

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



**HOPE**  
CHURCH | RALEIGH  
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 768

January 31, 2024

## “Are We a Picture of Christ?”

**“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” James 5:16b**

A great artist was once employed to paint a picture of a very beautiful child. It was a family who had wealth. The father of the child was not a believer, the mother a Christian. After much study and research, it was decided that the picture should show the child asleep in prayer. The artist, of course, said, “I must catch the scene from an actual setting in which the child should fall asleep during an earnest, faithful prayer.

Evening after evening he visited the mother and child in their family home when the two were in prayer. The father was present, but did not participate. Finally the opportunity came and when the mother’s sweet petition to God was closed, the child was fast asleep, kneeling by her mother’s side. In this position they remained for some time, until released by the artist as he captured the scene in his mind.

The next evening there was a knock on the door and it was the artist. He came to visit the family again, but this time he was troubled in his spirit. He said, “I cannot make the picture complete unless the immediate surroundings are shown, and especially the mother must be in the painting kneel by her child in prayer.

“The picture shall be complete,” said the father. “...and you will put the mother in the scene.”

Time passed and the painting was still being developed by the artist. But in the meantime a strange feeling of loneliness crept into the heart of the father. Something, too, in an attitude of worship, came as he listened to the sweet petitions from his wife’s lip. She had been used by the Holy Spirit to illuminate his conscience, and it seemed to him that it would break his heart to be shut out of his family picture. Feeling this way, he visited the studio of the artist and expressed the desire that he might also be painted in the picture in the attitude of prayer, kneeling with his wife and daughter.

“NO,” said the artist, “...it is too late. You would either add to or take from, and that must not be.”

“Add to or take from,” the man repeated to himself that evening as he heard his wife’s prayers.

“Asleep in Prayer” hung long on the walls of the rich man’s home and again the artist was called, but this time to a Christian home. That evening the father prayed, and even to this day there hangs two paintings - “Asleep in Prayer,” the mother and her daughter, and “Awake in Christ,” a picture the artist painted of the father, mother, and young lady in prayer. Underneath the picture “Awake in Christ” there is an inscription. It says, “You would either add to or take from.”

A praying wife and mother, kneeling beside her daughter as they worshiped the Lord before bedtime, stirred the heart, by the Holy Spirit of God, of a husband, a father, who surrendered his life to Christ. No pun intended, but what a beautiful picture this is.

Believer, how is your prayer life? Do others hear you pray? Are you willing to pray in your home, in public, in Bible Study, in worship aloud? Are you willing to allow God to use your prayer life to minister to others? He can, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

James, the brother of Jesus, who once did not believe that his brother was the Messiah, the Son of God, writes, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” Where do you think he witnessed that? Were there examples around him to point him, not to his brother, but to his brother who was also GOD. Just read James’s letter and hear his voice of witness as to who Jesus is. It is powerful.

We are to be examples of Christ in the world. The “picture” we paint for someone else to see and be used by God to draw others to Him. Come on folks!!! Let’s put some pictures out there to illuminate the conscience and break the hearts of the lost to see Jesus.

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

# HOPE Calendar

## Wednesday, January 31

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

## Sunday, February 4

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:30 a.m.  
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.  
Session REBOOT Mtg. @ 12:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 6

REBOOT Vision Team @ 7:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom

## Wednesday, February 7

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



## Outreach Ministries

### “Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

### Individual Pop-Top Canned Meat

We have a collection bin in the foyer

### HOPE Meal Ministry

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

### TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month  
@ 11:00 a.m.

## Spiritual Growth Ministries

### Women of HOPE

Saturday, February 10  
@ 1:00 p.m.

## Wednesday Night Supper, Study & Prayer Resumes Tonight -

Study: Exodus  
Supper @ 6:15 p.m.  
Study @ 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

### Menu:

Country Style Steak & Rice,  
Baked Beans, Rolls & Dessert

## Pray for an Opportunity

HOPE family - Start now praying that God would lead you to invite someone(s) to join you for Easter Worship. Pray specifically for Him to lay on your heart who to ask, when to ask, and then do it. I'm asking each one in our HOPE family to do this. Pray - asking and expecting God to act. ***Easter is March 31st***

## Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Ron Clifton, Donna 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, Ellie Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), 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.

## HOPE - REBOOT 50 - Days to Vitality

## Everyday a Devotion Everyday a Prayer

*Join us for our Sunday school time following Fellowship for Discussion on our study this week.*

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - February 4  
*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - February 4  
*Emma Duffell*

Soundboard - February 4  
*Benjamin Pierce*

Live Streaming - February 4  
*Al Floyd*

Communion - February  
*Dianne Reinoso*

Greeter - February 4  
*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - February 4  
*Volunteer Needed*

## Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

### Matthew 22:34 - 40

“The Great Commandment  
- Going All In”

## Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Feb 4	Habakkuk	1
Feb 5	Habakkuk	2
Feb 6	Habakkuk	3
Feb 7	Zephaniah	1
Feb 8	Zephaniah	2
Feb 9	Zephaniah	3
Feb 10	Haggai	1

## Quote of the Week

“Whenever we find ourselves worrying, our first action ought to be to get alone with God and worship Him.... We must realize that He is big enough to solve our problems.”  
Warren Wiersbe

Put on your Calendar  
**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 14th**  
**@ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Supper Served**  
**@ 6:15 p.m.**

**HOPE Church Raleigh**  
**An Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
4911 Green Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27616  
919-508-6827

**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

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