

# WHAT IS GOD-ORDAINED MARRIAGE?

Spring is a popular time for couples to get married. God created marriage on the sixth day of creation. In Genesis 2, inspiration details certain parts of creation. In Genesis 2:24, God concluded His special creation of the woman, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." God-ordained marriage, therefore, consists of a five-fold relationship.<sup>1</sup> First, God-ordained marriage is a monogamous (heterosexual) relationship. "A man ... and his wife" for life! Second, God-ordained marriage is a companionship relationship. Eve was created to be a "helper comparable [help meet, KJV]." The husband is not a slave master nor is the wife the head (nor the "neck that turns the head"). They are to be side by side, inherently equal but instrumentally different, with unique roles in the home and the church. Third, God-ordained marriage is an interdependent relationship. Note: it is *inter*-dependent, not independent. Each is to "leave ... father and mother." This means that they rely on one another. When the going gets tough, they work it out, not run back to mom and dad. Fourth, God-ordained marriage is a commitment relationship. They are to "cleave" to one another. This means to be glued to one another! The "D-word" should not even be considered an option after marriage. Fifth, God-ordained marriage is permanent. "One flesh" certainly involves the sexual relationship, but even more significant is the permanency. As long as husband and wife are in the flesh, they are one with each other—"what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). Let us respect God's design! ❤️ *Brian*

Endnote <sup>1</sup> Adapted from notes taken in marriage and the family class taught by Sammy Jones at FHU in 1993.



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
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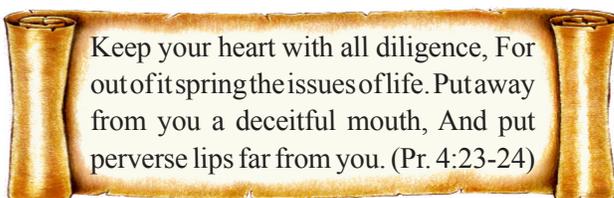
The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



**Sunday, April 13** will be our final L2L Sunday before the big meeting in Orlando! We will hone our skills in the events taking place there (speech, song leading, etc.). Thanks for all your help!  
**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. As mentioned before, we are thinking of having it at a restaurant.

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, being salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16)!

## **THE ORANGE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST**

invites our youth to be a part of their youth's progressive dinner on March 22, beginning at their church building at 3:00 pm. We must provide our own drivers.

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

*A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.*  
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## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

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Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

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## 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

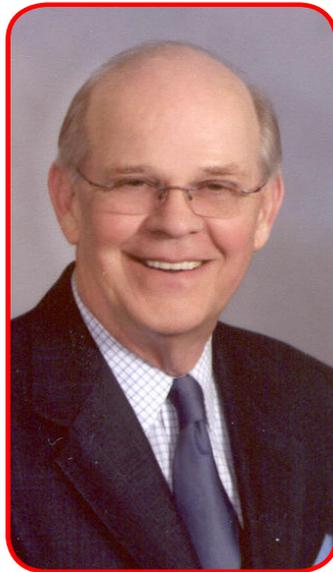
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## WEB PAGES

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

You Are Invited . . .

# GOSPEL MEETING



**Jay Lockhart**

**Jay Lockhart** has been preaching for the Whitehouse, Texas, church of Christ since 2011. He graduated from Freed-Hardeman College (University) in 1958 (AA); David Lipscomb College (University) in 1961 (BA); Harding Graduate School of Religion in 1969 (MA); and Trinity Theological Seminary in 1991 (Ph D). He has also served other Texas churches of Christ full-time, as well as churches of Christ in Kentucky and Oklahoma.

He is past President of the Board of Education, Fort Bend County, Texas. He has served on the Board of Trustees at Freed-Hardeman University since 1997. He has traveled extensively in the interest of New Testament Christianity in Canada, England, Italy, Israel, Russia, and Africa.

He has written articles and books, including a commentary on Ephesians for the Truth for Today series, and has coauthored *The Glory of Preaching*, which emphasizes the importance of expository preaching. He is one of the editors of *Think Magazine* published by Focus Press. He and his wife, Arlene, have three children and six grandchildren.

**Chad Tagtow** will be leading our singing. This will be a GREAT meeting in every way. Let's come early and enjoy the great singing and great preaching.



**Sunday Mar. 30**

**9:30 a.m.** - The Majesty of God

**10:30 a.m.** - The Worship of the Church

**Lunch provided** (visitors welcome)

**6:00 p.m.** - The Identity of Christ

**Mon. Mar. 31, 7 p.m.**

The Words of the Holy Spirit

**Tues. Apr. 1, 7 p.m.**

The Church of the New Testament

**Wed. Apr. 2, 7 p.m.**

The Identity of Christ

**A Warm Welcome Is Extended To All**

# What Makes God Cry?

Jerry Bates

We are all familiar with death. We are all too familiar with the sadness and grief associated with the loss of a dear loved one in this life. We must never forget that God is concerned with our sorrow. In John 11:35, we find the shortest verse in the Bible, which simply says, “*Jesus wept.*” This is a short verse with much meaning. This one verse shows the humanity of Jesus in such a tender way. Jesus as God in the flesh is deeply touched by the sorrow he sees exhibited by Mary and Martha in the loss of their beloved brother Lazarus. Sometimes, we wonder why Jesus is weeping when He knows that Lazarus will live again very shortly. Most likely, He is weeping out of a sympathetic heart for the sadness He sees in the hearts of His dear friends. This is in contrast to the pagan conception of gods, who are not touched with the feelings and infirmities of man. Their gods may weep for themselves, but in their legends, they neither weep for man nor do they sympathize with man. This verse should clearly remind us that God is still there for us even in the greatest of tragedies.

