



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

IS IT A MATTER OF FACT?

Vince Daugherty

In science classes today the atheistic and evolutionary perspective is presented as a matter of fact. We are almost 100 years removed from the landmark “Scopes Trial” in which a public school teacher was put on trial for teaching evolution in the state of Tennessee in 1925. The trial was more a publicity stunt to divide religion and science than an actual trial. From that time forward society has pushed harder and harder to take God and Scripture out of the picture. Our country and our world are now reaping the whirlwind of the consequences for the things in which we believe (or don’t believe). The moral makeup of our society is a consequence of our deeply held beliefs. What has influenced those beliefs? It is a consequence of rejecting that there is a God and adopting an evolutionary perspective. However, a question arises, has the atheistic and evolutionary perspective been proven? For exercise purposes, let’s take the perspective that these things have been proven.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

There is a basic fact that few (in the right minds) would dispute: life exists. A fundamental question arises--how did life get here. From the atheistic perspective, this presents a difficult question to answer. In the time of the 13 Century one man, Siger of Brabant argued that there was no first man; that the physical universe was eternal. His theory has now been rejected by the vast majority of scientists who do believe that there was indeed a beginning. Most scientists would ascribe to the Big Bang Theory and that the age of the universe is finite, having a beginning and will at some point come to an end. One of the most popular theories about the origins of life is that life just simply found a way--chemicals came together on their own by a great chance event that sparked life. However, there is a major problem at the outset, it contradicts a known law of science. The law of biogenesis states, “The principle that life arises from pre-existing life, not from nonliving material” (biologyonline.com). This was proved famously by the scientist Louis Pasteur. For a long time, people believed in spontaneous generation, that living things could arise from non-living things. In 1864 Pasteur disproved the theory. He set up an experiment in which he took two flasks with chicken broth. The one flask allowed for exposure to the air while the other was sealed. The one exposed to the air developed a film of bacteria because of microbes present in the air. The sealed flask grew none. Spontaneous generation was disproved. Pasteur concluded “all life from life.” For the atheistic scientist to say that life came from non-life is to take the position contrary to a proven law of science.

CAN LIFE FIND A WAY?

Despite our knowledge that life only comes from life, atheistic and evolutionary scientists still point to “proofs” that life can in fact come from nonlife. In 1952 Stanley Miller and Harold Urey conducted a chemical experiment at the University of Chicago in which they created a closed environment and introduced specific chemicals, along with water, and electric shocks to “simulate” earth’s atmosphere to see if they could combine the non-living chemicals in such a way to produce something living. At the conclusion of the experiment, they were able to collect a solution that had a handful of amino acids, some of which are necessary for life. The atheistic/evolutionary scientific community applauded the experiment as a landmark study proving that life can come from non-life. Before we close the case and toss out the Bible-thumpers, some objections must be heard.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S A PROBLEM

One problem with the famous experiment is, Miller and Urey produced amino acids, not life. Amino acids are indeed a tiny minuscule building block necessary for life, amino acids are not life. To compare, think about constructing a building with just a handful of chemicals. Let's say I combine them in the right way and shock them to create clay. Clay can be used and mixed to make brick, and that can be used by an intelligent and skilled craftsman to construct a building. But to say I have made a building by making clay is a long way from reality. Another problem with the experiment was the selection of chemicals. Miller and Urey specifically left oxygen out of the experiment knowing that oxygen would break down anything they combined. Miller and Urey hand-selected chemicals they thought may come together to make life without taking into account what Earth's atmosphere was like. Oxygen makes up 20% of our atmosphere and is necessary for the vast majority of organisms to survive. Even atheist scientists believe that the earth's atmosphere had oxygen in the beginning. A final and almost humorous problem is that despite the thousands of hours of work on the experiment, these intelligent scientists could not create the right conditions for life. No doubt these men were very learned and intelligent. Despite their intellect and efforts, they could only create a minuscule building

block necessary for life. When we observe the world and life all around we see intelligence and organization on such a level that demands an Intelligent Designer.

JUST STICK WITH THE FACTS

In reaction to the Miller-Urey experiments, theologian Bernard Ramm wrote, "Those who believe it [creation], may do so without fear of contravening scientific a fact," and, "Science is still unable to put forward any satisfactory explanation as to how life arose in the first place" (The Christian View of Science and Scripture, 183). Biologist Johnathan Wells said, "[W]e remain profoundly ignorant of how life originated. Yet the Miller-Urey experiment continues to be used as an icon of evolution, because nothing better has turned up. Instead of being told the truth, we are given the misleading impression that scientists have empirically demonstrated the first step in the origin of life" (Icons of Evolution, 24). This is important because those fundamental beliefs shape our view of reality, and how we view reality affects how we live and operate in the world. Scripture teaches "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). It is harder when I try to take God out of the picture. I am left with more questions than I have answers. Even if the whole world rejects God and the Bible, "let God be true but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).

