

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.26 06-28-16

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

Robert McAnally
(863) 606-5664

SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

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.

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Bless the Means

T. Pierce Brown

How often have you heard one praying for a sick person say something like this, "Bless the hands that wait on him or her, and the means being used for their recovery," but somehow seemed unwilling to say, "Cure their disease." Of course, with my aversion to the claims of so-called "faith-healers" who give glowing testimonies of how they know of someone who was cured of almost anything they could imagine, I can understand our skirting around anything that might make us sound somewhat unorthodox.

However, having long since passed the point where merely "sounding orthodox" unduly concerns me, I would like to suggest that we pray for the things about which we are concerned. I do thank God for the "hands that minister," but ordinarily I am not really as concerned about them at that moment as I am with the particular person to whom they are ministering. So why not say so? I am not nearly as concerned with God blessing the knife that does the surgery (whatever that means) as I am with His blessing the person who is having the tumor removed.

It is also slightly disturbing for me to continue hearing persons say, "Forgive us of our many mistakes and shortcomings," without ever mentioning "our sins." God can overlook our mistakes, but our sins have to be forgiven through the merits of the blood of our loving Lord, or we are lost forever!

Surely, when we say, in reference to a sick person, "Nevertheless, thy will be done," we are trying to echo the sentiments of our Savior. Yet, is it possible that what we actually mean is, "I do not really believe you are going to answer affirmatively, so I will give you a chance to cop-out on my doubts"? Since I use the expression, "Thy will be done" and commend the attitude, the above critical question is probably a result of a recognition of my own failures and shortcomings!

I still remember one of my prayers (?) of almost 60 years ago. I had been reading the promises of Jesus about granting whatever was asked in faith, so when I came to a gate as I was walking through the woods to a little one-room schoolhouse with my lunch pail in one hand and my books in another, I said, "God, open the gate for me." For some reason He did not see fit to do it. Since He did not seem to hear, I raised my voice a little and said again, "God, I said I wanted you to open the gate for me." When it still did not open, I said, "I did not think you would do it anyway."

It is possible that I have done the same sort of thing in my more mature years if I have prayed, "Bless the means being used for his recovery," and when he died anyway, said, "I never did have any hope for him." Perhaps all of us, critics or otherwise, need to pray as did the man in Mark 9:24, "I believe. Help thou mine unbelief!"

Mischievous Behavior

Donald R. Fox

It was 6:20 p.m. as my wife and I started toward the church building for Wednesday Night Bible Study, 23 July 2008. We like to take the old country road toward the church building. The road is little traveled, especially at that time of night. We made a hard right turn on the small road, and the beginning of a straight stretch for about 400 yards. Suddenly, at that point we got into a lot of broken glass on the road. Dodging the huge amount of glass we noticed two boys about 300 yards away, breaking glass. The entire road was littered with broken glass. I blew my car horn at them. One ran and hid in the soybean field next to the road. The other froze and waited for us to get to him. With adult authority we said, "Why have you done this? We are going to notify the police. We see you out in that field!" "He did it!" the other boy said, pointing to the soybean field. Shirley, my wife, being somewhat angry said, "You better start picking up this glass! We are on our way to the police." We drove to the police station and reported the problem. This old country road was now very dangerous for motorists as well as others that jog/walk this quiet road.

Why did these boys play in such a mischievous way? Surely they knew better! Surely they knew it was wrong! Did they not care? Why was this fun for them? Why didn't they exhaust themselves in healthy activities such as playing ball and the like? Why the damaging and malice behavior? Truthfully, I do not have an answer to these questions. Unruly and unprincipled people are inclined to sin. "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom" (Proverbs 10:23). "A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent" (Proverbs 15:5). "Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee" (Proverbs 3:29). "Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord" (Psalm 25:7).

Do I think these boys are wicked sinners? No, I do not! Are they beginning to enjoy, and are they inclined toward mischief? Yes, I think so! They need to be disciplined! A greater need is for them to learn what is civil behavior and conduct. If they don't and if they continue and grow in this mischievous behavior, well you know, the rest of the story. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). "Let love be without dissimulation ["hypocrisy" ASV]. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:9-10).

These youngsters practiced malice and unkindness toward their fellow neighbors! They broke the law! Love for their fellow man is greatly needed. We pray for them that they will put away such mischief before it grows to flagrant lawlessness.

