



The South Florida  
Avenue  
church of Christ



# MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 16 April 20, 2021

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

## SECRETARY

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.

## EMAIL

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

## WEB PAGE

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

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## 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.

## WHAT MOSES LEARNED WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED GOD

by Hiram Kemp

The Book of Hebrews teaches us that in the past, God spoke to His people in various ways (Heb. 1:1). Sometimes God would speak to individuals directly (Gen. 17:1). Other times He would communicate with the priest through the Urim and Thummim (Exod. 28:30). There are instances when God appeared to His people in dramatic visions (Isa. 6:1-4). However, Moses is described as having had a unique relationship with God (Exod. 33:11). God declared that He spoke with Moses in a way He did not speak to anyone else in the Old Testament (Num. 12:5-8). After Moses' death, there was never another prophet like him who knew the Lord face to face (Deut. 34:10-12).

While there is much to appreciate about Moses' relationship with God, there are several important lessons we learn from the very first encounter that Moses had with God. Moses grew up in the house of Pharaoh, but eventually, his faith led him away from Egyptian prestige and into the wilderness (Heb. 11:24-27). While Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, he came to Mount Horeb, and he was never the same (Exod. 3:1). He met God at the burning bush for the first time and learned some lessons that every one of us must learn as well (Exod. 3:1-6).

### GOD IS HOLY

Moses stood before the burning bush, which was a manifestation of God's presence, and was told, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exod. 3:5). Moses had probably walked on that same ground countless times, but at that moment, it was holy because of God's presence. Moses' protégé, Joshua, would have a similar experience as he was leading God's people to conquer Jericho (Josh. 5:13-15). Isaiah heard the seraphim cry out, "holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts" (Isa. 6:2-3, KJV). John heard the heavenly beings echo a similar cry as he peered into heaven (Rev. 4:8). The holiness of God runs throughout both the Old and New Testaments. God is pure, sinless, and sanctified. Moreover, this has bearing on how we live our lives as God's people. We are to be holy just as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). As Moses would later receive the Levitical laws stressing the need for God's people to practice holiness, perhaps he remembered this first encounter when he was introduced to God as the holy God (Lev. 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, 20:26). What should drive our behavior as children of God is the holy God we serve (Eph. 5:1).

### GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPING GOD

The first thing God tells Moses is that He is the God of Moses' ancestors. He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (Exod. 3:6, ESV). This introduction was designed to acquaint Moses with God as the God of the patriarchs. He had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and was about to fulfill those promises partly by the hand of Moses (Gen. 12:1-3, 26:2-5, 46:1-4). Eventually, God would fulfill every promise He made to the children of Israel (Josh. 21:43-45). Moses needed to know that God had not forgotten the things that He spoke to Moses' forefathers and that He would deliver. In the New Testament, we are reminded that all the promises of God are "yes and amen" in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20, NKJV). He has promised us eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25). Since God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), we can be sure that our eternal reward is secure. Moses learned that God keeps His promises no matter how much time has elapsed, and we should be glad that this has not changed (Heb. 6:13-20).

## GOD SEES

Moses is awe-struck as he realizes that he is seeing a display of God's glory (Exod. 3:6). Moses hides his face in fear. In the next verse, God tells Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings." (Exod. 3:7). God promised to bring deliverance to His people and lead them into the promised land (Exod. 3:8). Decades before Moses, Hagar acknowledged that God is a God who sees (Gen. 16:13-14). God is observing His people not only to judge our deeds but also to protect and provide what we need (Prov. 15:3; 1 Pet. 3:12). Moses learned that the groaning and crying of Israel was not ignored in heaven (Exod. 2:23-24). Instead of being indifferent toward His people's suffering, we are told, "God saw the people of Israel—and God knew" (Exod. 2:25). Aren't you glad that God sees you? Little children often jump up and down in the presence of their parents or grandparents to get their attention so that they can be seen doing some trick or some activity. The Bible tells us that we do not have to try and get God's attention. We already have it.

As Christians, God looks at us with approval because we are in Christ (Rom. 8:1). We may sometimes feel alone or forgotten, but we should learn from Moses' interaction with God that we are known, seen, and loved by our Heavenly Father. As God was speaking with Moses at Mount Horeb, there were probably enslaved Israelites in Egypt who assumed that God had forgotten about them, but that was incorrect. God sees you struggling with temptation, and He cares. God sees you worry about health issues, and He cares. God sees your bills mounting and your anxiety over those things, and He cares. We should cast all our anxieties on God because He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). We are not alone, and we are not neglected. When God appeared to Moses at Mount Horeb, Moses hid his face, but God was not hiding His. God was observing His people's circumstances then, and He is observing them now (Heb. 4:13).

## ~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~



### We are starting soon!

There are sign-up sheets on your bulletin board for the different events for Lads 2 Leaders 2021.

Pray about your decision and talk with your parents! Then add your name to the list(s) that you can participate in this year.

## GOD IS WITH US

Moses felt ill-equipped to go before Pharaoh and demand the release of the Israelites (Exod. 3:11). God said to Moses, "But I will be with you, and this shall be a sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." (Exod. 3:12). Notice the first part of God's statement, "I will be with you." That was all that mattered. God would be with Moses, and that would make nothing too hard for Moses to accomplish. Moses needed to know that God was not asking him to use his own power or genius to deliver His people. God was asking Moses to trust in His presence and provisions to deliver His people. The reality of God's presence brings peace, assurance, confidence, and faith. We are told later, "Moses endured as seeing Him who is invisible" (Heb. 11:27). Moses pressed on because he knew God was with him..

