

THE INDESTRUCTABLE BIBLE

The Bible is the oldest book the world has. It antedates the Chinese bible. It has come down to us through the ages. Its enemies have sought to destroy it. Its pages are stained with the blood of martyrs. Empires, kingdoms and states have crumbled around it. How do you account for the Bible surviving the wreck of time? The answer is that God is with it and in it.

It was Mears who said, "The lyric poetry of the Hebrews was in its golden age nearly a thousand years before the birth of Horace. Deborah sang a model of a triumphant song full five hundred years before Sappho was born. The book of Esther was a venerable fragment of biography, more strange than fiction, at least twelve hundred years old at the dawn of the romantic literature of Europe. The proverbs of Solomon are by eight hundred years more ancient than the writings of Seneca."

Though it has been exploded, demolished, and made ready for the grave countless times, it goes on its triumphant way, giving light, hope, and salvation to unnumbered millions in many lands and many tongues.

The Bible lives in spite of men. False theories of religion profess to be built upon it. A relentless war is waged upon it by those who hate it, and friends to it have become lukewarm. Yet the Bible is here. It is the deathless book. It is as eternal as God. "The word of the Lord endureth forever." ~ A.G. Freed



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CHURCH OF CHRIST
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

EVERY GOOD GIFT

A poor man was given a loaf of bread. He thanked the baker, but the baker said, "Don't thank me. Thank the miller who made the flour." So he thanked the miller, but the miller said, "Don't thank me. Thank the farmer who planted the wheat." So he thanked the farmer.

But the farmer said, "Don't thank me. Thank the Lord. He gave the sunshine, rain, and fertility to the soil, and that's why you have bread to eat."

Regardless of how sophisticated, how advanced we may be scientifically, we still can't create; we still can't make a kernel of wheat.

That has to come from God. God gives us the things we need in order to live on this planet.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...." (James 1:17; Acts 17:24).

~via House to House, Heart to Heart

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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.

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WEB PAGES

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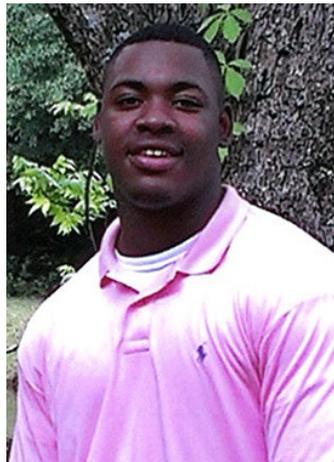
Congratulations Graduates



Jackie Marreso graduated from Parkview High School, Lilburn, Ga. She plans to attend Valdosta State College and study sports medicine. She is the grand-daughter of Bob and June Cooper.



Shelby Mills graduated from McKeel Academy. She plans to attend Travis Career Center and train to become a certified Massage Therapist. She is the daughter of Craig and Tammie Mills.



Chris Jones graduated from Houston High School, Houston, Mississippi. He plans to attend Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. He is the grand-son of Nona Williams.

He Did Not Know His Dad

Jeff A. Jenkins

A preacher friend and I have lunch together every week when we are both in town. We always talk about family, sports and our work. We talk about recent activities that we have been involved with in our ministries. During a recent visit, he was telling me about being called by a local funeral home to preach a funeral for a homeless man. This particular man had one son who met with my friend about the funeral. My friend asked the son if he could tell him some things about his dad. The man replied by saying, “Sir, I am sorry to say that I did not know my dad.” He continued to tell him that he had not been involved with his dad’s life in many years. How tragic in our day that there are fathers and sons who do not know one another.

