

A \$50,000.00 Goal !

~ Steve Higginbotham ~

On Sunday, 11 year-old Nick Smith entered a contest for the chance to win \$50,000.00. All Nick had to do was shoot a 3 inch hockey puck through a 3 ½ inch +hole from 90 feet away. Nick took careful aim, hit the puck with his hockey stick and to everyone's amazement, the puck went in the hole! It was a one in a million shot that earned this 11 year-old boy \$50,000.00...or did it?

You see, Nick actually didn't take the shot, his twin brother Nate did. Why? Because when Nick's name was called to take the shot, he was not in the arena, so his identical twin brother stood in for him. No one would have known, except Nick and Nate's father. Well, on Monday Nick and Nate's father let the cat out of the bag and admitted to the officials that Nate, not Nick actually took the shot.

When asked why he would reveal this secret, the father said "We thought honesty was the best policy, and we wanted to set a good example for our kids."

May their tribe increase! Question: Would you forfeit \$50,000.00 over a technicality that no one would ever notice? Or to cut to the chase, is your integrity for sale?



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
1807 South Florida Avenue
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

How Do I Feel When I Assemble With the Saints?

Whit Sasser

In a word, I feel good. Why? Well, whenever I come together in church with my fellow Christian brothers and sisters I feel glad, because I am just happy to be there. So, simply walking in the door makes me feel good due to it being one of the things I love doing most during the week.

I also feel relieved. Relieved to take a break from the worldliness I have to deal with most of the week. Coming together in church is sort of like taking a break and ever sense I was a child, in love with recess at school, I love taking breaks.

I feel good when I assemble because I feel at ease. I am around people who accept me as I am and who like me as a person. Now, who wouldn't like that? It is so tiring putting on airs, presenting a face to the world (maybe we ought not) and acting how others want me to act. What a relief to get away from all that for a little while.

In church services I get to worship with others who have a faith like mine; I get to greet and visit with some of the nicest people; and I get to contribute to others being encouraged...all of which recharges my spiritual batteries and reinvigorates me to keep doing good works.

I almost always go away glad I went...feeling really good.

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.

The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 66 No. 13 03-26-13

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF
Florida School of Preaching

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You Are Invited . . .

GOSPEL MEETING

**April
7-10**

7:00 p.m.

Each Evening

~ Except Sunday ~

9:30 & 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.



David South

of Memphis, Tennessee

Brother South has been preaching for the Woodland Hills church of Christ in Cordova, Tennessee, since 2010. Prior to this he taught in the School of Biblical Studies at Freed-Hardeman University for twelve years. He received formal education from Freed-Hardeman University (BA, 1987), Oklahoma Christian University (MA, 1994), Harding School of Theology (MDiv, 2002). In his twenty-five years of preaching, he has served churches of Christ in Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. He has been on short-term mission trips to Honduras, Ukraine, and England. He and his wife, Barbie, have three children and three grandchildren.



Chad Tagtow will be back with us to lead our singing in this meeting. We are looking forward to a great meeting with great preaching, great singing and great fellowship together. Please be planning now to be present for every service and bring others with you.

A Warm Welcome Is Extended To All

WHAT DOES GOD PROMISE TO US?

T. Pierce Brown

If we raise the wrong questions, we probably will get the wrong answer. We need to be discriminating in the questions we raise, and the answers we get or give. For example, the question, “Does God promise salvation to those who have failed to obey his will?” and the question, “Will God save any person who has failed to obey his will?” are two different questions, regardless of the fact that many may think they are the same. Even those persons who think the questions are perfectly clear and the answers should be just as clear and dogmatic may want to proceed a little farther. Have you ever failed to obey his will? The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and 1 John 1:10 says, “If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar.” So, regardless of how you answer the question, you have failed to obey his will. Most who read this would perhaps say, “We know that, but we still have to obey his will that relates to forgiveness of sins in order to be saved.” Many now teach that it does not really matter, for God’s grace will save everyone (or practically everyone) regardless of what he does. We feel sorry for that group, but are not specifically addressing their false doctrine today.

We are now simply trying to make one point: God promises to grant remission of sins only to those who accept the promise on the terms offered. Whether he will choose to grant it in the final judgment in a case where it appears to us that one has not accepted the terms offered is a different question, and should receive a different answer. Let us illustrate that you may know that we are not trying to loose where God bound, but at the same time are saying that we must leave the final application of God’s rules to his judgment.

