



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

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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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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
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Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

JOSHUA

Hiram Kemp

There are certain books in the Bible which serve as great connections between other books. For example, the book of Acts helps us to see how Jesus' disciples lived and functioned after His ascension to heaven. Likewise, the Book of Joshua helps us as we read the Old Testament to make connections to things previously written. The first five books of the Old Testaments (Genesis through Deuteronomy) are sometimes called the Torah (Law) or the Books of Moses. We read of the creation of the world, the creation of God's special people (Israel), the special law given to them, and the special land to which God is leading them. The book of Deuteronomy ends with the promises unfulfilled and the death of Moses (Deut. 34:10-12). That is where the book of Joshua plays a special role. It is important because it serves as a connecting book between what God promised and what God delivered. It was Israel at the height of her faithfulness to the Lord. The Book of Joshua helps us to see how God fulfilled His word and how people can thrive when they fulfill their word toward God.

JOSHUA: THE LEADER

When Moses was told he will not be going into Canaan, God selected his replacement (Deut. 31:7-8, 34:7-9). There would never be another prophet like Moses, but someone had to take his place (Exod. 33:11; Deut. 34:10-11). Joshua would be the one to lead Israel into the promised land. He had shown himself to be a faithful warrior. It was Joshua who led God's people in battle against the Amalekites earlier in the journey to Canaan (Exod. 17:8-16).

God tells Joshua how he can succeed as the leader of the Israelite people. He was to be a man of courage and conviction as well as someone who was more motivated by faith than by fear (Josh. 1:5-6). He would succeed if he put the law of God into his heart and committed to doing what it said (Josh. 1:7-8). And Joshua would be assured of God's abiding presence as long as he complied with these commands (Josh. 1:9). To his credit, he did as the Lord commanded him, faithfully serving God throughout his life. Joshua famously said that he and his household would serve the Lord even if no one else did (Josh. 24:14-15). The people were faithful to the Lord all the days of Joshua and even into the next generation (Josh. 24:31). When Joshua died at the age of 110 the people of God were in good shape (Josh. 24:29-30). While Joshua was not perfect, he was a good leader who led Israel into the land and stabilized them as they received what God promised to give them. He delivered one of the greatest speeches in all of the Old Testament as he encouraged the people to remain faithful to the Lord and reminded them of their history (Josh. 23:1-16). Joshua wanted Israel to know who they were and also to know the God they served.

THE LAND PROMISED

God promised that He would give Israel the land of Canaan (Gen. 15:7-26; Exod. 3:17). He was going to do good to the Israelites because of the promises that He

made to their fathers (Deut. 7:6-9). The people of Canaan were being vomited out of the land because of their wickedness (Lev. 18:24-25). Beginning with the fall of the walls of Jericho and on to the town of Ai, the book of Joshua tells us how God overthrew the nations. He allowed the sun to stand still so Israel could be victorious in battle (Josh. 10:12-14). Thirty-one kings were defeated by Israel in their battles (Josh. 12:24). We also read of the land being conquered and divided among the tribes (Josh. 13-22) and the establishment of six cities of refuge designated for those guilty of manslaughter (Josh. 20:7-9). In a summary statement near the end of the book, we are told that God gave Israel all the land He promised and none of His promises failed (Josh. 21:43-45).

The fulfillment of the land promised is important to note. Sometimes there are those who falsely claim that God still owes Israel land. The text from Joshua is clear that God gave Israel exactly what He said He would. The land promise was always conditioned upon the faithfulness of God's people. When they became unfaithful, they would be put out of the land (cf. Deut. 28). Even Nehemiah would confess centuries later that God had not defaulted on His land promised to Abraham's seed but had given them the land in full (Neh. 9:7-8). There remains a promised land for the people of God, a heavenly promised land, not found in the physical land of Canaan (Heb. 4:8-9).

LESSONS TO REMEMBER

There is much more that could be said about this pivotal book. However, I want to end this article by noting some of the practical lessons found throughout its pages. The Old Testament was written for our learning and to produce hope within us (Rom. 15:4). Let us learn a few lessons from this book that will give us hope. Sin must be dealt with among the people of God. In Joshua 7 when Achan steals some of the spoil from Canaan that belonged to

God, he and his family paid for his sin with their lives (Josh. 7:22-26). We learn that we must not allow sin to run free among the people of God (cf. 1 Cor. 5). We need to discipline one another in love and remember to keep the bride of Christ as pure as God would have us.

Joshua's record is flawless with one exception. In Joshua 9, some individuals from Gibeon approached the Israelites and deceived them about who they really were. They fooled the Israelites into accepting them as distant travelers, but by the time Joshua and company found out, it was too late. Joshua and the rest of the nation of Israel had already promised safety and security to the people of Gibeon (Josh. 9:3-27). The one-time Joshua did not seek the Lord, he and his people were fooled. We must seek the Lord and never trust our own human wisdom (Isa. 55:6). We need to be those who pray about everything (1 Thess. 5:17). The Lord will lead our steps if we allow Him to do so. Joshua was deceived by men when he did not consult God, and the same will be true for us.

