

# 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.27 07-05-16

## ELDERS

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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.

## 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

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[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## “What I Have Written I Have Written”

Hiram Kemp

In modern times there are so many ways to communicate. We can email, text, message through social media or call. Seldom do people write letters by hand anymore. Nevertheless, in the ancient world much was communicated through what was written. The Medes and Persian had a law that stated once something was written and sealed by the King, it could not be altered, changed or reversed (Est. 8:8; Dan. 6:15). God declared in every dispensation where He gave man a written law, that it was not lawful to add to or subtract from His Word (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19).

When Jesus was on trial for his life, Pilate eventually gave in to the cry of the angry mob to crucify Him (Jn. 19:12-16). Pilate would write a superscription to be placed over the head of Jesus so onlookers would know the crime for which he was being crucified. Pilate wrote, “Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews,” in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek (Jn. 19:19-20). The Jews were not satisfied with this description and wanted Pilate to change the wording to reflect Jesus as merely *claiming* to be King of the Jews, but Pilate responded, “What I have written I have written” (Jn. 19:21-22). Pilate, a weak and people-pleasing ruler, was unwilling to change what he had written, and God is no different.

Though men would desire God to change certain things to fit more with their viewpoint, what God has written is written (2 Tim. 3:16-17). There are those who would have God to change what is written concerning the permanency of marriage. Easy, no fault divorce is popular, and many would love to have God’s approval, but what He has written is already written and cannot be changed (Mt. 19:4-9). The sinner’s prayer, grace alone and faith alone are sometimes viewed as convenient plans of salvation, yet they are unbiblical and erroneous. What God has written regarding what men must do to be saved in cooperation with his grace is unalterable (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Jas. 2:18-20). Some would desire God to be pleased with the multitude of denominations that populate the world. Why does there have to be only one church that is pleasing to God? What God has written concerning the oneness of the church is written and cannot be changed (Jn. 17:20-21; Eph. 1:21-23, 4:4-6).

If men could not twist the arm of fickle Pilate, it should be obvious that God will not be persuaded to change or compromise His revealed will. We should spend less time wishing God had given us something different or desiring that He change what is written to suit our belief, and spend more time doing what we know to do (Jas. 4:17).

# Spiritually, There's No Place Like Home

Brian R. Kenyon

Our part of the evangelistic missionary trip to Corinto, Nicaragua, with YES II was complete when our plane landed in Tampa around 11:00 p.m. Sunday night. Collectively, each one of the twelve member team thanked God for the safe travels, and each silently acknowledged, "There's no place like home!" Carrying out the Great Commission is a blessing (Mt. 28:19-20), and so is having a home to which we can return! How well do we appreciate our home?

## Our Eternal Home

One of the main goals in this life is, by God's grace, to make heaven our home. This can only be possible by the blood of Christ, which washes away our sins (Rev. 1:5), and our obedience to the Gospel (Heb. 5:9). For this reason, our eldership saw fit to send twelve SFA members to join the rest of the YES II campaign workers in Nicaragua. The fifty-two member group was assigned into eleven evangelistic teams and a VBS team. Special thanks is given to Rene Bingle, who put a lot of time, work, and sweat into VBS (beginning months before the campaign)! Each working day began with the busses leaving the hotel around 7:30 a.m. and returning around 9:30 p.m., with door-to-door evangelism for most of the time and an evening Gospel meeting in between. The people of Corinto were very welcoming for Bible studies. However, like people in most places, were not quick to repent. Despite knowing they were lost in sin and that obedience to the Gospel would wash away their sin, resulting in being added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47), most were not yet ready to change their ways. The main problem (at least with those with whom I studied) was they were living with members of the opposite sex who were not their spouses. Although their putting off the Gospel was heart-breaking, at least they knew they could not be faithful Christians and continue living in sin (Rom. 12:1-2). This is a lesson for us. Sometimes, "Christians" here think that they can live anyway they want and still have heaven as their home. May we realize before it is too late, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 7:21).

## Our Temporal Home

Second to saving souls, the main goal of these YES II campaigns is to teach young people one-on-one evangelism. All of our young people experienced door-to-door evangelism on this trip. Some of our young people even conducted a home Bible study. The physical conditions were often difficult (sweltering heat, confined spaces, dirt floors with sand fleas, etc.), but that did not stop our young people from carrying out the task. As great as these kinds of campaigns are for our young people, the bulk of their training must come from the home. Parents have a tremendous responsibility.



Hiram and Brittani in Nicaragua face-timing with their "babies" back home. For a mom to leave her small children to go on a campaign is very difficult. We thank the Lord for His watch-care over us and our families, and we appreciate the sacrifices people made for this evangelistic effort!

The greatest of these is to bring up their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). There is no substitute for a godly home, where Christian parents, "Train up a child in the way he should go" so that "when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pr. 22:6). Too often, Christian parents shirk their spiritual responsibilities and expect the local church to train their children in the Lord. At best, the local church can reinforce and build upon what parents teach at home, but if parents are relying on four hours or less of instruction in church services, they are going to be sadly disappointed. Parents, let's diligently teach our children everyday by our actions and our words (cf. Deut. 6:6-7). This is how they will truly "learn for keeps."

## Conclusion

We thank our eldership for seeing the value of sending us on this YES II mission trip; we thank those who contributed financially over and above their first day of the week contribution; and we especially thank God for giving these opportunities. May we as parents Scripturally fulfill our stewardship in the home, and, as children, obey our parents in the Lord, so that heaven will be our home!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Linda Pennington had oral surgery this week. Also 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 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 for more details.

## Placed Membership

Tonia Portelles-Driggs, who has been attending for quite sometime has requested to place membership with our congregation. Let us please welcome her into our family.

## Thank You

Dear church family, Many thanks for the beautiful basket of flowers for our beloved brother, William J. Burton. Please continue to pray for us. May God bless each of you.

Margaret B. Gentry & the Burton family.

Taleah Anderson thanks the church so much for helping her collect prescription bottles. Your help was greatly appreciated!

## Visitors

Jim & Carol Edmonson, Floyd & Shirley Loudermilk, Victor Travis and Alexis.

## Pray for Jason Hendrix

and the rest of the medical team as they work in Honduras. As they treat people's physical condition, Jason and others offer the only cure to their sinful spiritual condition, the Gospel!



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

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

### 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  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge

### 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

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

### Sunday, July 17, 2016 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Ken Walker  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

### 10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Fred Strickland  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Williams  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Williams  
**Att. Cards**..... Ian & Sebastian  
**Closing Prayer**..... Kyle Williams  
**Open & Close Building**..... John McShane

### Wed. July 20, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 12.....	\$4,523.00
June 19.....	\$4,843.55
June 26.....	\$4,632.00
July 03.....	\$4,927.00
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$4,979.59</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# Corinto, Nicaragua



## YES II Evangelistic Mission Campaign



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

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**Campaign Totals**

<b>Doors knocked</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>434</b>
<b>Bible studies</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>VBS attendance</b>	<b>629</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Restorations</b>	<b>4</b>



## Thanks for Your Prayers & Support