

# 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. 69 No.9 03-01-16

## ELDERS

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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.

## 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.

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

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

## Going from or Going to

*Wade Webster*

Someone observed, "If your treasure is on earth, you are going from it; if it is in heaven, you are going to it" (Blanchard, John. *Gathered Gold*. Durham, England: Evangelical Press, 1989, p. 271). Are we going from or going to our treasures? I believe that this is a question that each of us needs to seriously consider.

The New Testament makes it clear that our treasure is supposed to be in heaven. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). It seems clear that many in Jesus' day had their treasures on the earth. For them, life was all about the treasures that they had here (Luke 12:15). Mammon was their master (Matthew 6:24).

The rich young ruler is a great example of a man who had his treasure upon the earth. Matthew records, "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matthew 19:16-22). For the rich young ruler, following Jesus was going from rather than to his treasures.

I am afraid that many today are like the rich young ruler. The journey to heaven would involve going from rather than to their treasures. Their affections are on things on the earth, rather than on things in heaven (Colossians 3:2). Let's never forget that whatever treasures we have here will one day be left behind. The only things that we will have for eternity are the things that we have laid up in heaven.

# The Measure of Devotion

*David A. Sargent*

Following the July 1-3, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War, a section of the battlefield was designated as a cemetery for the soldiers slain in the battle. A ceremony was planned for November 19, 1863 for the “Consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.” Edward Everett was selected to give the chief oration. President Abraham Lincoln was invited to formally dedicate the site. The organizational committee expressed to President Lincoln: “It is the desire that, after the Oration, you, as Chief Executive of the nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks.”

These “few appropriate remarks” – the Gettysburg Address – that Lincoln would share on that historic occasion have come to be regarded as one of the greatest speeches in American history. In just over two minutes, Lincoln “examined the founding principles of the United States in the context of the Civil War, and he memorialized the sacrifices of those who gave their lives at Gettysburg and extolled virtues for the listeners (and the nation) to ensure the survival of America’s representative democracy (Wikipedia).

Although the President was asked to dedicate the ground for the cemetery, he concluded his address with a challenge to the living:

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

There is an even greater cause for which Jesus Christ, God’s Son, was willing to give “the last full measure of devotion.” The “cause” was the plan of God for the salvation of man that would be accomplished through the death (and resurrection!) of His Son as payment for the sins of mankind.

Man’s greatest problem has always been sin! Sin leads to eternal destruction (see Matthew 7:13-14). Yet, God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross that we might be redeemed (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus expressed “the last full measure of devotion” to His heavenly Father and to accomplishing His Father’s will by giving His life for us.

In order to accept the Father’s offer of salvation and life, one must place his faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31) confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27).

Then (adapting Lincoln’s words to reflect spiritual truths), out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us, we should “take increased devotion to that cause for which [Jesus] gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that [Jesus] shall not have died in vain — that [all those who accept Christ’s offer], shall have a new birth of freedom” – freedom from the bondage of sin and death. “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). Won’t you accept His offer of freedom, salvation and life?

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Betty Thornhill is still in critical condition. She has been taken off most medications and has been moved to palliative care. Jacquelin Dopwell will have lung surgery on Tuesday. Also keep Janet Crosby, Grace McAnally, Ron Ford, Dolly Martin, Don & Debbie Horsley, Ginny Hamby, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, Billy Moore, Alyssa Buckner, Henry Enamorado (Lorelly, Zsazeli, and Ian's father) who is scheduled for brain surgery on Tuesday, Cory Estridge (Josh Estridge's father) has been discharged from L.R.M.C. with a diagnosis of dehydration.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Claud Romine, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Betty Thornhill and Sharon Edler.

**Others:** Chrissi Fuesner and Sandy Given. Please pray for all of these.

## Upcoming Events

**March 6th:** Fellowship In-Service after evening services. Please bring finger foods.

**March 12th:** Egg Hunt at the Bingles at 10:00 a.m.

**March 11th-13th:** Ladies Retreat at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp. The flyer is on the bulletin board for more details.

