

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.28 07-12-16

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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.

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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

YES II — In Our Own Words

Hiram Kemp

There is a Divine mandate to train up young people in the ways of God (Prov. 22:6). The New Testament not only gives parents this responsibility but the local church needs to be involved in the training process of young people as well (2 Tim. 2:2; Tit. 2:3-4). The congregation here at South Florida Avenue and its eldership understand this and are very much involved in seeing that young Christians here have many opportunities to grow and serve. The YES II Mission campaigns are designed to train young people in evangelism, service, and sacrifice. The trips are not vacations but are week-long evangelistic efforts that help young people learn to study their Bibles, share truth, and assist where they are needed.

In Acts 16, we read of Paul's preparing to go on his second missionary journey. Paul has lost the help of John Mark and Barnabas and is looking for assistance. When Paul arrives at Derbe and Lystra he hears of the faithfulness of a young Christian named Timothy, and he takes him along on his trip (Acts 16:1-4). Timothy's life would never be the same. He would later have two inspired letters addressed to him personally in the New Testament (1 Timothy and 2 Timothy). We do not know how the first missionary trip impacted his life, but we can assume it was for good. He would later be known as a faithful servant in the church (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil.2 :19-23; 1 Thess. 3:2).

The young people from our congregation that went to Corinto, Nicaragua, on the YES II campaign had their faith strengthened, and I believe that the trip will bear fruit in years to come. Read some of their own words describing how the trip impacted them and what they gained from the experience:

Casey Paulin: "I am so thankful that I got to go on this trip and for the people that made it possible for me. I learned so much and was stretched outside of my comfort zone. I am so motivated to study and become better at spreading the gospel. The friendships I made on this trip will last a lifetime. Thanks for the opportunity and the experience."

Tucker Sweeney: "This was a great and inspiring week of fun and work. We made new friends and met up with old friends. I think that this was a great week for everyone and that everyone will want to go again. I am glad I got to go once more and be involved in the work."

Kyle Bingle: "The mission trip was an awesome experience for me. It taught me that those people can make the most out of anything and we need to learn from that. It also taught me that they are willing to listen and study God's Word (way more than we are). (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1) The best part was getting closer spiritually and physically with the people of Nicaragua and the fellow Americans. It was also pretty amazing to get to play baseball with the local kids and see how they live life every day.”

Our young people were not bystanders on this trip but active participants in this mission effort. They never complained or murmured a word of ingratitude when asked to do anything (Phil.2:14). Many of the young ladies assisted teams with notetaking and playing with the children during studies. Rene’ Bingle did a phenomenal job with the VBS that was going on all week there.

For me the mission trip was really an eye opener. I had never been out of the country before and getting to see a new place and the struggles other people have made me thankful (1 Thess. 5:18). I was able to see that it is not “things” that should make us happy but it is our attitude, in spite of what we lack, that determines how we respond to life. The people of Nicaragua never complained about their poverty or the fact that they did not have the latest technology, they were content with what they had, I need to learn this lesson (Phil. 4:10-12).

Also, the fact that we were able to study the Bible every day and go house to house with the truth was great (Acts 5:42). Many of the people we approached were willing to study the Bible with us. They would often ask questions and want to know why we teach certain things. This encouraged me to want to study the Bible more and be ready to give an answer for what we believe. They also were sincere enough to acknowledge the truth when they saw it in God’s Word, even if they were not willing to obey it. The trip gave me a lot of hope. Although things are different in America, the truth is still the truth. The seed is still the word of God (Lk.8:11), and when it is sown in the heart of honest people, it will still produce Christians (Acts 11:26).

The group I led was able to study with a lady who was sixty-four years old. She had grown up Catholic but had not practiced Catholicism in years. She was discouraged and believed God was angry with her because she could not read. We studied with her for hours, and she was baptized at the gospel meeting one night during the week. Faith still comes the same way, by hearing God’s word (Rm. 10:17). The trip made me appreciate elders with the foresight to send youth on trips like this and members who generously give so these events can happen. I appreciate those who lay up treasures in heaven by supporting the eternal cause of Christ. This mission trip has helped me to appreciate missionaries and the sacrifices they make and also to see the power the gospel has no matter where it is taught. Thanks to all who supported this effort with prayers, finances, and encouragement.