God promised (in effect) that Naaman would be cured of his leprosy if he went and dipped seven times in the River Jordan. Suppose Naaman had, in faithful obedience, gone to the river, and dipped 6 times, and as he started to dip the seventh a water moccasin had bitten him and he had not gone completely under. Would God have cured him anyway? There are wise ones among us who can speak dogmatically about the answer. We cannot. We do not know. Our opinion is worthless, and even raising the question would probably fall under the category condemned by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:23, “Foolish and unlearned questions avoid knowing that they do gender strife.” Suppose God would have cured him, what does that have to do with our responsibility to teach and do what God says? Anyone who bases his theology or his practice on what he supposes God might or might not do in some hypothetical situation is already on dangerous ground.

Suppose Naaman had started to do what God had commanded, and had felt so much better that he assumed he was already cured before he got to the river, but decided to go ahead and dip anyway, would God have cured him? That is very similar to the scoffing question that was raised some years ago about gopher wood in the ark. Suppose Noah had run out of gopher wood, or had a piece of wood he thought was gopher, which really was not, and had put one plank of oak or hickory in its place, would the ark have sunk? Whatever you may suppose about that not only will not change what God would have done, but has no practical bearing on what we are supposed to teach and do about God’s promise to us. If God goes beyond his promise, and grants a blessing as a result of some other factor, that is his business.

Why anyone would even raise those questions who is interested in trying to get all men to accept the grace of God on the terms by which it is offered, instead of trying to find some way to give a person hope who rejected God’s way, we do not know. Instead of raising those hypothetical questions, giving your guess as an answer, then basing your teaching on your guess, why not simply raise and answer the question, “What does God want and promise as a result of obeying his commandments?”

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: David Deal is in LRMC. No visitors, please.

Hannah Hendrix, Mary Shoemake, Sam Bolding, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Kim Sheffield, Earl Anderson, Don Moore, Karen Swiney, Nina Hart, Annie Beth Coone.

Shut In Members: Newman Kirkland, Artis Bassett.

Others: Donna Arcand, Christina Feussner, Graham McDonald, Beverly Ross, Diana Rogers, Kathy Peel & Danny Edmonds *Please pray for all of the sick.*

Upcoming Events

Mar. 23rd - Egg Hunt at the home of the Bingle's. Please let Rene know if you plan to go.

Mar. 24th - 28th - Gospel Meeting at Sixth Street. Speaker will be Cameron Freeman from Tuskegee, AL.

Mar. 29th-31st - Lads to Leaders Convention in Orlando.

April 7th - 10th - Gospel Meeting here at So. Florida Ave. Church of Christ. David South will be the speaker.

Visitors

Fran Hinson, Rachel McCain, Smitty Smith.

Thank You Notes

We have been overwhelmed by the calls, cards and prayers since Duane's stroke. Thanks to all. Prayers can change the night to day! To be a part of this wonderful congregation is a great blessing.

Duane & Gloria Nelson

Thank you church family for the beautiful shower last week. We appreciate all the love that was shown to us. We are thankful for the beautiful gifts & we can't wait to put them to good use next month.

Josh Etridge & Marissa Paulin

SELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following the morning worship service March 31, 2013. The following nominations have been made: David Anderson (Chairman); George French (Vice-Chairman); Charles Paulin (Treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (Secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominees willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Jimmy Sweeney.....	Table	David Anderson
Robert Cooper	Assist.....	Paul Romine

Sunday, March 24, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Ken Walker
Prayer.....	Charles Paulin

Announcements.....	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	David Williams
Closing Prayer	David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer	Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer	Paul Romine
Greeters.....	The Bingle Family
Att. Cards.....	Antonio Martin & Quadarius Askew
Open & Close Building.....	Fred Strickland

Wed. March 27, 2013

Song Leader	Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer	Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer	David Anderson

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt, so he can get a replacement - 859-5231.

Sunday, March 31, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Jim Turner
Prayer.....	Chuck Wyatt

10:00 A.M.

Announcements.....	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	Kenny French
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer	John McShane
Closing Prayer	Ken Walker
Greeters.....	The Anderson Family
Att. Cards.....	Tucker & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building.....	Fred Strickland

Wed. April 3, 2013

Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	Kenny French
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Feb. 24.....	\$3,489.88
Mar. 03.....	\$4,936.00
Mar. 10.....	\$4,776.07
Mar. 17.....	\$3,804.70
Contribution Average	\$4,147.84
2013 Weekly Budget	\$4,255.13