

Allow "No Garbage In"

There was a popular saying in the early days of computers that said, "Garbage in, garbage out." What that meant was that the computer only does what it is programmed to do (which is still true!). Thus, if the computer acts up, it is not the computer's fault; the computer is only doing what it was programmed to do. This principle is also true when it comes to our programming of our own minds. A wise man said that as a person "thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). What we put into our minds shapes our attitudes and actions. If we constantly bombard our minds with worldliness, guess how we will start thinking and acting? Where, for example, do Christians ever get the idea that it is okay to wear see-thru tops showing cleavage or sag their pants so their boxers are showing or tattoo and pierce their bodies in every conceivable place? From studying their Bibles? From imitating Christ? Or from meditating on worldliness? From admiring and wanting to be like the carnally minded? Let us not fill our minds with the garbage of this world, but rather meditate on things that are "true ... noble ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report ... praiseworthy" according to the truth of God's word! ❤️ *Brian Kenyon*



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit No. 254



Return Service Requested

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



Sunday, March 9 will be the next L2L day. Our young people and their mentors are working very hard. Stay tuned for announcements concerning individual practices before then.

Saturday, March 15 There will be a youth devotional and activity at the Kenyons. It will be a mostly outside event, weather permitting. Dress appropriately and bring a chair!

Weekend, April 18-20 is the "big meeting" (aka L2L Convention). Adult chaperons to help keep track of kids would be appreciated. See Brian if you can help.

Sunday, April 27 will be the L2L banquet after morning services honoring our participants. Stay tuned for announcements on place.

Ladies Day
Ladies Day, Saturday, May 3, 2014. It's not too early for our young ladies to plan to be involved!

Save the Date **VBS** June 22-26



Great American Cleanup, March 22, 8:30 a.m. at Highland City Elementary. Join

the youth group as we have fun helping beautify the community!

THE ORANGE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Has invited our youth to participate in their youth group's progressive dinner, March 22, beginning at 3:00 pm

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. 67 No. 10 3 -11-14

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
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

WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Is Faithful Attendance Important?

Mark N. Posey

For Christians, there is no substitute for attending church. Many people, however, go to church if they feel they “need it” at the time. Christian motivation for fellowship must be to obey God and to give to others. It is important to attend church to express our Love for God and to build up our spiritual strength. However, what happens to us when we habitually forsake the assembly?

You will begin to drift (Hebrews 2:1). Slip (*pararheo*) means, “to flow past, glide by, drift away” (Vine’s, V.1, 339). A ship loosed from its moorings drifts out to sea. Christians leave the church by gradually and subtly forsaking the assembly. They drift away and become erring Christians (cf. Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 2:21-22).

You will begin to doubt (Hebrews 3:12-13). The Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness because of their distrust in God (Psalm 95). Yet, the Lord wants spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2; 3:18). The Corinthians did not grow (1 Corinthians 3:1-4). Those that stop growing are “blind, and cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:9). We must grow or we will die!

You will become dull of hearing (Hebrews 5:11). The Hebrews had become dull of hearing, which caused their spiritual development to completely stop (5:11). Dull (*nothros*) means, “slow, sluggish, lazy” (Vine’s, V.1, 343). Lazy Christians cultivate no home for the Word in their hearts. Their hearts are crowded with worldly cares.

You will backslide (Hebrews 6:4-6). Remember there is a great difference between falling and falling away. Falling away is not just falling into some sin; it is actually departing from Jesus Himself. Hebrews is filled with warnings against turning away from Jesus Christ, the only source of salvation (2:1-3; 3:12-14; 4:1, 11; 10:26-39; 12:25).

You will face the wrath of the Living God (Hebrews 10:31). It is fearful indeed to one day face the God that has been rejected and offended so greatly! The Christian emphasis must be in accordance with 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.”

In conclusion, there is great danger in forsaking the assembly! A Christian has a biblical obligation to be faithful in attendance of the assembling of Christ’s church.

Are You Fully Committed?

David R. Kenney

In Patrick Morley's book, *Devotions for the Man in the Mirror*, he touches on a point that I have often thought about relating to commitment. He writes: "Over the past few decades, many of us started off on the wrong foot with Jesus Christ. It is the proposition that Jesus can be 'Savior' without being 'Lord.' It is the idea that one can 'add' Christ, but not 'subtract' sin. Many of us have merely added Christ to our lives as another interest in an already busy and otherwise over-crowded schedule..." (13-14).