Some may think I should have not taken the time to write an essay about the tomfoolery of these boys. As kids, some of us have done things that were out of order. Early youthful corrections can turn-around wrong behavior.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, Jacquelin Dopwell, JoAnn Hoback, Elizabeth Tubbs, Debbie Horsley, Jim Turner and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Earl Shanes, Wayne Hendrix, Bonnie Patterson, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Janet Romberger, and Harold Rister.

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

Others: Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner and Alyssa Buckner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

July 10th: Fellowship In Service. Please bring finger foods.

July 16th: Men's breakfast at Medulla Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

August 1st-5th: Vacation Bible School at the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale. The theme is God's Creation, Digging for Answers. See the flyer and or slide for more details.

Sympathy

Bobby Cooper, brother of Virginia Walker, passed away last Wednesday June 22nd after a long illness. There will be no formal service. His burial will at the National Cemetary in Bushnell. Please keep Virginia and the rest of his family in our prayers.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Our group of members traveling to Nicaragua this week have arrived safely. Please continue to keep them in your prayers for a successful trip in spreading the gospel and for safe travels home. They will be returning on Sunday July 3rd.

Placed Membership

Brenda Murray has requested to place membership with our congregation. Please welcome her into our family.

Visitors

Jim & Carol Edmonson, Brenda Murray, Dave & Angie Simmons, Peter Saunders, Martha Noland, James Egolf and Lexi Keene.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Ken Walker **Table** David Anderson
Bob Cooper..... **Assist** Kenny French

Sunday, July 3, 2016 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon..... David Williams
Closing Prayer Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Bob McAnally
Greeters The Fifes
Att. Cards..... Quadarius & Paul
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt
Open & Close Building John McShane

Wed. July 6, 2016

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

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

Sunday, July 10, 2016 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jim Turner
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards..... Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Open & Close Building John McShane

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards..... Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Open & Close Building John McShane

Wed. July 13, 2016

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer David Williams

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 05.....	\$4,567.00
June 12.....	\$4,523.00
June 19.....	\$4,843.55
June 26.....	\$4,632.00
Contribution Average.....	\$4,981.61
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

Christian Warfare

Christians are at war! In this war, more is at stake than in any other, human souls (Matthew 16:26). More people are involved than any other war, all humanity. This war has been fought longer than any other, since shortly after creation (Genesis 3:1-6). This war involves the most powerful leaders ever, God and Satan. Paul, however, wrote about the prospects of this war, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:10-13). We can be victorious if we just trust in these God-inspired words and put them to practice. First, we must know the enemy, which is the devil. The word “devil” means “accuser” (see Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5; Revelation 12:10). “Satan” is another word identifying this enemy. “Satan” means “adversary” (1 Peter 5:8). “Wiles” means “scheming craftiness” and is an indication of the deceptive power of this enemy! Second, the struggle is not physical but spiritual. The opponents are instruments of unseen forces. “Principalities [rulers, ESV],” in this context, are angelic and *(continued below)*



South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit No. 254



The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

(continued from above) demonic powers of the evil, spiritual world (Ephesians 3:10). “Powers [authorities, ESV]” are the more powerful among spiritual created beings; demons (Colossians 2:15). Although they are at work even now, they have no power over us unless we let them (Romans 8:38). Christ will destroy them when He returns (1 Corinthians 15:24). “Rulers of this world” are spiritual beings who allegedly had parts of the universe under their control (see 1 John 2:15-17). The devil rules minds in this realm (1 John 5:19). “Spiritual wickedness in high places” are spiritual forces of evil in the spirit world. This spiritual war is fought over territory, the hearts and minds of people, attitudes and philosophies. Satan is hungry and gains this territory through deceit and blinding the eyes of people’s understanding (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9). Third, God gives us the weapons we need to defeat the enemy (Ephesians 6:13-17). “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Finally, the way Christians tap into the source of the power of these weapons is through prayer (Ephesians 6:18). Yes, there is a great spiritual war going on, but the Christian has every assurance of being victorious when he or she applies what Jesus Christ, the “captain of our salvation,” instructs! ❤️ Brian

Pray for our evangelism teams in Nicaragua as they spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, pray for Jason’s medical mission trip in Honduras.