The New Testament tells us God came to be with us as He sent His Son into the world (Matt. 1:23). As Jesus' ascended into heaven, He reminded the disciples of His abiding presence (Matt. 28:20). Since we know God will not abandon us, we do not have to covet wealth nor cower in fear (Heb. 13:5-6). The Spirit of God dwells in His people today (2 Cor. 1:21-22, 5:5). God has not abandoned us. As we follow His word, we can accomplish the good works He has called His church to do (Eph. 2:10). When Moses encountered God at the burning bush, he learned that God was active, involved, holy, and concerned about His people. As we encounter God through the scriptures, we should realize the same is true today (Mal. 3:6).

## Senior Saints by John McShane

I have noticed lately that rudeness has become a way of life in our world. Rudeness can be defined as being offensively impolite or ill-mannered, having a startling abruptness. Being rude is easy and does not take a whole lot of effort. Being rude is also sometimes taken as being a sign of weakness or insecurity in a person. Replying to rudeness with rudeness is an exercise in futility and will do nothing to improve the human race. The opposite of rudeness is kindness. Kindness shows that one has great self-discipline and strong self-esteem. Kindness should always be outwardly visible in a person professing to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Being kind when dealing with rude people is not always easy. Anyone that has mastered the art of kindness has the ability to choose to be kind over being right. Living by what many refer to as the golden rule in Matthew 7:12 is a good start to building your own kindness platform. It reads "*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*" In Proverbs 11:24-25, there is also another good building block for kindness. "*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*"

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob & Bea Pratt  
 Chuck Wyatt  
 Adeline Hine  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Cieara Edwards  
 Kathy Nester  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Ron & Judy Ford  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Brian Smith  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annette Phillip  
 Ray Nashick

Carol Edmonson  
 Jim Edmonson  
 Jim Turner  
 Melody Baxter  
 Geny Johnson  
 George Davis  
 Joyce Williams  
 Debbie Bush

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West      Joyce Burbage      Carol Eason  
 Ellen Shearer      Chuck Wyatt

Joyce Burbage and Ellen Shearer can now have visitors.  
 Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Jim Edmonson** is doing better and has gone home last Thursday afternoon.

**Bob & Bea Pratt** are experiencing serious health problems. They are now home from the hospital.

## RESPONSES

**Antoine & Marcella Swain** ask for prayers for ongoing health issues.

**Fran Gabaldon** repents of having said some unkind things.

**Cieara Edwards** wants to get certain areas of her life right. She is having a procedure in May and requests prayers for it to go well.

**Toney Wilson** repents of losing her temper about problems at home.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

**Ken Taylor (former member)** passed away unexpectedly April 18th.



Saturday, June 5, 2021  
 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Remember to pre-register before May 16**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### April

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Song Leader/prayer ..... Jonny Singh  
 Devo ..... Josh Potvin  
 Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

### Sunday, April 25, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"When Jesus Rode into Jerusalem"*  
 Mark 11:1-11

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"A Church Pleasing to God: Healthy Relationships Within"*  
 1 Timothy 5

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Greeters ..... Stewart  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Matthew Webb  
 Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... George Davis  
 Lord's Table ..... Josh Estridge  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Bingle  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Potvin  
 Lord's Table ..... Josh Estridge  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen

### Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Devo ..... David Anderson  
 Closing Prayer ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr

## ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

**To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.**

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020. Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 4 ..... \$9,182.00  
 Apr. 11 ..... \$7,370.00  
 Apr. 18 ..... \$5,868.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$7,205.96

It's often hard to encourage others while we are going through trials ourselves, but it is possible. Let's step outside of ourselves, and let the Lord lead us (Romans 8:14-17).

Let's give the Lord all of our...

- worries (Proverbs 12:25).
- power (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- burdens (Psalm 55:22)
- strength (Philippians 4:13)

Let's give ourselves to the Lord and try not to control the uncontrollable because it is out of our hands. Let's rest in the Lord (Matthew 11:30) and take root (Ephesians 6:16). Read 2 Peter 1.

- Let us also
- be content (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11)
  - be kind (Philippians 4:14; Ephesians 4:32)
  - be in prayer (James 5:16; Philippians 4:6)
  - be humble (1 Peter 5:6; Philippians 2:3)
  - stay in God's word (Psalm 1:2; 119:15)

## Challenging Words from Jesus

*Not everyone goes to heaven*  
Matt. 7:21-23

*Jesus is the only way*  
John 14:6

*We must repent or perish*  
Luke 13:1-5

*Failure to believe in Jesus is damnable*  
John 8:21-24

*We must love Jesus above everyone*  
Matt. 10:37-39

*We must forsake all to follow Jesus*  
Luke 14:33

*We will have tribulation in the world*  
John 16:33

## Outstanding Women from the Old Testament

- Sarah (1 Peter 3:5-6)
- The Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1:15-21)
- Jochebed (Exodus 2:1-10, 6:20)
- Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)
- Hannah (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
- Deborah (Judges 4&5)
- Ruth (Ruth 4:13-17)
- Esther (Esther 4:12-17)
- The worthy woman (Proverbs 31:10-31)
- Jehosheba (2 Kings 11:2)
- Huldah (2 Kings 22:14-20)

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"FOR IF YOU BELIEVED MOSES, YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME; FOR HE WROTE ABOUT ME."

JOHN 5:46

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