

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 785

May 29, 2024

## “Holding On in the Midst of Trials”

Bob was a farmer. He owned a very large farm with his wife Elsie. They had three boys who helped them on the farm. While life had thrown some curveballs at them during their marriage, droughts on the farm, a tobacco barn that burned, the youngest child born with autism, they were happy in their life together.

Bob and Elsie and the boys attended a local community church. Bob was a Deacon and Elise was known for her apple pies. They were in church whenever the doors opened and had a strong relationship with the Lord. Bob taught the Men's Sunday School class and Elsie sang in the choir.

One day started a cascade of events that no one would wish on any loved one or stranger.

It was Fall and Bob was on his International Combine harvesting the corn crop. His combine was one of those with the open seating and no cab cover. During his harvesting there was a large stick that got stuck in the front forks that cut through the stalks of corn. He left the combine running but shifted the lever to cut off the forks. But instead of stepping down off of the Combine he leaned over to try to grab it and pull it out. Unfortunately, Bob lost his balance and fell over into the forks. As he fell, he tried to grab onto something to stop his fall and what he grabbed was the lever that cut the forks on. Grabbing the lever did not stop his fall, but it did cut on the forks of the combine and they pulled Bob in and killed him.

Such a tragic event. The whole community was affected by the news and everyone rallied around Elise and the boys. Bob's accident happened in September.

In October, bow season for deer came in and the oldest boy, John, decided to go hunting on the farm with his friends. This was not his, nor his friends, first time hunting together. Each of them had their own tree stand and were in place at the crack of dawn ready to hunt. During the morning hunt, John had to relieve himself and came down out of his stand. Stepping away just a few yards, he did his business. But before climbing back into the tree stand, he heard something just a few yards away and thinking it might be a deer, he went to check it out. That was a mistake. One of his friends had heard the same noise and prepared his bow for the kill. He saw the bushes move and released his arrow. But it was John in the bushes, not a deer. John was killed.

Elsie had now lost two of her loves within two months. She was broken. But again, the community rallied around her and her faith did not waver.

It was now Elsie and her two boys, the middle child, a teenager, and the youngest with autism.

Those of you reading this that know the farming lifecycle know that farmers will borrow money from the local bank to plant crops and hire workers in the Spring. Then in Fall as the crops are harvested and sold at market they pay off their debt.

Elsie had used all they had in the bank to bury her husband and son and live off of. Much of the crop left in the fields following Bob's death went unharvested.

In December, Elsie received a letter from the bank stating that she had 30 days to pay her debt or the farm, which had been put up for collateral, would be foreclosed on. What else could happen? Would she lose the farm she and Bob had built? Would she be homeless? Elsie was strong in her faith, but it was like, "Lord, I don't know if I can take anything else!"

While reading this your mind may have gone over to the story of Job. Mine certainly did. This almost sounds like a modern day Job story. We know Job faced loss. Loss of possession, loss of family, loss of health, and loss of respect from his friends. But while he would question God in a conversation, he never cursed God or lost his faith in God.

***Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said,***

***“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
And naked I shall return there.***

***The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”***

***Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.***

We read those verses and think how? How can Job hold on to his faith in the midst of these trials? The answer, his faith in God was more important than anything else in all his life.

Is God first in your life in such a way that in the midst of the the most difficult trial, it is your faith you hold on to? ***Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.”*** This is a command, not a suggestion. Job and Elsie held on to their faith.

What happen to Elsie and her two boys? Did she lose her farm? The community and church around her stepped up and took up a collection to help pay the debt and save her farm. Her prayers were answered. She never, through all the trials of that year, lost faith in God. He was first, even in the tragic loss. He was where she leaned, who she clung to, where she found rest, and yes, even peace.

How about you? Are trials, situations of everyday life, wearing you down? Hold on in the midst of trials, to the only One ever-present and faithful to hold on to you. ***For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5***

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

# HOPE Calendar

**Wednesday, May 29**

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

**Friday, May 31**

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 2**

Worship Team Run Through  
@ 8:15 a.m.

**Worship @ 9:30 a.m.**

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday school for all ages  
@ 11:10 a.m.

**Tuesday, June 4**

Vision Team Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 5**

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

## Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - June 2

*Church is Providing*

ProPresenter - June 2

*Bill Joyner*

Soundboard - June 2

*Benjamin Pierce*

Live Streaming - June 2

*Al Floyd*

Communion - June

*Donna Williams*

Greeter - June 2

*Joan Rollinson*

Nursery Volunteer - June 2

*Volunteer Needed*

## Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

**Luke 18:1 - 8**

**“Pray & Don’t Lose Heart”**

## 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, June 8**

@ 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**

**Next Session Meeting**

**Sunday**

**June 9th @ 12 p.m.**

## Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Janice  
Worthington, 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

## HOPE - REBOOT NOW

**Everyday Prayer**

**For**

**The Vision Team**

**The Session**

**The Congregation**

**Vision Team’s next meeting  
Tuesday, June 4 @ 7 PM**

**Is prayer a passion for you?  
HOPE Church Raleigh has a  
new ministry.**

**The Sunday Prayer Ministry**

**If you would like to  
participate, please contact**

**Diane Mack**

**[beautybycaris@gmail.com](mailto:beautybycaris@gmail.com)**

## Quote of the Week

**“God does not give us  
everything we want. But He  
does fulfill His promises,  
leading us along the best and  
straightest paths to Himself.”**

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

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**Worship Time: 9:30 AM**

**[www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org](http://www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)**

**Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh**

**YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh”  
in the search box)**

## Daily Devotions

### For This Coming Week

Jun	2	Acts	5
Jun	3	Acts	6
Jun	4	Acts	7
Jun	5	Acts	8
Jun	6	Acts	9
Jun	7	Acts	10
Jun	8	Acts	11