When my son was learning to walk, we would walk behind him with our arms stretched out like guardrails with hands at the ready to catch him if he stumbled. We would wobble behind him as he wobbled across the floor for the first times. Eventually, we did not need to follow behind him any longer in this fashion. Why? Because he learned to walk on his own. It would be an odd sight for me to walk behind him in that fashion now. In fact, if I did he would probably say, "Cut that out!"

When people first become Christians, they need mature Christians to walk beside them as I walked alongside my son ready to steady him if he stumbled. Just as babies learn to walk on their own as their bodies physically develop, so should new Christians be able to walk spiritually on their own. They ought to be able walk with Christ on their spiritual journey to live in the heavenly home with Him. They should not require the same level of "hand holding" from other Christians.

Now, I am not speaking about needing encouragement. We all could use encouragement from fellow Christians — one of the reasons we assemble together. However, there comes a time when we ought to be able to stand and walk on our own. We ought to become the mature Christians walking with new converts as they start their spiritual journey. If not, then something is wrong and out of place just as if I was still following my 11-year-old son around as if he was 11 months old.

If a person is not maturing the way he should, then what might be the problem? Maybe he thought, as Morley suggests, that he accepted Jesus as his Savior but was not looking for a Lord. Perhaps, he needs to be reminded that Christianity is not just something one adds to his digital calendar when he can fit it in. Christianity is a transformation of one's entire life (Romans 12:1-2). If our calendars are just too busy for worship and service in the church, then we need to clean our calendars!

Perhaps, we need to be reminded that Jesus will not accept a life partially dedicated to Him! "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33 NKJV). "And another also said, 'Lord, I will follow you, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.' But Jesus said to him 'No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'" (Luke 9:61-62).

We need to remember that people are judging our commitment to Christ; they are watching us. Also, Jesus is judging our words, actions and our hearts. "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me"(Matthew 15:8). If you are able to do more for the Lord and His church, then do it! If you have to be asked to attend services, to participate in worship, to teach class or to get involved, then perhaps you are not maturing. Could this stem from a commitment problem? Jesus is both the Lord and Savior of mankind! Be fully committed and dedicated!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Antonio Martin is having medical problems.

Jim Turner, Ron Ford, Jacquelin Dopwell, Sam Bolding, Artis Bassett, Duane Nelson, Ann Howard, JoAnn Hobbback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Becky Sheumakers's niece, Rachel Stewart was injured in a 4-wheeler accident and is recuperating at home in Mississippi. Dorothy Trice fell twice Sunday. Allen Cooper, Gary Thrower, Danny Stephens & Lewis Tillis.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

Others: Alison Bridgemohan, Frances Carn, Marilyn Eick, Frank Woods, Timothy Teel, Ann Caldwell, Michael Ray, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

Upcoming Events

Mar. 15th: Semi Annual Picnic/Sing @ Mary Holland Park, Bartow -- N. Jackson Ave. will host this event.

March 15th: First Ladies Inspiration Day at Skyview Church of Christ. Time is 8:00 am for breakfast.

Mar. 22nd: - "Great American Clean Up" at Highland City Elementary School. All youth & adults who are able to participate, please let Jagie Kenyon know.

Mar. 23-27th: - Gospel Meeting at 6th Street. **Please check bulletin board for all the above events.**

March 30th - Apr. 2nd: - Gospel Meeting here at So. Florida Avenue. Please make plans to attend every service. Jay Lockhart will be the speaker.

Visitors

Patricia Haynes, John Osborn, Tiffany Jackson, Eddie & Kim Mason, Miriam Small, Mr. & Mrs. Gareth Williams, Melinda Yates & Tyler, Cassandra, Ebany, Joliya & M.J. Green.

Sympathy

Brother Kenny Luigs passed away February 28, 2014 at the age of 95 years. The funeral will take place at Lakeland Funeral Home March 5, 2014. The viewing will be from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The funeral service will begin at 3:00 PM.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Paul Romine Table David Anderson
Kenny French Assist..... Jeremy Padilla

March 9, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer..... Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C. J. Grimes
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams
Greeters The D. Anderson Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Paul Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 12, 2014

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Antonio Martin
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

Sunday, March 16, 2014
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Brian Kenyon
Prayer..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Greeters The Bingle Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 19, 2014

Song Leader Antonio Martin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Feb. 09	\$4,427.30
Feb. 16	\$4,432.00
Feb. 23	\$3,990.00
Mar. 02	\$6,416.00
Contribution Average.....	\$4,494.83
2014 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Old Age"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

