

# THE MIDDLE EAST TURMOIL

*David Bragg*

The world's attention has been fixed recently on the escalating violence in the Middle East. Nations scuffle as families suffer over the persistent loss of life. Some of this fighting takes place within a "stones throw" of where the greatest tragedy was played out over 1,980 years ago.

Many were convinced then that peace was within reach. With eyes firmly fixed on the great prophecies of the past and with anticipation of a bright future, all hopes were pinned on the coming Messiah. He would bring peace. Imposters would NOT be tolerated.

Oh how quickly a throng of admirers is turned to a howling mob controlled by the envious elite. "Crucify him! Crucify him!" It was the blood of the Prince of Peace that was spilled that day in despised Golgotha. Three days later Hope was born.

The day will come when they will no longer fight in the Middle East. All carnal warfare will end when the crucified Prince returns to escort all humanity to the Divine Bar of Justice. Blessed are they who can long for that day with sincere joy knowing that this Prince brings peace forever.



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SHOCK YOU?

Do you watch the evening (or morning) news? Do you sometimes find yourself tuning out as the long litany of bad things are recounted? Just today I was listening to the news about a bomb killing seven in Jerusalem, and the people at the scene started talking about another possible bomb blast in the city. As it turned out, the "explosion" heard was a bus tire blowing out! But hearing all these things may indeed make us numb.

We must never take the evil in this world as somehow "just the ordinary." That is especially true when it comes to our own wrongdoing. "I didn't mean to" can become just a way of ignoring something serious in our lives.

The goal (1 John 2:1) is to stop sinning and to walk in the light (1 John 1:7). Getting there means we must recognize and acknowledge our sins (1 John 1:8-10).

An African evangelist told the story of a man who had a sore toe. At first he refused to see a doctor until the toe was badly infected. When told it must be amputated, he refused, until the leg was full of gangrene. Back to the doctor he went to be told that the leg had to go or he would die. He chose to ignore the warning and... you know the rest! That's how Satan gets us to deal with sin. "Oh, it will get better. It really isn't that bad," we say. Then before long we are full of spiritual gangrene. We are rotten. Soon, without the amputation of our favorite sins, our spirits die! Are you shocked? God help us to be shocked by our sin!

*~Lawrence Barr*

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
David Williams  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## 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

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald.....Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGES

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)  
[www.sfacc.net](http://www.sfacc.net)

## The Day of Small Things

*Robert Johnson*

In 536 B.C., Cyrus, king of Persia, issued a proclamation that profoundly affected the Jewish people. This proclamation allowed the Jews, who had been taken captive to Babylon earlier by Nebuchadnezzar, to return to Jerusalem. Over 40,000 people responded. When they reached their destination, one of the first things they determined to do was rebuild the Temple.

When the foundation for the Temple was laid, many wept with a loud voice. They perceived this temple to be insignificant, compared to the one Solomon built earlier (Ezra 3:12). All the things they would do in the coming years would be viewed as small and unimportant. To this attitude God responded, "For who has despised the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10). When the work is for God, nothing is inconsequential; everything has a place in His plan.

Our lives are spent mainly in tending to small duties. We have a normal routine we follow most days. Few of us will be called by the governor or the president, or do that which society would consider great. Even so, such a life is nothing to despise! A great life consists in doing small things well every day. The importance of prayer, phone calls, cards, visits, meals, etc. is significant when we do them for the Lord. How many lives have you touched, sick strengthened and weak cheered through prayer? How many people have you encouraged through a visit, a card or a call? How many have been blessed by a meal you offered? How many have the hope of salvation because of your influence, persistence and love in reaching out to them with the Gospel?

Jesus said, "And whoever gives to one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42). A body of the Lord's people, doing what they can in service to Him, will find together they can be of great value to the Master. It is through Him that "...all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase which is from God" (Colossians 2:19).

Do not underestimate the importance of what you do for the Lord, great or small! Nothing is insignificant when done for the glory of God. We can all resolve to put God first in all we do, to make sure what we do is done with excellence, to please God. "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Despise not the day of small things.

