

# 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.30 07-26-16

## 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.

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

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

## No Lives Matter

Hiram Kemp

Everyone wants to be noticed and acknowledged. No one likes to be short changed or mistreated and we need to treat others the same way we want to be treated (Mt. 7:12). In recent news there has been a big outcry from certain groups who feel they have been overlooked by society and disadvantaged concerning the sanctity of their lives. The Black Lives Matter movement cries that African American lives are not valued on the same level as other lives in this country. Then the Blue Lives Matter proponents suggest, and rightfully so, that we respect the lives of law enforcement officers. The truth is that no group can elevate the importance and significance of their lives above others because of what Jesus did in dying for all people (1 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn. 2:2). There are times, however, when no lives matter. Let's notice a few of them.

**No Lives Matter** more than the life of the Son of God as it relates to atoning for sin. Good men like Abraham, Moses and David had died in centuries past, but it did nothing for removing the sins of mankind (Mt. 17:4-5; 22:41-45; Jn.8:58). Bulls and goats were slain every year in Israel for the sins of mankind, but it was impossible for them to permanently take away sin (Heb. 10:1-4). People were crucified often by the Romans, but the crucifixion of Jesus not only fulfilled prophecy but brought redemption and reconciliation to mankind (Mt.2 0:28; 26:28).

**No Lives Matter** too little that God does not want them to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). As Jesus passed through Jericho on one occasion He saw Zacchaeus, a crafty tax collector in a tree, and He called Him down and went into his home (Lk. 19:1-5). Jesus brought salvation to a man who was formerly the scum of society, a scammer, and a sinner because he was not beyond salvation (Lk. 19:9-10). Saul of Tarsus was a Jewish terrorist who hated Christians (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2). Jesus spoke to him out of heaven as he journeyed on the Damascus rode and sent him to hear the gospel so he might be saved (Acts 9:4-6). God looked on the worst sinner in the first century and used him as a spokesman to the gentile world (1 Tim. 1:13-16). No lives matter too little that God cannot save them or want them to be saved (Lk. 1:37; 2 Pet. 3:9).

**No Lives Matter** here on earth if they are not used to submit to and glorify God (Isa.43:7). Though men may find ways to prolong life here on earth, eating healthier, and exercising, to fail to serve God makes one's life meaningless in the end (1 Tim.4:8). There will be a day of judgment and those who have not obeyed the gospel will be eternally lost regardless of the accomplishments gained in this life (2 Thess. 1:7-9). We can make our lives matter as we decide to surrender them to Jesus in His service (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Thess. 5:23).

**No Lives Matter** more than any other because God shows no favoritism and loves all of His children the same (Acts 10:34-35; Gal. 3:26-28). Let us follow the example of our heavenly Father (Mt. 5:43-48).

# Shepherding the Flock

*Furman Kearley*

**P**aul and Peter both exhort elders to shepherd the flock. Paul said to the elders of Ephesus: “[Shepherd] (t)ake heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28 ASV). Peter said, “[Shepherd or] (t)end the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind” (1 Peter 5:2).

The shepherd is a perfect example of what the elders are to be to the congregation. The shepherd rules the flock but does not lord it over the flock. He loves the flock and leads them gently along. The shepherd sees to it that the flock has food or pasture. He also sees to it that they have shade and protection and shelter. The shepherd examines the flock to see that they have no sores or wounds. He calls, and the sheep follow. The shepherd does everything needful for the sheep. Similarly, the elders must shepherd the flock of God.

The good shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep. He will protect them against false teachers. He will refute the error and will lead them to pastures or sources of good food and nourishment. He will lead them beside still water or water that is good and healthy. He will protect them and nourish their wounds and diseases. He will see that they are not misled or mistreated but will treat them with love and kindness.

The good shepherd will know the Chief Shepherd -- Christ. He will study all about Christ until he knows everything taught about him. He will study about Christ until he has transformed his life to live a life like Christ. He will show Christ living in him. He will love as Christ loved and serve as Christ served. He will live a holy and pure life as Christ did.

The good shepherd will know the Word of God. He will study the Bible carefully and prayerfully. He will memorize all he can of the Bible. He will teach it thoroughly and teach it clearly.

The good shepherd will know the sheep well. He will not only know them by name but also know their talents, their strengths and their weaknesses. He will know their problems and do all he can to help them overcome their problems. He will know their families. He will know where the children are in school and be able to discuss their activities with them.