Faithfully Serving and Spiritually Growing in the Lord

Peter closed his body of inspired writings by exhorting his readers to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” and then added, “To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Pet. 3:18). Growing in God’s favor is dependent on an individual’s becoming more faithful. True faithfulness can only come as a result of learning more Bible. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Our faith can never outrun or knowledge of God! With that being said, it must also be noted that “faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:20). Faith in action is a powerful proclamation (cf. Acts 4:31-33). We appreciate the sacrifice that everyone made concerning the mission trips in which this congregation participated. As the YES II campaign ended in Nicaragua, Jason, along with the medical team with whom

he traveled, began their work in Honduras. Certainly, the faith of our members in the field has increased along with those whom they taught. Let us all continue growing in God’s favor, realizing the blessings involved with our fellowship in the great work of glorifying God by teaching His Gospel to those lost in sin! ❤️ *Brian*



Jason with Jesus Paguaga

Welcome Back, Jason! who just returned from Honduras, where he worked with a medical team. As a result of the team’s evangelizing, 7 souls were baptized and the Gospel seed planted.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jim Turner will be having some medical testing done this week. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, Jacquelin Dopwell, JoAnn Hoback, Elizabeth Tubbs, Debbie Horsley and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Joe 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, Alyssa Buckner, Dorthy Webb, (Darnell Kirkland's mother in law) and Gerri Howell (a former member is having some medical problems). Keep all of these in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

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.

Hither, Thither and Yon

The Bingles, Sweeneys, and Charles & Barbara Paulin are all traveling this week. Please pray for a good trip and safe travels back home.

Thank You

Dear church family, We want to express our thanks for all the prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls at the passing of my brother, Bobby Cooper.

Our love in Christ, Virginia Walker & Rob and Sahn Cooper

Placed Membership

Jim & Carol Edmonson have requested to place membership with our congregation. Please let us rejoice and welcome them into our family.

Sympathy

Homer Turner, the husband of Kathy Dudley-Turner, a former member of ours, passed away on 7-11. Please keep Kathy and the family in our prayers.

Visitors

Linda Boone and girls, Victor Travis, Zarida Garcia, Katrina Greene, Jennifer Waldon, and Fred Benninll.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

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

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..... Michael Linkous
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer John McShane
Sermon..... Jason Hendrix
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

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

Sunday, July 24, 2016 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer..... Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... The Hambys
Att. Cards..... Sebastian & Quadarius
Closing Prayer Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building..... John McShane

Wed. July 27, 2016

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Jim Turner

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 19.....	\$4,843.55
June 26.....	\$4,632.00
July 03.....	\$4,927.00
July 10.....	\$4,733.00
Contribution Average	\$4,970.78
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,422.60

“Get A Life!”

One preacher was at a preachers' luncheon discussing the church work he had planned for the coming week, which involved a few evenings and a Saturday morning. Another preacher quickly responded, "What are you doing all that for? You need to get a life!" The preacher with plans thought for a moment and said, "I've got a life, a great life in Christ!" True commitment to Christ seems strange to some people, even "religious" folk and preachers. Have you ever encountered people who questioned and/or ridiculed why you attend church services both Sunday and Wednesday nights in addition every Sunday morning and why you even think about attending church services on vacation? Faithful Christians actually have the best life possible. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The reason why Christians enjoy the abundant life is because their sins are washed away, and, as a result, are in full fellowship with Deity (1 John 1:3-7). The life that we must live is perhaps best summarized by Paul, when he declared, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). We are "crucified with Christ" through baptism, which is a form of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:3-4, 16-18). From the waters of baptism, our life begins as "a new creation; old things have passed (continued below)



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



Kissimmee VBS will be held Monday thru Thursday, July 18-21. There will be different speakers each night for the adult class. If you would like a ride Tuesday, please let Brian know. We will leave the building at 5:15 p.m.

If you would like to go to the free movie at the Cobb Thursday morning and then eat pizza afterward, let Brian know. We will meet there at 9:15. Bring money for pizza.



(continued from above) away; behold, all things have become new," so that "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). Since we have been "bought at a price" (i.e., the precious blood of Christ), our life on this earth must "glorify God" (1 Corinthians 6:20). There is no potential inconvenience or loss in this life that is worth losing our eternal life with God! Again, Paul wrote, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). So, yes, "Get a life," and make sure it is life in Christ! May we, like Paul, always be able to say, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). ❤️ Brian

 **Keep Studying Ruth, Esther, and Job**

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. (Rom. 6:1-3)