

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 771

February 21, 2024

“Are You Active for the Kingdom?”

In the midst of our 50 - Days to Vitality, we are studying about our witness and the mission of the church. I ran across a few stories that will remind us of the commitment others have made to the gospel. I could say, “If only I were so committed?”

Story #1

In 1856, David Livingstone faced a grave peril in Africa. He was passing through the wild country of the native chief Mburuma. The chief was hostile and had been seeking to provoke the countryside against Livingstone’s expedition. Reports had been that he was seen creeping toward the camp!

Alone in his tent, Livingstone opened his Bible and read the promise on which he had staked his life so often. Then he wrote in his diary:

“January 14, 1856, Evening, Felt much turmoil of spirit in prospect of having all my plans for welfare of this great region knocked on the head by savages tomorrow. But Jesus said, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations... and lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’

This is the word of a Gentleman of the most strict and sacred honor, so that’s the end of fear. I will not cross furtively tonight as I intended. Nay, verily, I shall take observations for latitude and longitude, though they may be the last. I feel quiet and calm now, thank God!”

Livingstone lived through that expedition and was protected by God for God’s mission. Speaking at the University of Glasgow in 1896 he said, “Would you like me to tell you what supported me through all the years of exile among a people whose language I could not understand, and whose attitude toward me was always uncertain and often hostile? It was this: ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ On these words I staked everything, and they never failed.”

Story #2

Matthew Culbertson gave up his commission in the United States Army to become a missionary. At Shanghai, he gave valiant service during the Taiping riots. A minister said to him, “Culbertson, if you were at home, you might be a Major General.” The missionary replied: “Doubtless I might; men whom I taught at West Point are Major Generals to-day.”

And then he added these words with deep earnestness: “But I would not change places with one of them. I consider there is no

post of influence on earth equal to that of a man who is permitted to preach the Gospel.” He had chosen the better part of service, and had no yearning after secular honors.

Story #3

Raymond Lull, or Lullius, to whom the Arabic professorship at Oxford owes its origin, was the first Christian missionary to the Muslims.

When shipwrecked near Pisa, after many years of missionary labor, though upwards of seventy, his commitment was relentless.

“Once,” he wrote, “I was fairly rich; once I had a wife and children; once I tasted freely the pleasures of this life. But all these things I gladly resigned, that I might spread abroad a knowledge of the truth. I studied Arabic, and several times went forth to preach the Gospel to the Saracens. I have been in prisons; I have been scourged; for years I have striven to persuade the princes of Christendom to befriend the common cause of converting the Mohammedans. Now, though old and poor, I do not despair; I am ready, if it be God’s will, to persevere unto death.”

Raymond Lull died, being stoned to death at Bugia, in Africa, in 1314 after gathering a little flock of converts together for worship.

There are probably none of us reading this article that can even slightly compare anything in our life experiences to these three men. And there are 1000’s of other stories of men and women, who for the cause of Christ, witnessed and carried out the mission of the church to seek and save the lost, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for each of them.

BUT, folks, in our neighborhoods, in our work places, in our families, through our churches, we can impact the kingdom for Christ, if we are obedient to the call of scripture to “GO...” We are to be His witnesses in all the places God leads us and throughout our lives.

Are you looking actively to make a difference for the KINGDOM?
Are you?

Blessings my friends,

Pastor Marty Duffell - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 24

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 25

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, February 28

TLC Devotion @ 11:00 a.m.
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 24 @ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

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

Menu:

BBQ Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Corn, 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.

MARCH 16

The Vision Team and Session would like to invite you to join them on March 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to share your thoughts on the vision for HOPE moving forward. At 10 a.m. the Vision Team and Session will meet to continue their work together on REBOOT - Revitalization.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - February 25

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - February 25

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - February 25

Bill Joyner

Live Streaming - February 25

Diane Williams

Communion - February

Dianne Reinoso

Greeter - February 25

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - February 25

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Luke 19:1 - 10
“The Great Mission”

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Feb	25	Zechariah	14
Feb	26	Malachi	1
Feb	27	Malachi	2
Feb	28	Malachi	3
Feb	29	Malachi	4
Mar	1	Matthew	1
Mar	2	Matthew	2

Quote of the Week

“We must come to good works by faith, and not to faith by good works.”

William Gurnall

HOPE4Kids Sunday School Teacher

Needed by June 2nd
Please pray and consider leading this important ministry at HOPE.

HOPE Church Raleigh An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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