

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. 70 No. 012 03-21-17

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

Robert McAnally
(863) 606-5664

SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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.

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

March 26-29

Gospel Meeting

with Alan Highers

Preacher, Debater, Writer, Lawyer, Judge, and Editor

Sunday Services, March 26, 2017

Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

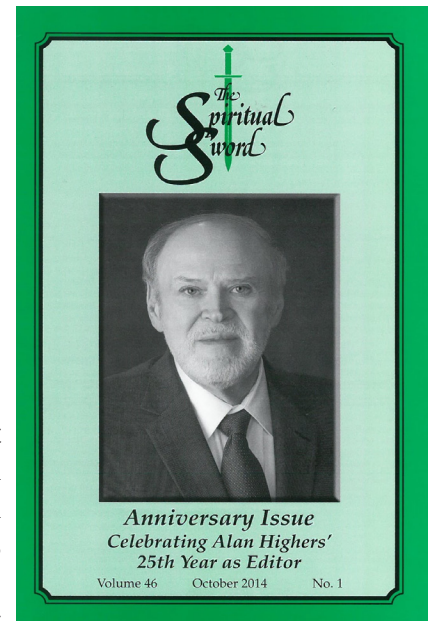
**Lunch Provided @ 11:45
(Visitors Welcome!)**

Worship @ 6:00 p.m.

Monday thru Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Alan has preached for over 60 years. During that time, he has also conducted numerous debates on crucial subjects. While serving as a preacher, Alan attended and graduated law school at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis).

He practiced law for a few years before being appointed as a special judge in the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. In 1977, he was appointed to the Circuit Court, and in 1982, he was appointed to serve in the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He retired in 2014 from the court system. Throughout all his years in the judicial system, he continued to preach, promote, and defend the Gospel. Since 1989, he has edited the *Spiritual Sword*.



Let's Invite Our Friends & Neighbors!

Christianity Still Applies To All Cultures!

Because America is (or at least was) known as a “Christian nation,” people sometimes think Christianity is only for Americans and/or that American culture is the only culture in which Christianity can operate. Such ideas could not be further from the truth. Christianity is neither the “white man’s religion” nor the “black man’s religion.” Christianity is neither the Western world’s religion nor is it the religion of the East. Christianity is for all people and all nations!

Christianity Did Not Begin In America

Long ago, Isaiah prophesied about the beginning of Christianity (Isa. 2:2-3), and his prophecy was completely fulfilled with the establishment of the church in Acts 2. After His resurrection, Jesus said to the apostles that “repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem....⁴⁹Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Lk. 24:47-49). The promised power came in the form of the apostles speaking in tongues, which were real foreign languages that they had never studied (Acts 2:1-13). Upon hearing the message preached (Acts 2:22-36), some were “cut to the heart” and asked, “What must we do?” (Acts 2:37). The God-inspired answer was: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (Acts 2:41). Unto whom were these souls added? “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). The church, and thus Christianity, began in Jerusalem on the first Day of Pentecost following the Lord’s resurrection (Acts 2:41, 47). The Jerusalem of the Bible was not an American city. Christianity began in the Jerusalem of Palestine.

The New Testament Was Not Written In English

Because some of the translations have the name of a former King of England or the word “English” or “American” present (i.e., American Standard Version or English Standard Version) does not mean that the Bible is an English composition. The New Testament was originally written in Koine Greek. The word “koiné” means “common.” The New Testament was written in the common Greek of the first century. Almost all who lived in the first century Greco-Roman world would have known the Koine Greek language. There is a reason why God’s word was written in the language of the masses—because it was intended for and it applies to the masses! Additionally, the New Testament was written in a culture completely foreign to our present American culture. However, what it teaches is not limited to that original culture. Since God is all-knowing (Ps. 147:5) and all-powerful (Gen. 17:1), He is surely capable of writing a document in one culture that can apply universally in all cultures. Yes, there are some matters that are matters of culture, such as women wearing head coverings in worship (1 Cor. 11:2-16), but it is by “rightly dividing the word of truth” that we know what matters are matters of obligation in all cultures and what matters are matters of expediency in a particular culture (2 Tim. 2:15).

Christianity Transcends All Cultures!

