



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

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Vince Daugherty

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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.

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Florida School of Preaching
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Huron, SD Mission Work
Casey & Emily Paulin

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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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

Vince Daugherty

When the apostles watched Jesus ascend into heaven Scripture says, “they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up” (Acts 1:10). In the three years of Jesus’s ministry, He had completely changed the course of the apostles’ lives. Those three years of coming to know Jesus were just the beginning for those early disciples of Jesus. Just because He went back to the Father does not mean that God was or would no longer be involved in human affairs. Jesus even said that death itself would not stop His plans, “Upon this rock [Jesus identity as Christ] I will build my church. And the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). The very last words recorded of Jesus on earth were instructions about how his kingdom, the church would spread. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The book of Acts is volume two of Luke’s “orderly account” (Luke 1:3) recording a “narrative” (Luke 1:1) about the rise of the Messianic King, Jesus (the Gospel of Luke), and the rise of the Messianic Kingdom, the church (the Gospel of Acts). Luke is almost universally accepted by scholars as the author of the two books. When one compares the writing style, especially the introductions to the two texts (cf. Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3); and the “we” sections, we can see that the author was a companion with the apostle Paul (cf. Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 21:19-26:32; 27:1-28:16). There is speculation that Luke was Gentile. Scholars point to Colossians 4 as evidence that mentions Luke among the Gentile brethren and not listed with the names, “of the circumcision” (Col. 4:11,14). If Luke was a Gentile that would mean that over twenty-five percent of the New Testament was written from a Gentile perspective. Luke’s narrative is historically accurate. “Luke’s history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness” (Sir William Ramsey). “No ancient work affords so many tests of veracity; for no other has such numerous points of contact in all directions with contemporary history, politics, and topography...” (J.B. Lightfoot). “Luke records an abundance of details... thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine Mediterranean islands. Also, he alludes to ninety-five different people, sixty-two of which are not mentioned by any other New Testament writer. Twenty-seven of these are unbelievers, chiefly civil or military officials.” (Metzger quoted from Wayne Jackson commentary). While not all of Luke’s points of reference have been discovered from archaeology it is of great note that nothing Luke wrote has been proven false. Often skeptics approach writings of Scripture with the hopes of finding error or falsehood only to come away with a deep respect for the historicity of the Bible.

About the book of Acts, Schreiner wrote, “Its message and work were not done in a corner. Its victories and opposition were not minor blips in history. Acts recounts the struggle and success of the gospel message going forth, all under the plan of God, centered on King Jesus, and empowered by the Spirit.” God’s work with humanity was not done when Jesus ascended but continued with the kingdom on earth, the church. Acts 2 records the explosion of the church on the scene of Jerusalem. The kingdom had its King pronounced (Jesus the Christ cf. Acts 2:22-36); the power of the kingdom was given (the Holy Spirit cf. Acts 2:1-4); and its first loyal subjects were instated (Acts 2:37-47). Despite early opposition from Jewish leadership the church not only survived but thrived, with 3,000 (Acts 2:41) souls added the first day, then quickly 5,000 (Acts 4:4) then to the point it could no longer be calculated (Acts 5:14).

The church swelled so much that their fame went out to the surrounding regions of Judea so people brought the sick to them to be healed. Those Jews that stood against the church were fighting a losing battle, they were fighting against God. The church would not be stopped as long as the members had faith in God.

Even internal challenges did not derail the efforts of the church. Ananias and Sapphira were held accountable for their actions, lying to the Holy Spirit, and the church (Acts 5:1-11). And, when a complaint came up about certain widows being overlooked, the church appointed servants to oversee the matter (Acts 6). Because they kept the faith and unity among the body, “the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem” (Acts 6:7).

The church was not only in Jerusalem, Jesus said to his disciples that they would be His witnesses to the uttermost parts of the world. When faced with further persecution from the Jews, the body was scattered. Scriptures says, “those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Philip preached in Samaria (Acts 8:6-13) and also baptized an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). The greatest missionary of the first-century church came from the unlikeliest individual. Saul, a Pharisee, and persecutor of the church received a vision on the road to Damascus. God had specially chosen him to “bear My name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15). He was converted and immediately began preaching

Christ. Another unlikely convert in the eyes of Jewish Christian was Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion. As the kingdom expanded, not only was God’s kingdom to be made up of ethnic Jews, but Gentiles as well. Acts 10,11 records the lengths God had to go to prove that Christ died for the Gentile world too, and Gentiles were accepted by God. It is after a great influx of Gentiles that the mixed group is called by another name, Christians (Acts 11:26). Paul was tasked by God to be the apostle to the Gentiles so he with companions set out to convert and establish churches throughout the ancient known world (Acts 13:1-14:28; 15:36-18-22; 18:23-21). Paul’s missionary journeys detail how the ancient world civilly and religiously accepted and/or rejected the gospel. It seems that when Paul preached it resulted in a revival or riot or both. Though the church was never violent or posed a physical threat to the government it was harassed and persecuted. In the face of the challenges, the church marched on, unphased and untrammelled. The end of the book of Acts deals with the arrest and trials of Paul. Though he had done no wrong, Jewish opposition looked for any way they could stamp him out. Despite his physical conditions, Paul himself was unphased. He used whatever platforms he was given to preach the gospel, even to kings and those in authority over him. The last scene Luke gives of Paul is in Rome on house arrest awaiting trial. Even in Rome, Paul was, “preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him” (Acts 28:31).