The good shepherd will know the enemies of the flock. He will be prepared to overcome the enemies and slay them at the feet of the sheep. He will know false teaching and false teachers and expose them by the Word of God. He will know the dangerous enemy far in advance and be prepared to fight and win victory over the false teachers and false doctrines.

The good shepherd will recognize the opportunities for growth and how to grow. He will study growth situations and growth opportunities. He will know the size of his flock and know the need to enlarge his flock. He will constantly be seeking the lost and building up his flock with new members.

The good shepherd will know when to divide his flock. He will make wise decisions about the flock and its division. If he gives the flock to other shepherds, he will still maintain an interest in it and its growth and development.

The good shepherd will know and plan the spiritual life for his sheep. He will set the example of growing spiritually, and he will teach the sheep so they will grow. He will plan spiritual worship. He will plan activities for growth both numerically and spiritually.

The elders in every congregation must understand the verb “to shepherd” and fulfill their responsibilities as shepherds.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner will be having more medical tests soon. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Carlene Long, Patricia Chisholm, Jacquelin Dopwell, JoAnn Hoback, 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, Dorothy 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

**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.

**August 7th:** Fellowship in service immediately following our evening worship service. Please bring finger foods.

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Several of our members are away this week. Please pray for their safety while traveling.

## Sympathy

Our hearts go out to Tonya Anderson and her family at the passing of her mother, Ruth McDaniel, on July 14th in Alabama. The viewing will be Tuesday, July 19th, and the funeral service will be Wednesday, July 20th in Russellville, Alabama. Please keep Tonya and her family in your prayers.

## Response

Elizabeth Tubbs confessed sin in her life, and asked for prayers on her behalf.

## Visitors

Linda Boone and granddaughters, Kaden & Lilly, Victor Travis & daughter, Alexis, Robin & Flo Calderwood, Joanne Mitchell.

*This ad appeared in a Minnesota Newspaper:*

*"Wanted: men, women & children to sit in slightly used pews on Sunday morning."*

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

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

### 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

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

### Sunday, July 31, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Phil Fife

10:30 A.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paullin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Andersons  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul & Ian  
**Closing Prayer**..... John McShane  
**Open & Close Building** ..... John McShane

Aug. 3, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 26.....	\$4,632.00
July 03.....	\$4,927.00
July 10.....	\$4,733.00
July 17.....	\$4,613.26
Contribution Average.....	\$4,970.78
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

# GOD'S POWER, NOT HUMAN WISDOM

I recently heard where a leading atheist said that humans could possibly have come from Martians, but could never have come from an all-powerful, loving Creator. Unfortunately, many people believe the foolishness of the atheist rather than the simple, logical truth! When it comes to religion, many people follow the same rationale: they believe the far-fetched, but reject the simple truth! Paul told the Corinthians, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). Paul did not come to Corinth with mere oratorical power and/or rhetorical eloquence. Paul’s preaching exemplified how one should glory in the Lord rather than in the flesh (1 Corinthians 1:29-31). “Excellence of speech or of wisdom” refers to a superiority of persuasive public speaking. Paul’s only concern was communicating Christ and the accomplishments of His death! The manner and content of Paul’s preaching did not depend on rhetorical power or oratory genius! “Christ crucified” represents the entire Gospel system (cf. Romans 1:16; 10:16; Galatians 2:14). The power of Paul’s message was not in himself or his word, but in “Christ (continued below)



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

## Keep Studying Ruth, Esther, and Job



This Sunday evening Brian, Casey, and Hiram will give



a report on the recent mission trip our young people took to Nicaragua. We greatly appreciate our eldership and those who gave over and above their first day of the week contributions!



**Keep Summer Fun & Fabulous**

**Keep Following God**

**Keep Studying the Bible**

**Keep Attending Services**

(continued from above) crucified.” Paul’s physical condition while at Corinth was not powerful, but it did not need to be (cf. Acts 18:9-10). Paul’s speech was not filled with the power of human wisdom, but it did not need to be (cf. Acts 18:9-10). Paul’s preaching was proof of the Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13) and the power of God (cf. Hebrews 2:1-4). The purpose of Paul’s preaching was to ground people’s faith in the power of God, rather than the impotency of human wisdom. “Faith” here is the “subjective” faith (that is, one’s own belief cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:3) as opposed to “objective” faith (that is, the once delivered, unchanging Gospel cf. Jude 3). Upon what does our faith stand? It is sometimes easy to be attracted to the easy going, most popular “gospel” promoted by a master orator, but in the long run, a faith based on that cannot stand (Galatians 1:8-9). Upon what does our faith stand: the word of God or human wisdom? ❤️ Brian