

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

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

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
since 1969

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

The Evangelistic Psalmist

Hiram Kemp

"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul." Psalm 66:16

As Christians, we typically view evangelism as a New Testament concept. It is true that Israel of the Old Testament was not commissioned to go and convert the entire Ancient Near Eastern World. However, God did set Israel apart for himself to be a light to the nations around them (Isa. 49:6). The law given to Israel would distinguish them from every other nation and be evidence to the fact that Yahweh was their God. There were occasions when Gentiles saw the way the Israelites lived, and they desired to become a part of their fold (cf. Ruth 1:16-18). In Psalm 66:16, the psalmist in the midst of his praise of God invites others to listen. Though this passage is found in the Old Testament, I believe there are great principles for evangelism that are found within it. We should read the Old Testament to learn and also find hope (Rom. 15:4). Notice some of the evangelistic principles that we receive from the psalmist.

The Invitation

The verse begins with the psalmist inviting others to come and hear. Notice he does not demand them nor force them, but simply invites them to come and hear. In the first chapter of John's Gospel, the invitation to "come and see" is repeated as a Gentle invitation to further examine the truth (Jn. 1:39, 46). Evangelism must eventually progress past a mere invitation to come and listen. For conversion to take place, there will have to be a Bible study of some sort conducted. Still, we should not underestimate the power of our initial invitation to others to come and see what our faith is all about.

It is a good idea to invite visitors to worship services. In my judgment, it may even be a better idea to invite them to Bible class so they can ask questions and dialogue as we study the scriptures. The psalmist wants others to "come and see the works of God" (Psa. 66:5). We may not have all of the answers that our skeptical or denominational friends may want to hear, but we can begin here. Invite them to search the scriptures to see whether or not what we teach corresponds properly (Acts 17:11). We may feel unqualified to teach others directly, but we are capable of beginning here with the simple invitation.

(continued on page 2)

God-Fearers

God desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth, but many will turn away from his saving grace (Mt. 7:13-14; 1 Tim. 2:4). Only those who fear God and keep his commandments will be saved in the end (Eccl. 12:13-14; Heb. 5:8-9). In our efforts to lead others to Christ, may we encourage them to have a certain disposition toward their creator. I know that unbelievers must be led to a conviction of God's existence before they will reverence him, but they still must eventually reverence him. We should try and talk to people about the greatness of God in a way that causes them to both revere and fear him. Fear him enough to know he is not to be trifled with. Also, have enough reverence for him to do what he commands (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 2:3-5).

There were "God-fearers" in the first century (Acts 13:16, 26). These Gentile individuals were pious and ripe candidates for the gospel. As Paul and others went out with the gospel message, these people were at least interested in spiritual things and willing to consider God. Likewise, there are people who live among us today who are not Christians yet, but they are not far from the kingdom of God (Mk. 12:34). May we appreciate those who, though mistaken in their doctrine, do have a heart sensitive to eternal truths. May we, like the psalmist, look for these individuals and attempt to show them the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:26).

Personal Testimony

The psalmist wants an audience so that he can boast of what God has done for his soul. The point he is making is that what God has done for him, He can do for others too (1 Tim. 1:12-16). The idea of personal testimony has been hijacked by the denominational world in a negative way. Individuals simply grabbing a microphone and telling their life-story does not in and of itself have the power to save anybody. The power to save is to be found in the gospel message (Rom. 1:16). Nevertheless, the New Testament shows time and time again that those redeemed by the message of the gospel have the responsibility to not only tell others of its truth, but also of how it impacted them personally. The woman in Samaria invited her friends to hear a man who told her everything she had ever done (Jn. 4:29). Jesus encouraged a healed man to go and tell his friends all that God had done for him (Mk. 5:19). When Paul was on trial before Jewish authorities he continuously rehearsed what God did for him on the road to Damascus (Acts 22; 26).

Conclusion

We should have a ready remembrance of how our lives were before we obeyed the gospel. Moreover, as we share the gospel message, we should not hesitate to speak of the impacts it has made in our lives personally. We should speak of the objective truths of scripture while also talking about how obeying the truths of scriptures has made our lives richer. The psalmist shows us a basic outline for evangelism that we should keep in our hearts. Invite, seek God-fearers, and relay the impact God has had on our soul. Ω

Paul's "I Ams" ... of Evangelism

In Romans 1:14-16, Paul gives three "I am" statements: "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise ... I am ready to preach the gospel ... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." This text is often used to summarize the life of Paul. However, these "I ams" also have a direct application to Paul's missionary work, from which we can learn.

First, "I am debtor" shows the obligation Paul felt to all people. The term "debtor" refers to one who is under obligation (Mt. 6:12; 18:24). This obligation was not because Paul owed them money, but that he owed them the Gospel. He realized the huge debt of sin he had been forgiven (cf. 1 Tim. 1:12-16). He also knew the Gospel, which had the power to forgive all people's sin (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Second, "I am ready" shows the willing eagerness Paul had to evangelize. Paul further qualified his willing eagerness by pledging "as much as is in me" (Rom. 1:15). "To preach the gospel" is translated from one Greek word, which is the verb form of "gospel." Thus, the word literally means "to gospel-ize," or "to evangelize" (Acts 8:4, 12, 25, 35, 40).

