

# 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. 69 No.18 05-03-16

## ELDERS

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## PREACHING INTERN

Hiram Kemp

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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## 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.

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



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

# Florida School of Preaching

The school could not operate as it has since 1969 without the help of individuals and local churches of Christ like South Florida Avenue. Thanks for your support. The result: five more men who will "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15)!



Forest Amtemesaris

Forest, a self proclaimed atheist, was led to Christ by his girlfriend and was baptized in 2013. He is a member of the Orange Street congregation in Auburndale. Before coming to FSOP, he worked at Walgreens as a high school student. He plans to attend Freed-Hardeman University in the Fall.



Rico Brown

Rico was baptized in 1982. He had already served as a minister and when he enrolled at FSOP, he was serving as assistant minister for the Beville Road congregation in Daytona Beach. He and his wife, Latisha, have two children. He is currently looking for a full-time preaching work.



Federick Hicher

Federick was baptized in 2000. He served as preacher for the East End congregation in Grand Cayman before enrolling at FSOP. He and his wife, Lorna, are expecting their first child in June. He will still work with the church in Auburn-dale and continue mission trips to Haiti, his homeland.



Hiram Kemp

Hiram was baptized in 2009 by Rico Brown and came to FSOP from the Beville Road congregation. He was a case worker for Volusia County. He and his wife, Brittani, have two children. On June 1, he will begin as our preacher, with the South Florida Avenue church of Christ.



Shawn Sullivan

Shawn was baptized in the Fall of 2015. Before enrolling at FSOP, he worked for Winn Dixie, a grocery store chain. He is a member of the Dunellon congregation and lived in the student house provided by Orange Street congregation. He plans to continue his education and preach as needed.

Spring Class of 2016

# Timothy: Exemplary Christian and Preacher

Brian R. Kenyon

While it is true that God chose preaching as the means to communicate the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:3 cf. Rom. 10:13-17), preachers are not the only ones who are to exemplify the Gospel. There are many great preachers in the Bible, the apex of them all being Jesus. In the apostle Paul’s mind, the best preacher besides Jesus was Timothy, his “son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2), and as it turns out, the young evangelist was also an exemplary Christian. Paul wrote,

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. <sup>20</sup>For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. <sup>21</sup>For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. <sup>22</sup>But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. (Phil. 2:19-22)

From this passage, consider three characteristics of faithful preachers and, for that matter, Christians in general.

## Be Reliable

Paul had enough confidence in Timothy to send him to the Philippians (Phil. 2:19, 23). Although Timothy came from a religiously mixed home, his mother and grandmother taught him the word of God (Acts 16:1-2 cf. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). Timothy was a constant coworker of Paul, being explicitly mentioned in Acts (17:14), ten of Paul’s epistles (Rom. 16:2; 1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Phil. 1), and Hebrews (13:23). Paul acknowledged that Timothy “does the work of the Lord, as I also do,” and the young evangelist’s work stood for itself so that all could confirm (1 Cor. 16:10). How reliable are we? Could Paul have confidence in us to accomplish our God-given tasks, even under difficult circumstances?

## Be Concerned About Souls

Timothy was genuine and of pure motives (Phil. 2:20). The term “like-minded [of kindred spirit, NAS]” shows that of all Paul’s coworkers, none but Timothy explicitly shared the same intimate level of concern for the Philippians as did Paul. “Sincerely [naturally, KJV; genuinely, NAS]” shows that Timothy’s concern for them was as natural as is the concern family members have for each other! Timothy was different from all others who sought their own desires (Phil. 2:21). Neither Christians nor preachers are to be selfish. Selfishness is perhaps best seen in the response of the priest and Levite, who for whatever reason did not help the man who “fell among thieves” in the account of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30-37). We cannot be like Christ if we don’t care for souls!

## Be Committed to the Gospel

Timothy had proven his worth among the Philippians (Phil. 2:22a). According to Harrell, the word translated “proven character [proof, KJV; proven worth, NAS]” was “originally associated with the idea of ‘testing’ (cf. 2 Cor. 2:9; 9:13), and when the testing proved positive, has the meaning of ‘character’ (cf. Rom. 5:4).” Like a son working with his father (with love, commitment, desire to help), Timothy constantly worked with Paul (Phil. 2:22b cf. 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2). Timothy was a servant (slave) of Christ (Phil. 2:22b). He did not serve as Paul’s slave, but he served “with” Paul—both Timothy and Paul were servants of Christ “in the gospel” (cf. Phil. 1:6)! Do we consider ourselves slaves of Christ? If not, the only alternative is to be Satan’s slave (Mt. 6:24 cf. Rom. 6:16). Let us give our lives to the Lord by voluntarily enslaving ourselves to Him (Rom. 6:16-18)!

