

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER



**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. 70 No. 08 02-21-17

## ELDERS

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Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

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Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

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(386) 405-5372

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Brian Kenyon  
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(863) 606-5664

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Marc Veary.....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 PAGE

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



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings



## South Florida Avenue Members

We have a tremendous opportunity to better prepare ourselves to be the influential congregation God wants us to be! Let us make every effort to attend:

**Sunday, March 12 from 1:00-4:00 pm**

Have we ever thought about teaching a Bible class but were afraid we were not equipped? This seminar will properly equip us! The Lord wants us all to help!

**Teaching Rocket** is a teachers' training seminar for the local church designed to educate, equip, and empower Bible class teachers of all ages. It has been said, "As the Bible Class goes, so goes the church." Whether it's doctrinal instruction, everyday life skills, or interpersonal connection and fellowship, a vibrant education program is vital to a vibrant church. Yet most churches provide little or no training for their teachers. This seminar provides the following training:

**Session 1 The Goals of an Education Program.** What exactly are we seeking to accomplish when we come together to study the Bible? This session explores the goals of a successful Bible class program—they might not be what you think!

**Session 2 Preparing & Delivering a Lesson.** This session explores a step-by-step process of developing a lesson and tips for delivering the lesson in a classroom setting.

**Session 3 Keys to Better Bible Study.** Knowing how to study the Bible properly is essential to being a dynamic Bible teacher. This section discusses six Bible study habits that are guaranteed to generate material for your lesson.

**Session 4 Classroom Dynamics.** How does a teacher connect with students on an emotional and spiritual level? How can I come up with great discussion questions that reinforce the lesson? How do I handle the person who seems to always dominate the conversation? This session answers those questions and more.

**Session 5 The Teacher's Spiritual Life.** It's important that teachers keep themselves spiritually fit in order to maximize their effectiveness over the long haul. Focusing on James 3:1, this session discusses the steps necessary for a teacher to maintain his or her spiritual integrity instead of falling victim to Satan's schemes.



Michael Whitworth

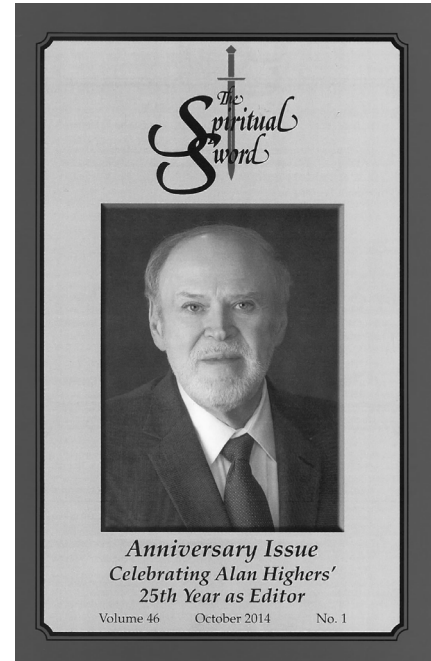
Save the Date **March 26-29**

# Gospel Meeting

with **Alan Highers**

**Preacher, Debater, Writer, Lawyer, Judge, and Editor**

We are privileged and blessed to have brother Alan Highers scheduled for our Spring Gospel Meeting! Alan has preached for over 60 years. During that time, he has also conducted numerous debates with denominational preachers on crucial subjects. While serving as a preacher, Alan decided to attend law school at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis), from which he graduated in 1968. He practiced law for a few years before being appointed as a special judge in the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. In 1977, he was appointed to the Circuit Court, and in 1982, he was appointed to serve in the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He retired in 2014 from the court system. Throughout all his years in the judicial system, he continued to preach, promote, and defend the Gospel of Christ. Since 1989, he has edited the *Spiritual Sword*, a quarterly publication. Let us make every effort to attend and invite others!



## "Manning (or Womanning) Up" Has Its Rewards!

We appreciate Hiram's lessons last Sunday, especially the one in the morning directed mainly to the men of the congregation, encouraging us to "man up" and fulfill the responsibility that God has given us as leaders in the home and in the church. While it is true that spiritually strong men in a congregation is a key factor in the spiritual success of a local church of Christ, every member must "man (or woman) up" in fulfilling Christian responsibilities! The Hebrews writer called-out his first readers, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe" (Heb. 5:12-13). The Hebrew Christians should have grown past the "babes in Christ" stage and advanced to spiritual maturity, but some of them had not. How many of us have been Christians for a long time, but have not yet reached the point of asking what we men can do in areas of assisting or leading in public worship or women in teaching Scripturally appropriate Bible classes or even both men and women volunteering for other aspects of service, including those "behind the scenes" necessities? May we not be like those Hebrews 5:12-13 Christians! There are at least two positive outcomes that result from our "manning (or womanning) up." First, since each of us will be judged individually (1 Cor. 3:8), our sacrifices will result in "treasure in heaven" (Mt. 6:20). Second, collectively, we will have a spiritually stronger congregation that will be more effective in attracting outsiders to Christ! ♥ Brian

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jacqueline Dopwell has been released from the hospital, but still needs our prayers. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Bill Long, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason, Elizabeth Tubbs, Josephine Bowman, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis, Bobby Cole, Evie McCormack, friend of Virginia Walker, who is going through cancer treatment and Deborah Leonard's husband.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

**Others:** Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Kim Gustafson, Leah Carroll, Carmen Carro and Jack Pinkert.