YOUTH GROUP

Vince Daugherty

Do you have to see something personally to believe it? Have you ever been to China before? Have you ever met George Washington? No! Then how do you know they exist(ed)? Though I have never been to China nor have I witnessed George Washington alive in the flesh, I believe in them based on reading, hearing stories, and believing reports about them. In Scripture, Jesus did not begin His ministry until after John the Baptist was put in prison. John had not personally seen the things Jesus was doing, so John was not completely convinced about Jesus' identity. John sent some of his disciples to Jesus asking Him directly if He was indeed the Christ. When John's disciples came to Jesus, first they saw Jesus "that very hour... cure many infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight" (Luke 7:21). Then when they asked Jesus the question about His identity, He responded, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them" (v. 22). Finally He said, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me" (v. 23). Jesus expected John to believe based on the report that his disciples would bring him. It works that way with our faith today. I was not there when Jesus walked the earth or when He rose from the dead, but by faith in Scripture and the testimony it holds, I believe those things are just as true as China and George Washington. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
- Jesus*

Losing track of what's important.

Wayne Shearer

I have been visiting with my Mom for the last week or so while she has been in the hospital. Sometimes I think of what a disruption it is for me and not taking the time to be thankful she is still with us, as hard as it can be on all of us. I have to remember all the years she was with me when I was the disruptive one in her life. She isn't the Mother I had, but she still is the woman who gave me life. Then I compare my relationship with Jesus and how I treat Him because my life with Him is like a mirror version of the same. I pray that my Lord Jesus forgives me on both accounts and helps me in both relationships and how I live them. Thank you, Jesus, for all you do.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Carol Eason - sick
 Toney Wilson - sick
 David Anderson - post op

PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane - moving
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - health
 Anita Shearer - health
 Bill Long - rehab & covid
 Charles Paulin - health

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer
Please call before visiting

Daylight Savings Time begins this weekend!



Elders, Deacons, and Preachers meeting
 Sunday, March 13, 4:00 pm



Sisters Sending Sunshine reveal will be on
 Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. at Rene's home.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
 SFA VBS IS JUNE 5 - JUNE 9, 2022
 MORE DETAILS TO COME

Let's Pray!

let's Study

Evangelism prayer time -

Sunday, 5:45 pm

Ladies prayer night - Tuesday,
 March 15 at 6:00 pm via zoom

Romans class - Mondays, 7 pm

Ladies class - Wednesday, 10 am

Ladies class - Thursday, 7 pm

Fran Gabaldon's new address is posted on the bulletin board

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Devo Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, March 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Let Us Sing with Joy to the Lord"
 Psalm 95

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Good"
 Romans 8:28

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) J. Sweeney
 Greeters Paulin
 Song/prayer before class Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
 Lord's Table Kyle Faneuf
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Kyle Faneuf
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen
 Greeters N. Williams

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Upcoming Events

March

13 - Daylight Savings
 19 - Secret Sister
 Reveal, 10am
 19 - Men's breakfast, 9a
 Orange St.
 22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm
 Joinery, meet at bldg
 27-30 - Spring Gospel
 Meeting

April

2 - Kissimmee ladies day
 3 - Potvin baby shower
 3 - fellowship in-service
 10 - Elders/deacons mtg
 12 - SFA Men's breakfast
 16 - Men's breakfast

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb 20 \$6,082.00
 Feb 27 \$5,500.00
 Mar 6 \$8,185.00
 Contribution Average \$6,664.80
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

I read a blog by June Maffin that stated, "no matter how small or how little evidence of light there is, sunflowers seek out the light, hold their heads high, and are a symbol of loyalty to something brighter and bigger than themselves." Wow, sounds like a great description of how a Christian should live!

When sunflowers are young, they follow the Sun from early morning till late night – every day without fail. As a Christian, we too should follow the Son daily, from sun up to sundown! The Bible tells us to search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). As parents, we should also train our children from a very young age to follow the Son. Ephesians 6:4 tells us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The ultimate goal of a sunflower is seed production. As Christians, that is our goal as well, to plant the seeds of the gospel (Matt 8:19-20)

Sunflowers need both sun and rain to grow! We too need sun and rain to grow. Ecclesiastes 3:4,11 tells us that there is "a time for everything; a time to weep and a time to laugh; He has made everything beautiful in his time." Without rain the flower would dry up and without sun it would drown from the rain. God gives us a balance of trials and blessings to keep us humble and so we will grow to be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. In Matthew 5 we read that Christians will experience blessings as well as persecution. Verse 45 says, "he makes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Romans 5:3-4 remind us that we are to glory when we go through trials for they help us grow. May we strive to be as the sunflower and always follow the Son. Let us grow through what we go through, whether it be sunshine or rain, blessing or pain. 1 Peter 4:12-19



Casey with the South Florida Avenue eldership



When Jesus said to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), many people automatically assume that in order to fulfill this, overseas work is required.

Such, of course, is not true. Our next-door neighbor would be included in "all the world." We appreciate Casey and Emily Paulin's willingness to move to Huron, South Dakota, in order to encourage the local church there and to teach the gospel to people who are lost in sin. We thank

Casey for enlightening us Sunday night on their mission work with the Wisconsin Avenue church of Christ. SFA is honored to oversee his support and to be able to help monthly. We are not able to fully support them. If you would like to help, over and above your first day of the week contribution, or know congregations that possibly could, please let the elders know. Only when a person "believes and is baptized" can he or she "be saved" (Mark 16:16)!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

**Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of
the Lord,
praise the name of
the Lord!**

Psalm 113:1



If you would prefer to receive the bulletin via email, email us.