



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 8 February 23, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

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.

You are invited to a

Spring Gospel Meeting

hosted by the

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

March 7 – 10, 2021

Islam in Christ's Eyes

A study of the origins of Islam and the Christian response

Sunday, March 7 – 9:30 am (Bible class hour)

The Quran or the Bible?

Sunday, March 7 – 10:30 am (Sermon in worship)

I am an Arab, and I am a Christian

Sunday, March 7 – 6:00 pm (Sermon in worship)

Abraham, Muhammad, and the

Golden Butterfly

Monday, March 8 – 7:00 pm

Evolution

Tuesday, March 9 – 7:00 pm

Islam Myth Buster

Wednesday, March 10 – 7:00 pm

For We Do Not Wrestle



Wissam Al-Aethawi
Dearborn, MI



Live stream will be available



South Florida Avenue church of Christ channel

A REASONABLE GOD

by Vince Daugherty

One of the most interesting things to read in the Bible is when God has a dialogue with individuals and man, in some sense, bargains with God. Even the statement "bargaining with God" seems almost blasphemous. Before one begins to pick up stones, think about some passages where God does enter into dialogue with individuals and changes His mind.

In Genesis 18:16-33, Abraham pleads on behalf of Sodom where his nephew, Lot, and his family lived. God tells Abraham that Sodom was to be destroyed, "Because of the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave." Abraham knows the character of God and pleads with Him saying, "would you destroy the righteous with the wicked?," and, "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the palace and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?" God, who has made up His mind to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, responds positively to Abraham's request, "If I find fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." This is an amazing dialogue between a man and God. Even more, God says He is willing to change His mind and relent if less righteous men can be found. Even further, Abraham negotiates to fewer and fewer righteous men that may be found in the city, and again, God is willing to negotiate. In the end, Genesis 19 reveals that there are not even 10 righteous men in the city. Only Lot and his family escape. One is left to wonder: would God have relented? Knowing the character of God and His truthfulness, I cannot see Him going back on His word. However, God knew that in those great cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, there were not even 10 righteous men to be found. His judgment was correct.

Another example of God's willingness to have a dialogue with a man can be found in II Kings 20:1-6. "Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet went to him and said, "thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.' Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord." God was listening when Hezekiah prayed in bitter anguish. The man of God Isaiah, who had just delivered the word of the Lord to Hezekiah, is then directed a second time to go back to Hezekiah and give him a new revelation from God. "And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him saying, 'Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer and I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you.'" This, in fact, does show that God is willing to change His mind in that He extended fifteen years to Hezekiah's life.

Yet another example we may find of God's willingness to listen and to change His mind comes from the record of Jonah. Jonah is so sure of God's willingness to extend grace and mercy he tries to shirk his duty as God's spokesman and flee in the opposite direction of his speaking engagement in Nineveh. The only record of Jonah's preaching was, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." (John 3:4). The people's response is to repent saying, "who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away His fierce anger, so that we may not perish." (John 3:9). "Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, He did not do it." (John 3:10). God again shows His willingness to enter a dialogue and to change His mind.

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~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

BIBLE TRIVIA ON KAHOOT!

Thursday, February 25

at 7:00 p.m.

Ask Vince for details.

Get ready for the quarterly
challenge
on March 3!!

Senior Saints

by John McShane

One of the things we need to remember as we go through life is that the day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit. In today's world, many want instant results for whatever they desire. Patience is not as prevalent today as it was when a lot of us seniors were young. I know that a lot of what I wanted right away turned out to be not what I needed and did not turn out to be what I expected. Having patience and thinking things through before asking for what we think we need can turn out to be very beneficial as we go through life.

As we see in Romans 8:25, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." And in Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Finally, in Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."



SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt
 Chuck Wyatt
 Adeline Hine
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Cieara Edwards
 Kathy Nester
 Sharon M. Washington
 Joyce Williams
 Sharon Roy
 Katrina Greene

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Jim Turner
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford
 Jim Edmonson
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Carol Edmonson
 Wayne Shearer
 Ingrid Stewart
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Margaret Coone
 George Davis
 Ray Nashick
 Edward Atkins

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Melody Baxter is following up with her doctor about her seizures.

Jim Edmonson has pneumonia again and is unable to transfer to the Rehab.

Katrina Greene, Virginia Walker's daughter, is awaiting biopsy reports.

Edward Atkins, FSOP student, has tested positive for Covid. He and the rest of the students and FSOP personnel are quarantined.

Geny Johnson is doing better with her recovery from surgery.

Gift cards for **Casey & Emily Paulin** are being collected by **Michelle Paulin** until the end of February (registries are on board)

TEACHERS and HELPERS

If you are scheduled to teach or to be a teacher's assistant next quarter (beginning March 14, 2021), please make plans to attend the Teacher Workshop on February 28th at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - the 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 morning worship service, March 14, 2021. The following nominees have been made: David Anderson (chairman); George French (vice-chairman); Brian Kenyon (treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominee's willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo David Anderson
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, February 28, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "What the Bible Says About Death"
 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "A Church Pleasing to God: Getting Worship Right"
 1 Timothy 2:1-15

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Jimmy Sweeney
 Greeters Sweeney
 Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Andre Medley
 Lord's Table Jeff Stewart
 Closing Prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Fife
 P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Jeff Stewart
 Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22.
 Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 7 \$8,087.00
 Feb. 14 \$5,665.00
 Feb. 21 \$6,918.00
 Contribution Average \$7,252.59

Focus

I had an issue I could not control and felt alone in my problems. I missed a day of church services that turned into three missed services. I found myself becoming angry. Anger is a natural feeling, but I wondered what Jesus would do. Then a couple of verses came to mind, "Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up'" (John 2:17). Also, I thought of, "Nor give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). Jesus got angry, too, but I was becoming fearful because I let the presence of the Lord slip from me and the issue consume me. I missed church services and did not read my Bible. I took the foundation right out from under my own feet. Anger is not what I want to focus on. I want to focus on the Lord's presence in my life.

I invite you to read the following verses to draw nearer to God, like I did: Psalm 105:4; First Samuel 1:26; Second Corinthians 4:14; First Chronicles 29:10; First Chronicles 16:11; Philippians 4:6.

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I can find at least three things that each of these accounts tells me about the character of God. #1 God is willing to listen. In each case, God is not arbitrarily handing out judgment like a toddler who sticks his fingers in his ears and screams, "I'm not listening." Thank God! #2 God is willing to forgive. Isa. 1:18 says, "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." God is not so rigid as to always dole out righteous punishment and destruction at the drop of a hat. He is gracious, not willing that any should perish, and desires to be merciful. #3 God delights in righteous repentance. Those who have done wrong are on the outside looking in at God's blessings. Punishment and destruction are deserved for those who do wickedly. But, those who humble themselves and are willing to confess their faults and turn to God for salvation can find it. It is not the judgment of God that brings about the change of humanity, but it is the knowledge that there is a path back. God is willing to have a dialogue, He is willing to listen, and He desires to forgive.

How to honor God at work

Remember God's your boss

Colossians 3:23-25

Shine your light

Matthew 5:16

Do your best

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Be honorable

Romans 12:17

Provide for your family

1 Timothy 5:8

Share with the needy

Ephesians 4:28

Refuse laziness

2 Thessalonians 3:10

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O
MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND
WHAT DOES THE LORD
REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO
JUSTLY, TO LOVE MERCY,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH
YOUR GOD?

MICAH 6:8