

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 786

June 05, 2024

“As You Make Yourself Available, God Will Do His Work!”

Abby went into work just as she normally did everyday, getting up at 6:00a.m., shower, dress, make-up, hair, cup of coffee, bagel and then out the door. Her shift at the local nursing home started at 8:00 am. Abby was only in her first year of nursing, having graduating from the Community College in the Spring. She was now making a living and on her own. For Abby, this was a huge accomplishment.

Some back story. Abby grew up in a home where little love was shown. Her mom and dad were going at each other all the time. Her older sister never really took to Abby being born in the family. She had enjoyed all the attention prior to Abby's birth. School was difficult, but was really her only outlet from the chaos of her home life. Her parents did not believe in God. She never attended a church in her life, had never picked up a Bible and read a single page.

Now Abby was in an apartment, supporting herself, paying the bills, and paying back student loans for her nursing degree. Life was good, or so she thought. Her world was about to be rocked.

As she walked through the door for work that day her supervisor told her they had received a new patient overnight, Mr. Caldwell, and that she would be taking care of him. She went into his room and introduced herself to him. He welcomed her in, she made small talk, and then picked up his chart. On the first page she read the words “Terminal/ No Further Treatments.” Her heart sank.

As she checked in on him throughout the day, making him comfortable she noticed there was something about him, his attitude, his demeanor, his smile, that drew her to him. There was a peace in the room that she did not feel with other patients.

The next day she asked to be assigned to the care of Mr. Caldwell. Walking in his room, she noticed him reading a book. “What’s that you’re reading?” “It’s my Bible, the best book ever written. Do you read the Bible?,” Mr. Caldwell asked. “No” Abby said. “I don’t own a Bible.”

To make a long story shorter, Abby and Mr. Caldwell hit it off. She would stay after her shift and he would read to her from his Bible. He would explain the stories he read to her and answer her questions, realizing she had no knowledge or basis of understanding of the Bible.

Four months had passed as their friendship and “study” had continued. But Mr. Caldwell’s health was failing. Abby knew it would not be long now, but he insisted that they continue to study the Bible together.

Then one day, the day that rocked her world, Mr. Caldwell read two verses to her from **Romans 10:9-10**. “...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your

heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” Mr. Caldwell asked Abby, “In our reading about Jesus and in answering your questions, are you at a place where you would like to accept Jesus as your Savior?” Tears flowed down Abby’s face. “Yes, Mr. Caldwell. I would love to accept Jesus and live for Him forever.” That day in the quietness of Mr. Caldwell’s nursing home room, Abby accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and never looked back.

Mr. Caldwell died the next month. Over those several months of his stay, she had met his son a few times. He seemed nice and was about her age. He invited her to the Memorial Service for his dad. It was there she found out he was a Pastor. After the service the son came up to her and said, “My dad shared with me the story of you guys sitting together and reading his Bible. He asked me to give this to you following his death.” He handed Abby Mr. Caldwell’s Bible. “This is yours now.” Tears flowed down her face as she took the Bible into her hands.

Mr. Caldwell’s son, who was not married, asked Abby out for coffee later that week and, of course, the rest is history.

Folks, one encounter can make a huge difference in your life and the life of others. You hear me repeatedly state that God gives you opportunity to be his hands and mouth in a lost world. Mr. Caldwell took the opportunity to share Christ, even in his dying moments of life. It could have been about himself, finding comfort in medication, and saying “Just let me die.” But he took the opportunity that presented itself to share the Word with someone that was lost. Abby’s life was never the same. Never the same!

God has a way of placing people in our lives for His purpose. Please, open your eyes, Believer, to the possibilities before you and see what God may be doing. There may be an Abby right in front of you that you have not taken notice of. As you make yourself available, God will do His work!

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 5

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

Thursday, June 6

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 9

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

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Congregational Meeting @ 10:50 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 11:00 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages

@ 11:15 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - June 9

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - June 9

Emma Duffell

Soundboard - June 9

Jane Davis

Live Streaming - June 9

Diane Williams

Communion - June

Donna Williams

Greeter - June 9

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - June 9

Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Luke 18:9 - 14

**“Two Sinners Went
to Church”**

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.

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

**Next Session Meeting
This 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**

**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**

Quote of the Week

***“To forgive is to set a prisoner
free and to discover that
prisoner was you.”***

Corrie Ten Boom

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

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

Jun	9	Acts	12
Jun	10	Acts	13
Jun	11	Acts	14
Jun	12	Acts	15
Jun	13	Acts	16
Jun	14	Acts	17
Jun	15	Acts	18

