



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 21 May 26, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
John McShane
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

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
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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.

Influential Women in Jesus' Life

Hiram Kemp

Jesus is the most influential person in the history of the world. There have been more books written about Him than about anyone else in history. When we read the gospel accounts, we see why Jesus left such a large imprint on the world. He went around doing good for all people (Acts 10:38). He taught, healed, died, and rose from the dead as proof of His deity (Rom. 1:4). One of the things often overlooked in the life of Jesus is the influential people who were involved in His life. Many of the most influential people in Jesus' life were women. These women's lives should be noted and studied. Jesus was as equally interested in women as He was in men throughout His ministry. Although Jesus selected twelve men to be His apostles, He had women serve near Him throughout His earthly ministry.

Mary: His Mother

The Old Testament foretold that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a Son who would be called Immanuel (Isa. 7:14). The New Testament tells us that Mary, who was espoused to Joseph, is the one who gave birth to Jesus (Matt. 1:16-25). She was special enough to be chosen by God to give birth to the Son of God. The angel Gabriel spoke to Mary telling her that she had been chosen for this great task (Lk. 1:26-35). She was willing to undergo ridicule and mockery in order to do God's will. We are not surprised to later read of her Son experiencing the same (Matt. 27:31, 41-44). When all the disciples fled, Mary was with Jesus at the foot of the cross (John 19:26-27). When the disciples of the Lord were assembled after Jesus' ascension, Mary was there, also (Acts 1:14). She is the constant picture of faithfulness and obedience. From before Jesus' birth to His death, resurrection, and ascension, Mary is loyal to her God.

Canaanite Woman: Great Faith

Jesus' primary mission was to seek and save the lost of Israel while He was on earth (Matt. 15:24; Lk. 19:9-10). Eventually, His saving blood was going to be spread throughout the world and reach all people, but this was to happen in stages (Acts 1:8). Though Jesus was focused solely on Israel during his earthly ministry, there were instances where Gentiles were healed as they boldly petitioned Jesus for help. On one occasion, a woman of Canaan came crying for Jesus to heal her daughter who was demon possessed (Matt. 15:22, 25). She told Jesus that she was willing to take the crumbs that fall from the table, meaning that although Jesus was focused on Jews, He could spare a blessing for a gentile on this occasion (Matt. 15:26-27). Jesus praised her for her great faith and her daughter was healed immediately (Matt. 15:28). This unnamed woman showed us that persistence pays off (Matt. 7:7). She also showed us the value of great faith and demonstrated that sometimes those we think least likely to believe have the greatest faith (cf. Mark 6:6).

The Widow: Sacrificial Giving

Jesus often instructed about money and how His disciples were to view it. He taught that we should lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth (Matt. 6:19-21). Once, he challenged a rich man to sell everything and follow Him (Matt. 19:21-22). He said, “only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:23-24). One day, He saw a widow putting money into the temple treasury. She had put in two copper coins which make a penny (Mark 12:42). Jesus claimed that the widow had put in more money than all others who put into the treasury because she cast in everything she had to live on (Mark 12:43-44). This woman did not have much, but she gave much. She showed her love for God by what she was willing to give to God (2 Cor. 8:24). Shortly after this widow gave all of her money, Jesus was going to give His life (Mark 10:45). In Jesus’ eyes, giving is more important than receiving (Acts 20:35). The widow was showing the disciples how true giving was to be done. We learn from her that God honors quality more than quantity. The Savior who sacrificed delighted in others who sacrificed.

Mary: Anoints Jesus for Burial

Before Jesus is crucified, we are told that Mary took a very expensive perfume and anointed Him for His burial (Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8). While some were upset with what they considered to be a waste, Jesus praised the work of Mary on this occasion. Jesus promised that wherever the gospel is preached, the good deed done by Mary was to be told as a memorial of her (Mark 14:9). Mary’s extravagant gift showed her concern for Jesus and the love and devotion she had for Him. Jesus praised her for it. We learn from Mary that when we

do what is right, Jesus is pleased with us, too. We will not be forgotten by God (Heb. 6:10). Our works follow us, and our God rewards us (Rev. 14:13).

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna: Sponsors

As Jesus went throughout cities and villages preaching the gospel, He was followed and supported by several women. Luke tells us that Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others provided for Him out of their means (Lk. 8:2-3). These women seemed to have been affluent to some degree as they had enough money to contribute to the public ministry of Jesus. Jesus was a carpenter by trade, but His ability to work with His hands probably decreased as His teaching and preaching ministry blossomed (Mark 6:3). God provided for the physical needs of Jesus through the liberal contributions of these women. The kindness of these faithful women shows us that we can partner with God in His work in a variety of ways. These women did not teach, preach, or do miracles nor were chosen as apostles of the Lord. Nevertheless, they did what they could, and they are mentioned as helpers of the Lord’s work. May we, like these women, not focus on what we cannot do. Let us instead be those who focus on all of the things that we can do to help the Lord’s work go further.

When we study the life of Jesus, we should keep our eyes open for all of those who were a part of His life. These women were faithful servants who were involved in Jesus’ life and are remembered for their work. Let us model their dedication and submit our lives to His service. From the beginning of Jesus’ life unto the end, we see women doing noteworthy things. The Holy Spirit included these things in Scripture for a reason. May we be influenced by their righteousness!

~Youth Group~

Doing the Right Thing

When Joseph was taken into slavery in Egypt, he rose to overseer of the house of Potipher. Potipher noticed that he always did the right thing, and the Lord was with him. Potipher’s wife noticed Joseph, too. Joseph was young and good looking. She tempted him day after day, yet he was determined to do the right thing. Even though Joseph was wrongfully accused by Potiphar’s wife and suffered, God knew the truth. Because Joseph was determined to do the right thing, God continued to bless him, and eventually Joseph rose to become the overseer of all of Egypt. Even when it is difficult, *always* do the right thing.

