



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 15 April 19, 2022

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## 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](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## 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.

## **ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE THE AWOL SOLDIER**

*Joshua Cantrell*

The word's view of Christianity is not cohesive with what the Bible says. Unfortunately, for centuries, the definition of the term has changed. When we read the Bible, we can grasp exactly what true Christianity looks like. The Bible will compare it to many things to show us what it is and is not. It will refer to us being friends of God. Jesus would say, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." (Jn. 15:14). In terms of character, it means to be a saint (1 Cor. 1:1-3). Peter urges us, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Pet. 1:16). In terms of a stranger, it would be one to this world (1 Pet. 1:1). When considering the word conflict, it means to be a soldier. Paul writes, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the thing that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou, therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:1-3). As Christians, we each have a post to stand in service to our God, and we must accomplish the task.

Within the military, they have "The Orders To The Sentry." They are: To take charge of this post and all government property in view. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert, and observing everything that takes place within sight of hearing. To quit my post only when properly relieved. To be especially watchful at night and during the time for challenging, to challenge all persons on or near my post, and to allow no one to pass without proper authority. Each of these we will also look at from a spiritual standpoint.

## **WHAT CONSTITUTES BEING AN AWOL SOLDIER**

The acronym AWOL means to be "Absent Without Leave." It means one is not at his or her assigned post. From a spiritual standpoint, it is one who has failed in their commitment to the Lord who has enlisted them. When we consider the process from someone who wants to be a Christian, it sometimes sounds like this, "I'm thinking about becoming a Christian. I'll give this Jesus a try and see if it works out." They talk about the many problems and challenges they face in life and believe that if they become a Christian, they'll somehow bypass all the troubles only to learn that it has just begun. When the challenges come, we often find these soldiers going AWOL. Christ has assigned each of us to a post of affliction. Paul says, "Yea, all that live godly shall suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12).

Jesus would urge an audience to count the cost before following Him (Lk. 14:26-33). John records, "Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." (Jn. 6:60, 66). Becoming a Child of God is not a license to vacation for the rest of our lives. We are in a constant battle for the souls of men, and our Lord needs each of us to be at our assigned post.

## **ENDURING AFFLICTION**

Being a soldier may come at the cost of our reputation becoming tarnished. Are we willing to give us the cares of this world to be pleasing to God? Paul spoke of himself, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil. 3:8).

It may come at the cost of suffering freedom. For many today, it may seem strange because we are not living in the first century. These soldiers of Christ

were being beaten and thrown out of cities (Acts. 4, 5). Yet they were willing to suffer for him. Luke records, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." (Acts 4:41).

As soldiers, we have to preach and teach the word of God (Mt. 28:18-20). We cannot hide, be rude, or go along with what the world says. We must speak out against those things that are contrary to the will of God. It may lead us to lose relationships.

We are assigned to a post of affliction. Luke records Paul, "And now, behold I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of those things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:22-24).

Can not the God who assigned us those afflictions sustain us in those afflictions? Jesus' death was the plan from the beginning (Eph. 3:8-11). If the God of Heaven can redeem the cross, there is nothing in our lives that He cannot redeem as well. Paul tells Timothy they are

partaking together because of their sufferings in Christ

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR POST AND ALL CHRISTIANS IN VIEW

Paul urges Timothy to preach the word (2 Tim. 4:2). He also says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they all turn away from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." (2 Tim. 4:3-4). When we look at our world today, we can say the time has come. Yet while many don't want to hear the Gospel, many still do. Many still want to know how to stay at their post and helps others stay at theirs.

We all have been called by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14). We each have been assigned by God the post of standing up for what is right. No matter what, I'm not going to leave this post. Paul says, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Phil. 2:1). Christ left us an example to follow in his steps (1 Pet. 2:21). Jesus reminds us, "Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is no greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." (Jn. 15:20-21). May we each stand at our post, diligent in our efforts, uplifting the name of Christ each opportunity we can.



**L2L**  
BUILDING GODLY LEADERS

Thank you to our Elders for seeing the value in using L2L to train our children to serve God, helping them to overcome fear, do their best, and have confidence in His word and pattern for Christian living!



# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Jim Turner - health, tests  
 Bernetta Green - health & strength  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Wayne Shearer - health  
 George Davis - health

## PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Charles Paulin - health  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Bill Long - health  
 Toney Wilson - health  
 Declan Potvin - surgery

(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

## Updates & Prayer requests

**George Davis** has an appointment on May 15 for bleeding behind his right eye.

**Declan Potvin** is schedule to have adenoids and tonsils removed on April 29.



*Ellen Shearer*

*received her eternal reward  
 on April 16, 2022*

"Bless are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."  
 "Blesses indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest  
 from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"  
 Revelation 14:13

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to Wayne & Anita Shearer on the death of Wayne's mother,  
**Ellen Shearer**

Ellen will be cremated and brought to Georgia.  
 In lieu of flowers, Wayne asks for memorial donations to the  
**Florida School of Preaching**

*thank you*

The Potvin family is humbled by and grateful for the love & support of this congregation. We want to thank everyone for their tremendous gifts at Casey's baby shower. And once again, we are awed by God's work in our lives since we have been added to His church.



We still need your empty cereal boxes!

There will be a meeting about VBS after the morning service in the north wing.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Announcements ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Devo ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Josh Potvin

### Sunday, April 24, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Come to Me for Rest  
 Matthew 11:20-30

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Vince Daugherty  
 All the Glory, Half the Sacrifice  
 Acts 4:32-5:11

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Jason Hendrix  
 Greeters ..... Waldon  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Kyle Bingle  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Kyle Faneuf  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Stewart

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Kyle Faneuf  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Lord's Table ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Closing Prayer ..... Lou Van Allen  
 Greeters ..... Fife

### Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Josh Cantrell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen

## Upcoming Events

### April

22 - Fiesta Friday, 6p  
 Andersons' home  
 24 - VBS meeting, after  
 a.m. worship svc.  
 24 - Fellowship in-service  
 26 - Ladies' Night Out  
 29-May 1 - WWCC Youth  
 Retreat, Tagtow

### May

8 - *Mother's Day*  
 10 - SFA Men's breakfast  
 14 - Ladies' Swap, 10 am  
 14 - SFA graduation  
 fellowship, 1 pm  
 15 - FSOP graduation  
 20 - Fiesta Friday  
 21 - Men's breakfast,  
 N. Lakeland

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr 3 ..... \$6,358.00  
 Apr 10 ..... \$6,026.00  
 Apr 17 ..... \$5,000.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$6,521.81  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43



*I Need Thee Every Hour* - Lord protect and sustain me (Psalm 70:1,5)

*Take My Hand Precious Lord* - Lead me through the highs and lows of life (Psalm 23:4)

*Take My Life and Let It Be* - Lord use me to your glory (Col. 3:17)

*Give Me the Bible* - It's the road map to salvation and eternal life in Jesus (Rom. 10:8-9)

*Trust and Obey* - That God will provide for us each day (Matt. 6:11)

*All To Jesus I Surrender* - Turn our lives over to Him to use us to His glory (Rom. 12:1)

*Restore My Soul* - I am weak and need your strength (Psalm 28)



*Living By Faith* - Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6)

*Love Lifted Me* - Out of the pit of sin and unrighteousness (Psalm 40:1-2)

*What Can Wash Away My Sins?* - The blood that Christ shed on the cross (Rev. 1:5)

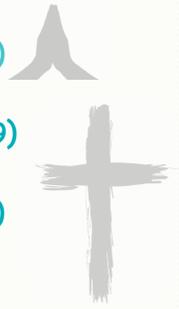
*We'll Work Till Jesus Comes* - Encouraging, teaching, visiting the sick - so much to do (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:58)



*There's a Great Day Coming* - When all mankind will be judged (Rev. 20:12-13)

*When I've Gone the Last Mile of the Way* -

May we hear the Lord say, "Well done my good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21)



# the B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me

## SFA VBS 2022

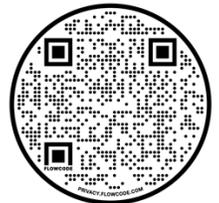
**Nightly classes available for  
pre-school to adults**

**Sunday - 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

**Monday - Wednesday  
7:00 - 8:30 pm**



Scan to pre-register  
or go to  
our website



[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**But we will bless the Lord  
from this time forth and  
forevermore.  
Praise the Lord!**

**Psalm 115:18**



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