I believe that a more important point needs to be made along this line. We normally think that the greatest loss and the greatest grief that can be experienced by man is the loss of a loved one due to death. I agree that indeed, it is a deep loss, and it is right and proper that we mourn and weep over the death of a loved one. While we see Jesus weeping over the death of Lazarus, this is not the strongest kind of weeping. In the Greek, the word translated “wept” in John 11:35 means to shed tears or to weep silently. Thus, we see that while Jesus was certainly weeping, it was not the loud wailing that we often associate with death.

There is a stronger word for weeping that means to sob or weep aloud. This is the strongest word for weeping in the Greek language and is used only one time regarding to our Lord. It is found in Luke 19:41, “*Now as he drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.*” On this occasion, Jesus was descending from the Mount of Olives from which there is a magnificent view of the whole city of Jerusalem. Jesus knew what was going to happen to the city, but He also knew that it was unnecessary. The citizens of Jerusalem could have been saved if they had only turned to Jesus and God, but they refused. Even while Jesus was speaking these words, the Jewish leaders were looking for a way to kill Jesus while not arousing the anger of the people. As the commentator William Barclay aptly wrote, “*The tears of Jesus are the tears of God when He sees the needless pain and suffering in which men involve themselves through their foolish rebellion against His will.*” The significant point of this is that while God is concerned with any grief of His people, it seems that God is most deeply grieved for the spiritual loss and the needless suffering of His people.

I especially appreciate the picturesque language used in Matthew’s account of this occasion. Matthew wrote in 23:37, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*” There used to be a TV commercial depicting a Native American Indian sitting on a horse looking over a polluted world. Tears were streaming down his face as he viewed the horrible scene. I imagine a similar scene in this passage in Matthew. You can see the tears in Jesus’ eyes and hear the pain in His voice as He utters these words and views the sinful and spiritually polluted city of Jerusalem.

The greatest loss of man is not physical death or destruction, but the loss of our souls. God sent His Son to prevent that, but far too often men today are just like the people of Jerusalem in the long ago. They could be saved, but they are not willing. We greatly grieve over the loss of a family member or material possessions, but we seem to care little over the possible loss of our souls. That is a loss, which undoubtedly grieves God beyond our comprehension, and to make the loss even sadder is the fact that it is all unnecessary. It does not have to happen! It can all be avoided if man will simply turn to Jesus and His word. Will you not decide to obey Jesus today?

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner was scheduled for surgery on Tuesday for an aneurism. Jacquelin Dopwell was to have surgery on Tuesday also. Sam Bolding, Artis Bassett, Duane Nelson, Ann Howard, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Gary Thrower, Danny Stephens & Lewis Tillis.

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

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

## Upcoming Events

**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 times of services.**

**Mar. 28th -29th:** - Annual Men's Retreat @ FFA Leadership Center (Between Lake Wales & Haines City).

**Mar. 30th:** - After our morning worship service, we will have a meal together in the fellowship hall. All our guests are invited to stay. Members, please bring food for your family & extra for our guests.

**Apr. 18th -20th:** - Lads to Leaders Convention in Orlando. If you could be a chaperon for a day, half a day or an hour, it would be appreciated.

**Apr. 27th:** Lads to Leaders banquet- More details later.

**May 2nd - 4th:** - Weeki Wachee Spring Youth Retreat. If you plan to go, we have registration forms in the office.

**May 3rd:** - "Ladies Day" at South Florida Avenue Church of Christ in Lakeland,

## Visitors

Adam Black, Lawanda Blake, Tamyia & Myisha. Edith Byrd, Shelby & Kim Cox, Patricia Haynes, Tiffany Jackson, Penny Laing, Alicia Smith & Latrale, Arsenio Woodard.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### March

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

March 23, 2014  
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class ..... Ken Walker  
Prayer..... David Williams

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
Opening Prayer ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
Closing Prayer ..... Frank Hamby

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Opening Prayer ..... Steve Hunley  
Closing Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
Greeters ..... The Williams Family  
Att. Cards..... Qaudarius Askew & Sebastian Rapley  
Open & Close Building ..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 26, 2014

Song Leader ..... Kyle Bingle  
Opening Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857*

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

Song at Bible Class ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Prayer..... Kyle Williams

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
Opening Prayer ..... Jim Turner  
Closing Prayer ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Opening Prayer ..... Ken Walker  
Closing Prayer ..... Jason Hendrix  
Greeters ..... Frank & Ginny Hamby  
Att. Cards..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney  
Open & Close Building ..... Fred Strickland

Wed. April 2, 2014

Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
Opening Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
Closing Prayer ..... C. J. Grimes

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Feb. 23 .....	\$3,990.00
Mar. 02 .....	\$6,416.00
Mar. 09 .....	\$4,620.31
Mar. 16 .....	\$4,681.00
Contribution Average .....	\$4,523.16
2014 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,256.38

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

**"Walking The Walk"**

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