After attempting to help families for more than thirty years, it is my belief that the most important relationship in a young boy’s life is his relationship with his father. I am thankful that as a young boy that my father was involved in my life. I am thankful that I had a son in whose life I was deeply involved when he was a young boy. It is not coincidental that God’s Word speaks about the relationship between fathers and sons. When God’s people were about to move into the Promised Land, God gave the following instructions. “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God . . . These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons. . .” (Deuteronomy 6:1-7). The Holy Spirit told the apostle Paul to remind Christian fathers of the importance of their relationship with sons. “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

These passages along with others make it clear that God expects fathers to be the spiritual leaders in the home. Fathers should be their sons (and their daughters) heroes, mentors, teachers and spiritual guides. In our day, we have more good information available to help families than at any other time in the history of the world. Go into any Christian bookstore and you will find an entire section of books and periodicals written specifically to help families. There are seminars and classes designed to strengthen families. Churches are more aware of the

need to encourage families than ever before. I receive calls regularly from churches requesting special lessons to encourage families. Many churches have a “Family Minister” to help families. With all of this information and help, how are we to explain the fact that families seem to struggle more today than ever?

Some would suggest that is because of the materialistic society in which we live. Others might say it is because of the media saturated society of our day. Some would blame it on the high divorce rate around the world. Still others would say it is the wrong kind of influences in the lives on our children. Some would blame the church for its failure to teach the old truths of the Gospel. While all of these may be factors in the demise of the family (and I am certain that other factors could be mentioned), is it not possible that another key to the family struggles is the failure of fathers to understand the role God designed for them? There are too many homes without fathers present, and even in some homes where fathers are present they have abdicated their God-given responsibilities.

I would like to encourage every father who reads this article to consider seriously renewing his commitment to his family. We must remember that we will someday stand before God and at least part of what we will give an account for is the spiritual leadership we provided or failed to provide for our families. Many fathers I know work hard to provide physically and materially for their families. They make sure that their children are well educated and well trained. Yet, they sometimes forget the spiritual help that their families so desperately need. I know it is not easy. In our day, it is difficult to buck the trend and go against the crowd. It is during those years when our sons are young that they need us the most. These are the years that their values and much of their direction for life will be formed.

Fathers often get a bad rap from the television programs as well as other forms of media. Fathers need to network with other men who are spiritually astute. Fathers should seek the advice of older men who have already raised their children. Godly men can help because of the successes and failures they have experienced in their lives. There are many things our children will know when they leave our homes. They will be most blessed if they know their dads. They should know a dad who loved his Lord, who loved his wife and who loved his children.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Dick Burbage's surgery went well. He will probably go to Oakbridge HCC for rehab. JoAnn Hoback is scheduled for heart surgery August 9th. Gene Patterson is still having some health issues. Louise Starks is having problems with her heart. Also: Jacquelin Dopwell, Genifer Johnson, Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Earl Anderson, Dana Robertson (tests), Jimmy Mathis (cancer), Bonnie James, Annie Beth Coone and the Kirkland family.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

Others: Steve Roberts (Esophageal cancer), Teresa Moore, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Danny Edmonds, Katelyn Donavant, James Leslie Cribbs, Joan Summers. Also to Linda Sheffield at the passing of her Mother-in-law.

Upcoming Events

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 more information.

Aug. 17th - Men's Breakfast at N. Jackson in Bartow at 8:00.

Aug. 18th - Dub Hill will report on the work in Russia.

Visitors

Finley Barfield, Mr. & Mrs. Ian Fawcett, Finley & Cannon. Mr. & Mrs. Klyne Fawcett, Brent & Amanda Howell, Mrs. Nancy Pratt, Aaron & Ethan Questel, Mrs. Elizabeth Sisk.

Thank You Cards

We have "Thank You Cards" from Sam & Bettye Bolding, and Dottie Fife. They will be posted in the Foyer.

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

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

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

August

Kenny French **Table** Charles Paulin
Charles Sanford **Assist** C. J. Grimes

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 Enamorato & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building Kenny French
Wed. July 31, 2013

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

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

Sunday, August 4, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Casey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Paul Romine
Greeters Josh & Marissa Estridge
Att. Cards Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorato
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. August 7, 2013

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Phil Fife
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jun 30 \$6,799.58
Jul 07 \$3,205.43
Jul 14 \$3,244.89
Jul 21 \$3,494.17
Contribution Average \$4,158.58
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week - Pull Buddy Pull

WONN 1230 and WLKF 1430

or on our web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

