

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 782

May 8, 2024

“Finding Yourself in Giving”

Marian Preminger was born in Hungary in 1913, raised in a castle with her aristocratic family, surrounded with maids, tutors, governesses, butlers, and chauffeurs. Her grandmother, who lived with them, insisted that whenever they traveled, they take their own linens, for she believed it was beneath their dignity to sleep between sheets used by common people.

I cannot imagine that kind of life!

While attending school in Vienna, Marian met a handsome young Viennese doctor. They fell in love, eloped, and married when she was only eighteen. The marriage lasted only a year and she returned to Vienna to begin her life as an actress.

While auditioning for a play, she met a brilliant young German director, Otto Preminger. They fell in love and soon married. They went to America soon thereafter, where he began his career as a movie director. Unfortunately and tragically, Hollywood is a place of dramatic illustrations of people “biting, devouring, and consuming” one another. Marian was caught up in the glamor, lights, and superficial excitement and soon began to live a sordid life. When Preminger discovered it, he divorced her.

Marian returned to Europe to live the life of a socialite in Paris. In 1948 she learned through the newspaper that Albert Schweitzer, the man she had read about as a little girl, was making one of his periodic visits to Europe and was staying at Gunsbach. She phoned his secretary and was given an appointment to see Dr. Schweitzer the next day. When Marian arrived in Gunsbach she discovered he was in the village church playing the organ. She listened and turned pages of music for him as he played. After their visit he invited her to have dinner at his house. By the end of the day she knew she had discovered what she had been looking for all her life. She was with him every day thereafter during his visit, and when he returned to Africa he invited her to come to Lambarene and work in the hospital.

Marian did, and found herself. There in Lambarene, the girl who was born in a castle and raised like a princess, who was accustomed to being waited on with all the luxuries of a spoiled life, became a servant. She changed bandages, bathed babies, fed lepers and became free.

Marian wrote her autobiography and called it *All I Ever Wanted Was Everything*. She could not get the “everything” that would satisfy and give meaning until she could give “everything”.

When she died in 1979, the New York Times carried her obituary, which included this statement from her: “Albert Schweitzer said there are two classes of people in this world - the helpers, and the non-helpers. I’m a helper”.

Matthew 20:28 “...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:27 “For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Jesus certainly set the example for us. He gave His all, everything, His life! Are we in anyway following His example. No, not by dying for the cause, but serving for His purpose? I know I say it a lot, but it needs to be reiterated often, “Is my life about me, or about Him?” Of course, “Him” being Jesus.

Marian found herself by giving of herself. It was there that true freedom entered her life. All of her life up to that point was taking - but her life was empty. Once she started giving of herself, her life was full. Have you tried this method of fulfillment? Are you as free in life as Jesus wants you to be? Paul says we are called to freedom, not of the flesh, but by serving one another.

Folks, take a look at your life. Are you finding yourself in giving or caught up in the worldly ways of taking? This might be something to think about.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12

Happy Mother's Day

Worship Team Run Through
@ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Extended Fellowship Time
@ 10:50 a.m.

NO Sunday School

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - May 12

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - May 12

Bill Joyner

Soundboard - May 12

Benjamin Pierce

Live Streaming - May 12

Al Floyd

Communion - May

Dianne Reinoso

Greeter - May 12

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - May 12

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

John 10:1 - 18

"The Heart of the Shepherd"

Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Canned Vegetables

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, May 11

@ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Ministries

Summer schedule on
Wednesday nights

Bible Study & Prayer

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 8:45 p.m.

We are studying Exodus

**Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, June 9th
immediately following
Worship**

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 NOW

Everyday Prayer

For

The Vision Team

The Session

The Congregation

Next Meeting of the Vision Team
is Monday, May 13 @ 7 p.m.

Mother's Day 2024

Sunday, May 12th

**NO Sunday School that Day
Extended Fellowship Time**

Susie Savino, our new Worship
Leader, begins on
June 1st.

Please keep her and her family in
your prayers as they will be
moving from Georgia to North
Carolina the last week of May.

Quote of the Week

*"It is the duty of every
Christian to be Christ
to his neighbor."*

Martin Luther

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

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

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

May	12	John	5
May	13	John	6
May	14	John	7
May	15	John	8
May	16	John	9
May	17	John	10
May	18	John	11