Third, "I am not ashamed" shows the courage and confidence with which Paul could preach and teach. "Ashamed" here refers to the timidity that results in the fear of being disappointed in something that is supposed to be trusted (Rom. 6:21; 2 Tim. 1:8, 12, 19; Heb. 2:11; 11:16). Positively, Paul is saying, "I have complete confidence in the Gospel! It is God's power to save!"

Let us feel the same indebtedness Paul felt to teach the lost, have same willing eagerness as Paul did to teach the lost, and have the same confidence in the Gospel as did Paul! May we evangelize the lost whomever and wherever they are! *AE Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby is having some testing done this week at Moffitt. Margaret Norman is home from the hospital. Faith West, Jim Turner, Sharon Washington and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother), Gina, (daughter of Kathy Nester), who has Lupus, Paulisky Irizarry, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Christina Jones, (Debra Pavlovic Okolichany's mother in law), Kiley Fontaine's family, (relative of Ted Okolichany), who was killed in a car accident, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Shirley Crocker, (former member) and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 6th: SFA Ladies Brunch, 11:00 a.m. Speaker is Nikki Williams.

Sunday April 7th: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Sunday April 14th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Monday April 15th: Starting of Monday evening class taught by Hiram Kemp on the Epistles of John at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday April 16th: Senior Saints meeting at 9:30 a.m.

April 8th-11th: Gospel Meeting at the Midway church of Christ in Sarasota.

Saturday April 13th: Ladies Day at the Northside church of Christ in St. Pete. 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.

Tuesday April 23rd: FSOP Ladies class at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday April 28th: Men's breakfast is at Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale at 8:00 a.m.

Responses

Debra Pavolic-Okolichany responded asking for prayers while she is going through some struggles with family issues. Kathy Nester also responded asking for prayers for her daughter Gina who has Lupus.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Eric Bunch, Jerry Green, T'Jean Tomlinson, Johnny Davidson, Scout Carter, Stacy Wilson, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam, Denise Gulizia, Richard Joploh, Tracie Stahl, and Gerald Ausby.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

April 7th.....David Deal
April 14th.....Youth Group

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Open/Close building-David Anderson

Jimmy Sweeney **Table** Tyler Anderson
Wesley Brunson **Assist** Alex Parramore

Sunday, April 7, 2019
9:30 A.M.

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

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth.....Casey Paulin
Announcements.....Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon.....Brian Howard
Closing Prayer.....Jim Turner
GreetersPratts/Williams
Cards.....Willcut boy's

6:00 P.M

Song Leader.....David Williams
Opening Prayer.....Tucker Sweeney
Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer.....Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Song Leader.....Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer.....Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, April 14, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....Tucker Sweeney
Prayer.....Tim Croson

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth.....Phil Fife
Announcements Frank Hamby
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Kyle Faneuf
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....David Deal
Greeters.....Longfellow/Kemp
Cards.....Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....David Williams
Opening Prayer.....Fred Strickland
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....Bobby Simpson

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Song Leader.....Jim Turner
Opening Prayer.....John McShane
Closing Prayer.....Alex Parramore

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 10.....\$7,119.73
Mar. 17.....\$6,121.00
Mar. 24.....\$4,422.90
Mar. 31\$6,843.90
Contribution Average.....\$6,666.70



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!



New Member Spotlight

Wadi “Woody” Khoury



Woody was born in Rochester, New York, and has also lived in other places in that state. He was also stationed in Scotland while he was in the US Navy. His first job was as a paperboy. He is currently retired, yet still active in the church and in his community. He likes to read and collect coins. His most satisfying accomplishment is rearing two wonderful children. The best advice he's been given is "Get a good education; it teaches discipline and exercises and expands the mind; then, you can finally see the thing you've been looking for." He has two children.



Member Spotlight

Debra Pavolvic-Okolichany



"Dr. Debra" was born in Mesa, Arizona. As a child, she wanted to be an interior designer. Her first job was at McDonalds. She presently has her own practice as an atlas chiropractor. She has visited Mexico, Canada, and some European countries. In her free time, she likes painting, sewing, traveling, driving, going to the beach, and doing yard work. Her most satisfying accomplishment is earning her doctorate degree and working on a diplomate graduate degree (scheduled to finish, 2022). The best advice she's been given is "Obey God's law to be part of the few."



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 . . .

If you receive this bulletin by email, we have a few nights left of our Gospel Meeting. We would love to see you here!



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

Guest Speaker Sunday AM: Brian Howard, 2008 FSOP graduate who currently works with World Video Bible School. Let's welcome him!

Take Advantage of the Area Gospel Meeting Opportunities



Midway church of Christ in Sarasota
Revival Meeting April 8-11
 Various speakers, including Brian, on the topic: "Bible Misconceptions"



Central church of Christ in Clearwater
David Sain April 21-24
 "Scriptures That Enlighten & Encourage"



Eagle Lake church of Christ
Sam Willcut April 21-25
 "The Church in the World"

Check the Bulletin Board for More Details!