## Conclusion

The Lord’s church needs more faithful preachers like Timothy. In order for that to happen, though, we need more faithful Christians like Timothy. May the Lord help us all be more reliable, concerned about souls, and committed to living the Gospel. Timothy provides a great example in all these areas! ♥

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner was admitted to the V.A. hospital in Tampa and is undergoing a series of tests. Bob McAnally was home not feeling well. Also keep JoAnn Hoback, Taleah Anderson, Jacqueline Dopwell, Elizabeth Tubbs, Dorothy Trice, Debbie Horsley and Margaret Coone in prayer

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, (Sam Bolding's sister), Bobby Cooper, (Virginia Walker's brother), who is very ill and under hospice care, Alyssa Buckner and Harold Rister.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Sharon Edler.

**Others:** Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, and Janet Romberger. Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**May 7th:** Ladies Brunch at North Jackson Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow starting at 9:00 a.m.

**May 8th:** F.S.O.P. graduation following the evening service. Please bring plenty of food. There will be 5 graduates, so we will be expecting a larger crowd.

**May 14th:** Ladies Day at the Pinellas Park Church of Christ. Starts at 9:30 followed by lunch at 12:30.

**May 21st:** Men's breakfast at the North Lakeland Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

**May 22nd-26th:** Gospel Meeting at the 10th St. Church of Christ. Hiram Kemp will be the speaker. See the flyer or the slide for more details.

## Congratulations

Scott & Lindsey Murrell are the proud parents of a baby boy. Beckett Reece, who was born May 1st weighing in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. The grandparents are Bob & Teresa Murrell and the great grandparents are Kenny & Reba French.

## Graduates

If you have a family member graduating please let us know. We will be putting together a bulletin announcing our graduates soon. Please get a picture and a small paragraph about the graduate to the office by Sunday, May 15.

## Visitors

Tania Portelles-Driggs, Debra Pavlovic Okolichany, Tiffany Megan and Samuel Hash, Jennifer Sims and Joey, Chaz & Molly Hine, Peter Saunders and Jeffrey Markert, Tyler and Aaron.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### May

Frank Hamby ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland  
Ken Walker ..... **Assist** ..... Bobby Simpson

### Sunday, May 8, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sermon**..... Bob McAnally  
**Closing Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Sermon**..... Brian Kenyon  
**Greeters** ..... The Williams  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul and Sebastian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building**..... Kenny French

Wed. May 11, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Williams  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

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

### Sunday, May 15, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Ken Walker  
**Prayer**..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon**..... Brian Kenyon  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Brian Kenyon  
**Greeters** ..... The Fifes  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio & Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal  
**Open & Close Building**..... Kenny French

Wed. May 18, 2016

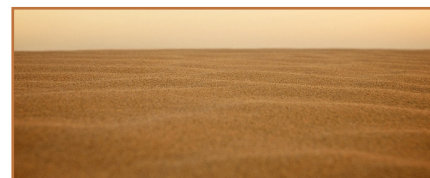
**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

**Apr. 10**.....\$4,550.54  
**Apr. 17**.....\$4,180.90  
**Apr. 24**.....\$5,569.00  
**May. 01**.....\$5,601.20  
**Contribution Average**.....\$5,092.69  
**2016 Weekly Budget**.....\$4,422.60

# Seeing the Invisible

“Seeing” the “invisible” seems contradictory. However, that is exactly what was said of Moses: “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27). Moses saw lots of evidence and many manifestations of God, but can one literally see a spirit being such as God? Obviously, the passage is figurative. That is, Moses did not literally see God because “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24). The text is saying that Moses could accomplish great things because he *acted* as if he saw God! The emphasis here is on Moses’ “eyes of faith.” The apostle Paul said, “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). True faith is oriented toward the unseen, which of course includes the reality of Deity. God “alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power” (1 Timothy 6:16). Because Moses knew God, he could accomplish the seemingly impossible. The word “endured,” from the main text, means to be strong, be steadfast, hold out, endure. Moses could persevere and accomplish his God-given tasks because he lived his life constantly as if he saw Him who is invisible! Let us realize that when we are faithful, walking in the light of God’s word, He is with us. God “will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). We too can accomplish great things like Moses by seeing Him who is invisible! ❤️ *Brian*



*South Florida Avenue*  
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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



Eight from SFA, along with about fifty others had a great time at the annual Youth Retreat hosted by Bob Bauer and Chad Tagtow of the Orange Street congregation. Our young people have several opportunities to grow spiritually from events such as this. We are thankful for parents who encourage their children to attend these soul building opportunities!

Our young people and their chaperones are gearing up for a mission trip to Nicaragua June 25 thru July 3. If you want to make a special contribution to this work, please see the elders.



**SFA Graduates** We will put together a bulletin announcing our graduates. Please get a picture to the office by May 15. Thanks!

save the Date **VBS** Saturday June 18