



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 22 June 2, 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

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

### WEB PAGE

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

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

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*Florida School of Preaching*  
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### 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.

## **1 & 2 Samuel Explained**

Hiram Kemp

Originally the books of 1 and 2 Samuel were a single book in the Hebrew Bible. It is helpful to keep this in mind as one reads these two books. The original readers of these books would have gone immediately from the failing reign of King Saul into the success of King David. These two books play an important role in the history of God's people in the Old Testament as they live under a human king for the first time in their history (Deut. 17:14-20). There are patterns in these books as God rewards the obedient and punishes the rebellious. God uses different individuals throughout 1 and 2 Samuel to accomplish His will and keep the story of redemption moving forward.

### **The Time Period**

The first eight chapters of 1 Samuel take place during the time of the judges. The period of the judges was a time of wickedness and worldliness. The people did not have an earthly king, and everyone did what he or she wanted (Judges 17:6, 21:25). Samuel was the last judge in Israel and by far the best. His mentor, Eli, died at the beginning of 1 Samuel because he did not discipline his corrupt sons as they abuse their authority as priests (1 Sam. 2:30-36, 3:13-14). Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died in battle against the Philistines, and the ark of the covenant was captured (1 Sam. 4:10-11). The glory of the Lord departed from Israel, and His presence was removed as the ark had been taken by Israel's enemies (1 Sam. 4:19-22). It is during this time of departed glory and disappointment that the events of 1 and 2 Samuel take place. Samuel advanced in age, and his sons wanted to become the new judges in Israel. The Israelites complained that Samuel's sons were wicked and should not serve as priests; they requested a king (1 Sam. 8:1-5). God warned Israel that the king will eventually make their lives harder, but they desired a king anyway (1 Sam. 8:6-22).

### **Samuel: Judge, Prophet, & Priest**

Few people in the Old Testament rival the righteousness of Samuel. Though Samuel lived in times of abundant iniquity, he still managed to do the right thing. Samuel's mother, Hannah, prayed for him before he was born promising to dedicate Samuel to the Lord. That was exactly what she did (1 Sam. 1:24-28). Samuel spent time with Eli the high priest, learned to listen to the Lord's voice (1 Sam. 3), served as a judge in Israel, and led the people properly (1 Sam. 7:15). He was blameless as a leader in Israel. No one could lay any impurity or corruption to his charge (1 Sam. 12:1-5). He spoke on behalf of God warning the people to turn from their idolatry and serve the Lord (1 Sam. 7:3). When the Israelites were successful in battle, he showed them how to give God all the glory by erecting memorials of victory (1 Sam. 7:11-13). Samuel was a prophet who spoke on behalf of God to the people (cf. Acts 3:24, 13:20). And he was a priest who offered up sacrifices when necessary (1 Sam. 7:9; cf. 1 Chr.6:33-38).

He also anointed both Saul and David as kings in Israel. The rest of the Bible always reflects on Samuel as being a righteous individual who prayed bold prayers and served his God faithfully (Psa. 99:6; Hebrews 11:32). He was obviously not perfect, yet he showed us it is possible to live a life of purity and faithfulness to the Lord (1 Kings 8:46; Matt. 5:8).

### **The Fall of King Saul**

Samuel anointed Saul as king because the Lord had chosen Saul to lead His people (1 Sam. 9:27-10:1, 15:1). Though Saul stood head and shoulders above all of the people, he had a humble start as king (1 Sam. 10:22-23). He was reluctant to serve as the king of God's people since he was from Benjamin, the smallest tribe (1 Sam. 9:21), but eventually accepted his role as king. He was gracious to his enemies and gave second chances to those who were unkind to him (1 Sam. 11:12-13).

However, Saul would not remain faithful to the Lord. He would go on to offer unauthorized sacrifices to the Lord (1 Sam. 13:1-16). He also made foolish vows that almost cost his son, Jonathan, his life (1 Sam. 14). When he was told to destroy the Amalekites because of their previous disrespect toward God, he saved their king and some of the best cattle (1 Sam. 15). God vowed to take the kingdom from Saul and to give it to a more worthy servant (1 Sam. 13:13-14, 15:28). Saul began in the right way but ended up as a disappointment. He did not stand up against Goliath, developed an obsessive hatred for David, and ultimately, died by suicide during a battle (1 Sam. 30:1-6). Saul had a life filled with promise, but he lived woefully short of his potential. Saul taught us that obedience is better than our excuses of disobedience (1 Sam. 15:22). If we obey God, we will prosper. If we disobey God, we will fall further than we can possibly imagine.

### **~ Youth Group ~**

#### **Making Friends again (II Corinthians 5:18-20)**

When I was growing up, I loved the movie "The Little Rascals". The characters, Alfalfa and Spanky, were best friends. But when they started to let other things get between their friendship, they got mad and would not talk to each other. They quickly realized that life was no fun without their best friend. In the end, they remembered how great it was being friends, apologized to one another, and decided to never let anything come between their friendship ever again. When we mess up our friendship with God, God provides a way of reconciliation. Reconciliation means to make friends again. We are able to make friends again with God through Jesus. Not only that, but we can share this good news with others. If anyone messes up their relationship with God, through Christ, they can be friends again.