**March 15th:** Florida School of Preaching Ladies Class at 7:00 p.m.

**March 19th:** Semi Annual Picnic and Sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow hosted by Jackson Ave. Church of Christ. Lunch at noon. Activities starting at 11:00 a.m.

**March 20th-23rd:** Gospel Meeting here at South Florida Ave. Church of Christ with Melvin Otey.

## Response

Kyle Bingle responded and asked for prayers during the Y.E.S. week-end. Please help us all to encourage our young people.

## Congratulations

Eunice Powell, Barbara Paulins mother, grandmother to Stacey, Rene and Kevin and great grandmother to Marissa, Casey, Heidi and Kyle turned 100 years old on February 29th.

## Visitors

Ron Brooks, Louise Stewart, Inez Brookes, Eddie Nunn, and Amanda Patterson.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### March

C.J. Grimes..... **Table** ..... David Williams  
Antonio Martin..... **Assist** ..... Tucker Sweeney

**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... David Williams

**10:30 A.M.**

**Announcements**..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Anderson

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Stricklands  
**Att. Cards**..... Ian & Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Open & Close Building**..... Fred Strickland

**Wed. March 9, 2016**

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

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

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

**10:30 A.M.**

**Announcements**..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Sermon**..... Bob McAnally  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kyle Williams

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon**..... Brian Kenyon  
**Greeters**..... The Fifes  
**Att. Cards**..... Sebastian & Quadarius  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker  
**Open & Close Building**..... Fred Strickland

**Wed. March 16, 2016**

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

**Feb. 07**..... **\$5,215.60**  
**Feb. 14**..... **\$5,077.00**  
**Feb. 21**..... **\$5,631.00**  
**Feb. 28**..... **\$6,392.70**  
**Contribution Average**..... **\$5,152.34**  
**2016 Weekly Budget**..... **\$4,422.60**

# Keeping the Faith When Suffering Loss

Suffering loss is part of human existence. Job said, "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue" (Job 14:1-2). Job knew suffering first hand. In a single day, he lost his property, his servants, and his children (Job 1:6-19). Then, a short time after this, he lost his health (Job 2:7-10). Yet Job remained faithful through it all (Job 1:20-22; 42:8). Others have also suffered loss, yet remained faithful. There are at least three traits we can build that will help us remain faithful when suffering loss. First, have faith in God. This involves a life-long building upon God's truth. This is why Solomon's words are so worthy of application: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). We must prepare before the storms of life hit (Matthew 7:24-25). God will sustain us through any storm of life, even losing the very closest to us (Matthew 6:33). Second, trust God's providence. Providence is God's working behind the scenes non-miraculously. We do not know exactly how God does this, but we have His promises that He does. No matter what may happen, God can make something good come out of it. Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Like in Job's case, suffering usually involves events beyond our control. Rest assured, though, that no outside force can keep the faithful Christian from glory with God forever (Romans 8:28-30)! Third, understand the *(continued below)*



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

## What's Happening

**Thursday, March 3** and **Thursday and Friday, March 10-11** We will work on our scrapbook. Meet in the fellowship room @ 6 p.m.

**Sunday, March 13** We will have our next L2L day. All our young people who are going to Orlando should attend. We will finalize everything for the big meeting! We will meet in the fellowship room. Stay tuned for the time.

**Sunday, March 25-27** Will be the Lads Leaders Convention. Please pray for our young people and their chaperones as they travel and participate.

**Thanks to our elders, adult chaperones, and young people who made YES a success!**



*(continued from above)* afterlife. This world is not our home (Hebrews 11:8-10). Life is temporary (2 Corinthians 4:17-5:2). Jesus has gone to prepare a place for God's people, and "if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3). When we know that for Christians there is a much better place waiting, it is easier to stay faithful when suffering loss. As humans, we will suffer loss, but may we remember that God will not forsake us, but He will see us through! ❤️ *Brian*



Our young people and their chaperones are gearing up for a mission trip to Nicaragua **June 25 thru July 3**. If you want to make a special contribution to this work, please see the elders.