Senior Saints

John McShane

For those of us between the ages of 65 and death, keep in mind that age is relative.

The old adage that says

“What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve” is worth remembering. If we keep our body and mind healthy, then earth years are just a number. Especially during these times, we need to get the physical and mental exercise that will keep us young at heart and in good health. We can look forward to when our life on earth is just a memory, but let’s stay and enjoy this planet as long as we can. Stay safe.

1 Corinthians 6:19. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby; Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt; Brenda Mask; Phil Fife; Linda McShane; Margaret Norman; Bernetta Green; Ray Nashick; Carlene Long; Bobby Simpson; Cierra Edwards; Ellen Shearer; Bob Pratt; Ron & Judy Ford; Geny Johnson; Brian Smith; Sharon Washington; Stacey Paulin; Annette Phillip; Margaret Coone, Neil Entwistle.

Others: **George French** (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); **Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson); **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Maria Wardell** (Darlene Thompson's granddaughter, pneumonia & problems with liver and kidneys); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Keith Cozort** (former member); **Chip Bolding**; **Tony Seibert**; **Neil Entwistle Sr.**; **Tanya Irizarry**; **Trevor & Sandy Hutchins**; **Derick Jordan**; student of **Jimmy Sweeney** (brain tumor); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Mary Ankroum** (knee surgery); **Bruce Coleman**; **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Larry Lloyd** (cancer); **Phil Sweeney** (shingles, friend of Brenda Mask); **Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew, cancer).

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Charlene Smith's sister, LaToya, was in the hospital but she is now home and doing better.

Margaret Norman is having heart surgery on June 5.

Phil Fife will be having cataract surgery on June 9.

Bernetta Green will be undergoing tests in the coming weeks to determine treatment before scheduling surgery.

Neil Entwistle was recently hospitalized with chest pains. He is back home recovering and resting.

Brenda Mask went to the ER Monday night and was given IV antibiotics for community pneumonia. She is home now.

Thank you

Dear SFA family, We fail miserably in attempts to find words that can adequately express how much you all mean to us. The love that you have showered upon us has filled our hearts with immeasurable joy! As you may already know, we have accepted the invitation from the elders of Eagle Lake to begin laboring with them in a full-time capacity. We are overjoyed and covet your prayers, and you will remain in ours.

Terrance, Shenia, TJ, Gabe, & Kevontre Brownlow-Dindy

Thank you so much for all your calls, cards, food and, most of all, your prayers. It is such a blessing to be part of a caring family. Love you all and hope to "see" you soon.

In Christian love, **Linda McShane**

5th Sunday Collection

May 31st is the 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund. If you would like to give additional funds, there are designated envelopes in the foyer. Please place in the collection plate. You can also mail or bring your contribution to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund.

It will be collected by the elders.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

MAY

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker
All worship assignments are postponed.

Sunday, May 31, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"Kingdom Thinking" (Matt. 5:3-12)

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"I Will Never Forsake the Lord"
(1 Cor. 15:16-19)

Live stream will continue until further notice.

COVID 19 UPDATE

With State of Florida civil authorities' giving businesses the okay to reopen at 50% and in accordance with CDC guidelines, the eldership is allowing the church building to open-up at 50% occupancy beginning Wednesday night, May 20, for all regular church services. We are still asking those who are not feeling well and those who consider assembling at the building too risky for themselves and/or their families to stay at home. All services will still be live streamed on YouTube as they have been since March 22.

If or when you are interested in attending services at the building, please let the eldership know by emailing or calling the office.

We continue to covet your prayers.

David Anderson Kenny French
Brian Kenyon Bobby Sheumaker
- Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 3	\$8,485.75
May 10	\$8,483.00
May 17	\$5,503.00
May 24	\$6,856.00
Contribution Average	\$6,990.49

The world is now very concerned about staying healthy. However, we need to be concerned more with our spiritual health. Let me suggest that you remember to take your scriptural vitamins.

A Accept - Accept the fact that we cannot change our circumstances, but we can change the way we react to them (2 Cor. 12:9-10). We need to learn to be content in all circumstances.

B Believe - The world is in a panic and anxious, but we need to believe that God is still in control, and He causes all things to work together for good (Rom. 8:28).

C Care - Christians should be known for their care. Care for others, but especially for those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).

D Deeds of Kindness - times like these provide so many opportunities to do deeds of kindness. Visit the fatherless and widows (James 1:27) and help the poor (Prov. 19:17). Just look around. The opportunities are endless!

E Ease - So many are suffering. We can help ease their burdens by praying for them, giving a kind word or even a smile (1 Tim. 2:1; Prov. 16:24). We are told in Galatians 6:2 to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Let's not worry ourselves sick over things of the world, but let's look to God's word and find peace.

Faithful Sayings

Jesus came into the world to save sinners
(1 Timothy 1:15)

Godliness is profitable in this life and
the life to come (1 Timothy 4:8-9)

If we have died with Jesus, we will live
with him (2 Timothy 2:11)

We are justified by grace and heirs
according to the hope of eternal life
(Titus 3:7-8)

Jesus will make all things new
(Revelation 21:5)

Jesus will rescue his people and reign
forever (Revelation 22:1-6)

Don't Forget!

Ladies' Swap

Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.



Vince Daugherty, Don Iverson, Hiram Kemp

Last Sunday evening, we were blessed to hear from Don Iverson about the work being done in India. We are so thankful for Don and Cathy and their love for the Lord and His kingdom. How motivating and encouraging they are! Romans 10:15
Full presentation is on our YouTube channel.

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**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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