Some Tips on Reading the Bible, part 2

Rick Kenyon

A few more thoughts to enhance your Bible reading...

Read the Bible with a theme in mind. There are multiple themes in the Bible with each book emphasizing various nuances of those themes. When you focus on a single theme each book becomes intimately and logically connected—not to mention reduces confusion and frustration when encountering the more tedious passages. However, be aware that not every theme is readily seen in every book. In case you need some, here are a few suggested themes: God’s Love for Mankind; The Mercy of God; God’s Deliverance; God’s Providence; Jesus’ Role in Scripture; The Patience of God; Victories of God

Read the Bible in different translations. To begin, ensure that the Bible you regularly read is a Bible that you can understand. The KJV is only as effective as your ability to understand and comprehend it. If you struggle with it, then consider switching to a comparable translation (NKJV, ESV, ASV, NASB). Reading in different translations increases our ability to understand the original meaning of the text. No one translation is flawless, but together they complement each other to shed more light on God and His Word.

Read the Bible with joy in your heart! “I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word” (Ps. 119:16). “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Ps. 119:97). “Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it” (Ps. 119:140). The Bible is an eternal source of things eternal. If we are willing to search out the scriptures and obey them in sincerity and love, eternal life will be our reward (Titus 1:1-2). “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Mt. 5:6).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Wayne Shearer - health/test results
 Virginia Walker - lung infection
 Lee Glenn - Covid

PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Bill Long - health
 George Davis - eye procedure
 Jimmy Sweeney - shoulder rehab

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Prayer requests

Lee Glenn is at home sick with Covid.

CFBC is June 26 - July 2. We have several members attending.

Remember!

Sundays at 5:45 pm

Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm

Pew packers in auditorium

ADDITIONAL INFO

Volunteers are needed to **provide a ride** for Bernetta Green on Sunday mornings. If you can help, please contact the office.

We need others to be trained in operating our **sound booth**. This is a great opportunity to serve the Lord in a VERY meaningful way, especially for those who do not want to be in front of the public.

We need your help! See Stacey Paulin or Brian Kenyon.

Special **Thank You** to **Vince** and **Rick** for their work over these last two weeks. Vince (and his helpers) did a great job organizing and setting up VBS. It was the best and most participants in recent memory. Much work was done by many, especially the teachers and those behind the scenes! Rick did a great job organizing and leading the Huron, South Dakota, mission trip. As usual, things do not always go as planned, but Rick's leadership (and the flexibility of those with him) made the trip a success. We praise God for these two brothers!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Bobby Sheumaker
 Closing Prayer Brian Kenyon

Sunday, June 26, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Fullness of Joy Vince Daugherty
John 15:9-11

6:00 P.M.

Mission Trip Report ... Rick Kenyon

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Bobby Sheumaker
 Greeters E&C Smith
 Song/prayer before class Frank Hamby
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
 Lord's Table David Williams
 Closing Prayer George Davis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table David Williams
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart
 Greeters Brunson

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Announcements Rick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Devo Brian Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Upcoming Events

June

24 - SING at Orange St.
 26 - CFBC begins

July

3 - Fellowship In-service
 4 - Independence Day
 12 - SFA men's breakfast
 12 - FSOP ladies class
 16 - Summer cookout
 21-23 - WWCC K-5
 24 - Fellowship in-service



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jun 5 \$6,909.00
 Jun 12 \$5,427.00
 Jun 19 \$6,316.00
 Contribution Average \$6,392.67
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

“When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.”

John 12:9

This one verse says so much.

- A large number of people learned about Jesus from what they heard
- They searched for Him
- They wanted to see what He had done
- They wanted to see the proof
- The dead man raised from the dead is impactful, unlike a million words that can be said

Still today...

- There is a large number of people that hear and learn about Jesus (Matthew 9:37-38)
- They are searching for Him (field white for harvest - John 4:35)
- They want to see what He has done (newness of life - Romans 6:3-7)
- They want proof (fruit of Spirit - Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 5:22-25)
- I am the dead man raised from the dead (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Is seeing me more impactful, more powerful than a million words said? (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Therefore, I tell you...

...do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

– **Jesus** (Matthew 6:25–34)

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Return Service Requested

*These things I
command you, so
that you will love one
another.*

John 15:17



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.