There is always more work to be done. Even when Joshua was old and had accomplished a great deal, there was more land to conquer (Josh. 13:1). Joshua had to equip others to pick up where he would leave off. We must do what we can while we are alive, and we should be thinking about future generations. The gospel must go on long after we depart from this world, and we must make sure the baton is passed properly (2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 2:1-8). The book of Joshua helps us connect God's promise with God's fulfillment. God cannot lie. He always keeps His word (Titus 1:2). The Book of Joshua shows a God who always delivered. As we anticipate the eternal Canaan, we can look back and see that God will come through for us. As He led Israel through battle and ultimately to victory, He will do the same for us (1 Cor. 15:57).

~ Youth Group ~

SPECIAL YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCRIPTURE

*Isaac was willing to be sacrificed
(Gen. 22)*

*Moses was a beautiful child
(Heb. 11:23)*

*Paul's nephew saved his life
(Acts 23:15-22)*

*The young children came to Jesus
(Matt. 19:13-14)*

*Jesus was teaching the religious leaders
at 12 years old
(Luke 2:42-46)*

*A boy gave Jesus his lunch
(John 6:9-14)*

*Babes give praise to God
(Psa. 8:1-2)*

Senior Saints

John McShane

I found this simple math article on the internet a few days ago.

"2Get and 2give creates many problems but when doubled to 4get and 4give, it makes life a lot easier".

I thought it goes along with a Bible passage that Vince pointed to in his lesson last Sunday morning.

Zechariah 3:10, "***In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree***".

In this day and time, both seem to be good advice to live by.

(image from flickr.com)



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; Jim Turner; Antoine & Marcella Swain

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); **Dana Robertson** (Sharon Egolf's daughter); **Jenny Laws** (Nikki Williams' cousin, cancer).

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Marcella & Antoine Swain are requesting prayers for health problems.

Please pray for **Lemuel (Andre Medley's brother)**, his local congregation, and his family.

Phil & Dottie Fife are out of town. Let's pray for their safety and their safe journey home on Friday.

*"Is anyone among you suffering?
Let him pray."*

James 5:13a

Reminders about the Body of Christ

God works through all of us (1 Cor. 12:6)

There are many members but one body (1 Cor. 12:12,20)

No one person can do everything (1 Cor. 12:14)

Every member has something to contribute
(1 Cor. 12:15-17)

God places us in the body as He pleases (1 Cor. 12:18)

God honors what we sometimes overlook (1 Cor. 12:24)

Members of the body are to sympathize with each other
(1 Cor. 12:26)

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

Sunday, June 21, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Fatherhood through the Eyes of David"
1 Kings 2:1-4

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"Q & A"

Live stream will continue until further notice.

Sunday, June 21, 2020

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Anderson
A.M. Song Leader Andre Medley
Scripture reading/Prayer Allen Grimes
Lord's Table David Williams
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
Lord's Table David Williams
Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

The State of Florida is now in Phase 2 of re-opening.

If you are not already attending and would like to, please notify the office. We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22. In view of more people attending, we will post a "Those to Serve" list above. If you would like to serve in these areas, please let the office know.

- Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 24	\$6,856.00
May 31	\$7,956.00
Jun 7	\$7,396.00
Jun 14	\$5,979.00
Contribution Average	\$7,005.47



Women of the Word

How Do You Smell Today?

Rene' Bingle



There is nothing that smells better to me than a candle that smells like fresh baked caramel sweet rolls coming out of the oven! To me, that smells like home. For Christians, the scriptures tell us we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved (II Cor. 2:15). What do you smell like to others? We should leave behind an aroma of love and forgiveness and kindness (Eph. 5:1-4) and thankfulness wherever we go! Just as a stinky smell makes us want to back away or leave the area, we need to make sure the aroma we leave behind does not cause one to back way from Christ or leave Christianity behind. If we wear the name of Christ, we must not be known for speaking evil (Eph. 4:31), lying (Eph. 4:25), or any other uncleanness (Eph. 5:3-4) that would turn one away from Christ. An aroma tends to linger in a room for a while even after that which caused the aroma is gone. Let's make sure the aroma we leave behind is one that "smells" like Christ.

Jesus' teachings on the end of the world

No one knows when it will happen
(Matt. 24:36)

It will be like the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37-39)

We should watch and be ready (Matt. 24:42)

We will be blessed if we are found faithful
(Matt. 24:45-46)

If we are found unfaithful, we will suffer
(Matt. 24:48-51)

We must use what we have while we can
(Matt. 25:14-30)

We will be judged based on our works
(Matt. 25:31-46)

Reminders about Giving

Give yourself to God first (2 Cor. 8:5)

Consider how much Jesus gave (2 Cor. 8:9)

Giving is based on what we have (2 Cor. 8:12)

Giving shows our love (2 Cor. 8:24)

We will reap in the same way we sow (2 Cor. 9:6)

God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7)

God will bless givers with what they need (2 Cor. 9:8)

God has given the most (2 Cor. 9:15)

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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