mercy and grace give me hope—for myself and for our world."

Billy Graham

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

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