## Upcoming Events

**Feb. 26th- Mar.2nd:** Gospel Meeting at the North Lakeland Church of Christ. See the bulletin board for more details.

**March 4th-5th:** Personal Evangelism Seminar at the Kissimmee Church of Christ. The speaker will be Rob Whitacre. Please let Hiram know if you will be attending.

**Sunday March 12th:** Teaching Seminar here at South Florida Ave. after the morning service. The teacher will be Michael Whitworth. This will give much needed info on teaching and help motivate us to have a much better teaching program.

**March 26th-29th: Please Save this date!** This will be our gospel meeting here at South Florida Ave. Alan Highers will be the speaker. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

## Visitors

Irwin & Lisa Thomas and Isaiah, Jerry & Jennifer Scarbrough, Virginia Rupert, Mary Moore, Jane Jessee, Helen Albright, Tiffany Hash and Megan, Jeff & Hollis Bauman and Sarah, Amanda Patterson and Richard Meadows.



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... David Williams  
Paul Romine ..... **Assist** ..... Robert Cooper

### Sunday, February 26, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Ken Walker  
**Prayer**..... C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Kenny French  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Ken Walker  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Longfellow  
**Att. Cards**..... Willcut boys  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. March 1, 2017

**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer**..... Kenny French

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005*

### Sunday, March 5, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Matt Willcut  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... Tyler & Jessica Anderson  
**Att. Cards**..... Quadarius & Ian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Fred Strickland

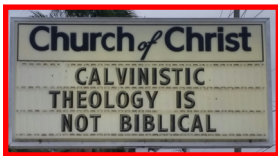
Wed. March 8, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Williams  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

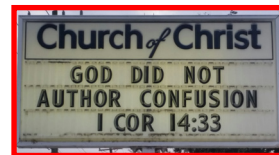
## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 29..... \$5,875.61  
Feb. 05 ..... \$7,001.76  
Feb. 12..... \$4,853.00  
Feb. 19..... \$5,761.25  
**Contribution Average**..... \$5,473.18  
**2016 Weekly Budget**..... \$4,716.51

# Calvinism (part 5) "Irresistible Grace"



The acrostic T-U-L-I-P summarizes the basic tenants of Calvinism. So far in this study, we have considered Total Hereditary Depravity, Unconditional Predestination, and Limited Atonement. The "I" stands for "Irresistible Grace." Since "Calvinism" has all people born in sin and totally depraved, they cannot favorably respond to God, even if they wanted. Thus, Calvinists claim that God calls the elect irresistibly to salvation by the work of the Holy Spirit. This is sometimes referred to as a "direct operation of the Holy Spirit" upon the sinner's heart. The idea is that "You don't know your saved until you feel the Spirit move within you." Aside from the fact that this is highly subjective, the Bible does not teach this. God does not show partiality (i.e., "no respecter of persons," KJV). However, if it is true that He is irresistible to some, and not to others, then impartiality in God would be a lie. However, God calls all people in the same way, through the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14)! All who believe and obey the Gospel are saved (Romans 1:16; Acts 10:34). The Holy Spirit has never saved anyone "irresistibly" (against his or her own will). The Holy Spirit saves through the word of God (1 Peter 1:22-25), but salvation requires individual submission (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). No one can do that for us. It is possible to refuse God's call. God told ancient Israel, "When I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight" (Isaiah 66:4). Since people can spurn God's call, "Irresistible Grace" is false! May we choose to obey the Gospel call! ❤️ Brian



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

## Do You Still Want This Bulletin?

## Then, Have It Delivered Your Way!

The Post Office, like any other business trying to keep up with this fast-paced, save-a-dollar culture in which we live, has been undergoing changes in the way they handle mail. These constant changes give us opportunity to reevaluate our bulletin distribution. Please let the office know how you would like to receive this bulletin.

- 1.** Pick up a copy Wednesday night or Sunday. Probably the most practical for our members. The actual bulletin would be clean and crisp; it would save labor, and it would cost no postage!
- 2.** Have the church email you an electronic version. Probably the most practical for our out of town friends and family. It would be quick delivery; it would save labor and cost no postage!
- 3.** Receive it from the Post Office in your mailbox. We realize some may still want it the "old fashioned way," and we are perfectly fine with that! **Let us know by March 1**

**The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER**

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**South Florida Avenue Members**  
 Sunday, March 22 from 6:30-8:00 pm

**TEACHING & ROCKET**  
 TRAINING SEMINAR FOR FIRST CLASS TEACHERS

**Teaching Through**  
 We have a tremendous opportunity to better prepare ourselves to be the influential congregation God wants us to be! Let us make every effort to attend!

**Teaching Through**  
 Have we ever thought about teaching a Bible class but were afraid you were not equipped? This seminar will properly equip you! The Lord wants us all to help!

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 This is a teachers' training seminar for the local church designed to educate, equip, and empower Bible class teachers of all ages. It has been said "As the Bible Class goes, so goes the church." Whether it's doctrinal instruction, everyday life skills, or interpersonal connection and fellowship, a vibrant education program is vital to a vibrant church. Yet most churches provide little or no training for their teachers. This seminar provides the following training:

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**Michael Whitworth**