### **The Rise & Reign of David**

God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to pick Saul's replacement. To the surprise of everyone, God picked Jesse's youngest son, David, as the next king stating the Lord looks on the heart of the person not on the outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7). David showed what kind of heart he had as he defeated Goliath and evidenced great confidence in his God (1 Sam. 17). He spent a majority of his early life on the run from Saul who chased him around Israel like a madman. David could have killed Saul on several occasions, but he would not touch the Lord's anointed (1 Sam. 24:6, 24:10, 26:9, 26:11, 26:23). After Saul's death, God exalted David as king, and he reigned for forty years (2 Samuel 5:1-5). The book of 2 Samuel is sometimes called the Book of David because it is largely about his life. In 2 Samuel, we read of David winning battles, leaning on God for guidance, and advancing his kingdom. We also read of his sin with Bathsheba, and God forgiving him (2 Sam. 11, 12:13).

In 2 Samuel, God promised David that one of his descendants will sit on the throne and enjoy an eternal reign (2 Sam. 7:12-16). This promise was not made about Solomon but is Messianic and points to Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1; Acts 2:22-36). David was a great king, but God showed us that One far greater was coming. Where David failed Jesus did not. Even in the areas where David succeeded, Jesus surpassed him. Reading 2 Samuel shows us that David was a good king who followed God's will wholeheartedly and led the people of God in the right direction. When we come to the New Testament, we encounter David's Descendant who leads God's people from earth to heaven. Jesus is not just king of the Jews but King of the world (1 Tim. 6:15-16).

### ***Senior Saints***

John McShane

With the events that have taken place in this country in the recently, I have to wonder what those of us that can remember the turbulent 1960's have failed to do that could have prevented today's problems.

Have we failed to speak out about the events that we saw? Could we have worked harder to see that they did not come around again?

Two thousand years ago Jesus met many problems and always confronted them head on. Have we failed to follow his example?

*Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

Malachi 2:10

# 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; Brian Smith; 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; 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); **Phil Sweeney** (shingles, friend of Brenda Mask); **Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland** (Ruby Lewis' nephew, cancer).

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Brian Smith** had heart surgery on Friday, May 29. Doctors feel that the problems were corrected. Brian is now home recovering.

**Brenda Mask** is still home recovering from community pneumonia.

*This God - His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.  
Psalms 18:30*

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

**Remember our online Bible classes available for our kids.**

**Sunday mornings, 9:30 am: teens - Gospel of Mark**

**Thursday 7:00 pm: teens - Apologetics**

*(Log-in info is on your webpage)*



## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Carol Eason  
Joyce Burbage Cheryl Barker  
Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Designated Elder - David Anderson  
All worship assignments are postponed.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"Knowing the God We Serve" Phil. 4*

6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"Centurions in Scripture"*

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 10 .....               | \$8,483.00 |
| May 17 .....               | \$5,503.00 |
| May 24 .....               | \$6,856.00 |
| May 31 .....               | \$7,956.00 |
| Contribution Average ..... | \$7,034.48 |

Ladies, I am thinking of you today and praying for your physical and emotional health. These past weeks have been hard for us all especially those who live alone. Being isolated in our homes has taken a toll. Many of us have felt lonely, anxious, frustrated, worried and fearful, even though we know we are loved and protected by our Heavenly Father. Isaiah 46:4 says, "even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you..." (ESV). We cannot prevent negative thoughts from visiting our minds, but we can keep them from taking up residence. Here is an antidote that some have found useful. Spend some time in your prayer chair recalling past blessings. Remember a time when a deep desire of your heart was granted according to God's will. What you wanted was something so big that you could not bring it about by yourself. When your scriptural desire was fulfilled, you knew it was a gift from God. You rejoiced and were grateful and humbled. Wash yourself in that memory today. Let it spread over your mind and body like a warm blanket on a cold day. Feel again the joy, the relief and the gratitude. Let those positive emotions remind you of how much God loves you. And remember Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (ESV).

*Grace* in the  
Book of Acts

Great grace was on all the believers  
(Acts 4:33)

The grace of God was seen in the church in Antioch  
(Acts 11:23)

The Lord bears witness to the Word of His Grace  
(Acts 14:3)

Gentiles and Jews are saved by the grace of God  
(Acts 15:11)

Paul and Barnabas are commended by the grace of God  
(Acts 15:40)

Many believed through grace  
(Acts 18:27)

Paul testified to the gospel of the grace of God  
(Acts 20:24)

The word of grace builds up believers (Acts 20:32)

Spiritual Blessings Found in Christ

Chosen before the foundation of the world  
(Ephesians 1:4)

Adopted as sons and daughters  
(Ephesians 1:5)

Blessed and accepted in the beloved  
(Ephesians 1:6)

Redemption and the forgiveness of sins  
(Ephesians 1:7)

All wisdom and understanding  
(Ephesians 1:8)

Knowledge of the mystery  
(Ephesians 1:9)

An inheritance  
(Ephesians 1:11)

Sealed with the Holy Spirit  
(Ephesians 1:13-14)

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*South Florida Avenue*

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Return Service Requested