# Absolutely Stunned

Bob Howton

A young man was strolling through the woods and enjoying the beauty of God's handiwork when he heard a stream nearby, and he walked down to view its course. He crossed over the stream and went toward a partially cleared section nearby. He soon realized that he was standing in the area where a large farmhouse had been ravaged with fire some time ago. He turned toward the rubble where the barn had stood, and then realized that this must have been a wild fire that caught the owners away from home. In a deep rut where steel-tired wagons had run, the man caught a glimpse of something bright. He stooped down, took his pocket knife out and unearthed the object. It was heavy, and mangled to such a degree that the man could only guess that it had been a massive man's ring.

He had a friend in town who was a jeweler and a gold assayer, and he took the object to him for a professional evaluation. He left it for a week, and when he returned, he was amazed at what he saw. The dirt, soot, and scratches had all been removed, and the misshapen object was now a beautiful man's ring. The young man realized that it was a ring all along, but its distorted shape and its physical appearance did little to make it appear worthwhile to anyone. This was especially true since the ring was not on someone's finger, nor on a table or piece of furniture in a house. It was a ring whose shape had been spoiled, and somehow, it was in a deep rut, down in the barn yard. This was not a place where you'd expect to find jewelry. It was 'out of place.'

How many people can you think of who are out of place and so obscured by sin and bad associations that they leave no clue that they are delinquent children of most high God? On the first occasion of their missing the faithful attendance at worship services, there might have been several who made inquiry about their absence. After that, the concern and alarm at failure to assemble seemed to be a little less troublesome than at first. These people soon forget what the Romans writer said. *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good"* (Romans 12:21). No one is immune to the works of the flesh. *"There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Did you ever stop to think that Christ died on the cross of Calvary for every man? *"But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man"* (Hebrews 2:9). That means, dear friend, that Christ died for the vilest man you ever knew, just like he died for the finest man you ever knew. What is the difference?

Let's let God's Word settle the situation for us. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). Those who have obeyed the Gospel plan of salvation have a home eternal in the heavens if they remain faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). Those, however, who have obeyed, but who have returned to walk in paths of darkness, have a place provided for them also. *"The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire..."* (Matthew 13:41-42).

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Dick Burbage's surgery is scheduled for this Thursday, (July 18). Jacquelin Dopwell started chemo treatments Monday. It was good to see Sam Bolding at services Sunday. Also: Gene Patterson, Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Earl Anderson, Jimmy Mathis (cancer), Annie Beth Coone, and the Kirkland family.

**Shut In Members:** Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

**Others:** Teresa Moore's surgery has not been scheduled at this time. Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Danny Edmonds, James Leslie Cribbs, Cody Drye, Eddie McClay.

## Upcoming Events

**July 20th** - Men's Breakfast will be at Medulla Church of Christ at 8:00 am.

**July 31st-Aug. 2nd** - Vacation Bible School at Central Church of Christ in Winter Haven. 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

**Aug 5th-9th** - Vacation Bible School at Kissimmee Church of Christ. See bulletin board for information on the above events.

## Visitors

Barbara Adams, Cara Ford, Fran Hinson, D'Naria and DeaJah Lanier, Glen and Christy Wright.

## Congratulations

Best wishes to Sam and bettye Bolding, who will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary July 19th.

## Hither, Thither and Yon

There are still some of our members who are traveling. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe journey. Also, pray for the men and women who are serving in the military.

*Our days are identical suitcases,  
All the same size; but some people  
can pack more into them than others.*

cf. Ephesians 5:15-16

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Phil Fife ..... **Assist** ..... Josh Estridge

### Sunday, July 21, 2013 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer** ..... Charles Sanford

### 10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal  
**Greeters** ..... Robert & June Cooper  
**Att. Cards** ..... Quadarius Askew & Antonio Martin  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Kenny French

### Wed. July 24, 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeremy Padilla

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot  
serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can  
get a replacement - 537-0857*

### July 28, 2013 9:30 A.M.

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

### 10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Casey Paulin

### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson  
**Greeters** ..... Bruce & Dolores Longfellow  
**Att. Cards** ..... Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Kenny French

### Wed. July 31, 2013

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Ken Walker  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jun 23 ..... \$4,019.34  
Jun 30 ..... \$6,799.58  
Jul 07 ..... \$3,205.43  
Jul 14 ..... \$3,244.89  
**Contribution Average** ..... \$4,182.31  
**2013 Weekly Budget** ..... \$4,255.13

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week - *The Lord's Vineyard*  
WONN 1230 and WLKF 1430  
or on our web page  
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