Christ and Christianity came into this world at the perfect time according to God’s purpose (Gal. 4:4-5). We must realize that God’s word still applies to all cultures. No matter in what culture we teach the Gospel, Jerusalem in Palestine is still where the church began (Isa. 2:2-3 cf. Lk. 24:49). The definition of Greek words in the New Testament still mean the same, whether we speak English or an African tribal language. The Bible still teaches the plan of salvation, no matter what is our native tongue or culture. Faith still comes from hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17). Belief in Jesus as the Messiah still constitutes faith (Jn. 8:24). Repentance is still turning away from sin (Acts 17:31). Confessing faith in Christ is still the verbal acknowledgment of allegiance to Christ (Rom. 10:10). Baptism is still a burial in water (Rom. 6:3-4). Have we allowed Christianity to rule our lives? Have we submitted to its requirements? ♥ *Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jacqueline Dopwell has been placed under hospice care in her home. She would like visitors, but please call before going. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Bob McAnally, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Owen Lewis, Bobby Cole, Evie McCormack and Deborah Leonard's husband.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Elizabeth Tubbs and Jack Pinckert.

Upcoming Events

March 26th-29th: Our gospel meeting here at South Florida Ave. The speaker is Alan Highers. Please plan to attend and bring a friend with you.

Saturday April 1st: Ladies Brunch here at South Florida Ave. at 9:00 a.m. The sign up sheets are in the foyer.

Sunday April 2nd: Fellowship In Service at 5:00 p.m. before evening services.

Sunday April 2nd: 85th Annual Homecoming at the Orange St. Church of Christ. The speaker will be Daniel Stearsman.

Saturday April 15th: Easter Egg Hunt at the Bingles at 10:00 a.m.

Sympathy

Willie Williams, Bernetta Green's brother, passed away this last week. Please keep Bernetta and her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Also for safe travels as the family will be traveling to PA. for the funeral.

Donations

Rene Bingle will be making Easter Baskets for children in a women's shelter. See her if you would like to contribute to this. Items or donations needed by April 9th.

Visitors

Jesus Paguaga, Lystra Ortiz, Victor Travis and Alexis and Jada, Mary Moore, Bob Mess and George French and daughters.



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** Josh Estridge
Fred Rapley **Assist** David Anderson

Sunday, March 26, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters Darlene/Brenda
Att. Cards Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Open & Close Building Fred Strickland

Wed. March 29, 2017

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005

Sunday, April 2, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters Longfellows
Att. Cards Willcut boy's
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle
Open & Close Building David Anderson

Wed. April 5, 22, 2017

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 26.....	\$5,642.00
Mar. 05	\$5,216.90
Mar. 12.....	\$5,050.96
Mar. 19.....	\$4,800.48
Contribution Average	\$5,374.65
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

Fundamental Facts of the Gospel

The word “gospel” literally means “good announcement,” “good news,” or “glad tidings” (Luke 1:19). As applied to the Gospel of Christ, Paul gives three fundamental facts. First, Christ “died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3). He died as our sin offering (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:18-20). “According to the scriptures” tells us this had been planned and predicted from long ago (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53). Second, Christ was “buried” (1 Corinthians 15:4a), which also was a fulfilment of Scripture (Matthew 12:40; 27:59-60 [cf. Isaiah 53:9]; Acts 2:29-31; 13:29). Third, Christ “rose again” on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:4b). “Rose again” in this verse is in the passive voice, which means that some other force (i.e., the Father) did the raising (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:15; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Romans 8:11). The perfect tense “rose again” points to a completed, yet standing event—Christ continues as the risen Lord! The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord (Romans 1:4)! Although the death, burial, and resurrection constitute the



foundation of the Gospel, it includes more than these three elements. The Gospel includes everything that the New Testament authorizes (cf. Galatians 2:14). Much like what the Ten Commandments were to the entire Law of Moses, so are the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ to the entire Gospel. The only way these facts can help us eternally is to obey the Gospel’s demands (Mark 16:15-16). Have you been baptized into Christ? ❤️ *Brian*



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

Return Service Requested



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

Beinvenido, Jesus Paguaga!



We were privileged last Sunday to have our missionary from Honduras, Jesus Paguaga, We have been supporting him for over twenty years, and he continues to do a great work in a difficult place. May God keep blessing the Cause there. Keep up the good work, Jesus, and “be not weary in well doing.”

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3)



Pray for our YES II campaign to Penonome, Panama, July 1-9, 2017. Thirteen of our young people and their chaperones are planning to go. If you would like to help by contributing funds, see the elders.



Bowling Blast Successful



Thanks to Hiram, and C.J. for organizing this great time of fun and fellowship! It's great to be a saint with SFA!