



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

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

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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Dub Hill Russia
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Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

COMMENDABLE WOMEN IN EARLY EXODUS

Vince Daugherty

I. Hebrew Midwives

From the beginning of the Book of Exodus it reads, “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (1:8). Thus, instead of showing proper gratitude towards Joseph and his kin, this Pharaoh saw the Israelites as a threat to his kingdom. When he sought to enslave the Israelites, the text reads, “but the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel” (Exodus 1:12). Moreover, “the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, ‘when you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, they she shall live’” (Exodus 1:16). However, their response is recorded, “But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them but saved the male children alive” (Exodus 1:17). Of primary importance is the fact that the midwives feared God above the king. It seems almost instinctual that women could not possibly have a heart to abort a child. It is something that they would have to be desensitized to and taught not to care for that which is natural to care for. When a state becomes tyrannical, it seeks to posit itself as the highest in moral authority wanting to “rule” that immoral behaviors are in fact moral. Further, to continue to remain in power, it will seek to eliminate all threats to their rule as seen in the feminizing of the population. Later in the same chapter, it reads, “Pharaoh commanded all his people saying, ‘Every male child who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive’” (Exodus 1:22). Yet these women knew in their hearts it was not, and that God ought to be feared above the king. That was certainly true for the aborting of the male children in Egypt, but it is true in all respects, “we ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). From the text, it could read in one of two ways, “the Hebrew midwives,” meaning that the midwives were Hebrew or “the midwives of the Hebrews,” meaning that Shiphrah and Puah may have actually been Egyptians. Whichever they were, they are to be commended for their courage to stand up against the Pharaoh. God responds in kind towards them, “And so it was because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them” (Exodus 1:21).

II. Moses’ Mother—Jochebed

“And a man of the house of Levi went and took a wife a daughter of Levi” (Exodus 2:1). A seemingly insignificant verse and account. However, it was in fact very significant because the son born to them would be the savior of his people. One may think that it was not a good time to be having children for Hebrews living in Egypt, but the text reads, “So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months”

(Exodus 2:2). The love and care that a wife has for her husband and for her children will cause her to do whatever she can for them. Sometimes that is to protect and care for, but sometimes it is to let them go. “But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank” (Exodus 2:3). Moses’ parents to decide they would have a child and keep it shows their courage. Moses’ birth echoes the story of Noah in the fact that his mother made an ark for him, covered it with asphalt and placed him in water. Salvation was found in the ark. In a similar way Moses’ birth foreshadows the child who would be born to the lowly status of Mary and Joseph. But it is through Jesus’ birth God sent salvation. Moses’ mother foreshadows that of Mary who would be used to bring about salvation for her people when she let Him go to fulfill his ministry. Further, it is similar to the time of Jesus’ situation because of the killing and attempted killing of infants at the time of Jesus’ birth. While it may not seem significant every time a woman decides to become a mother, it is potentially a gift from God, to renew a family, a community, and a nation. Her care for her son and her willingness to protect and then let him go is commendable.

III. Pharaoh’s Daughter

As the text continues it reads, “And his [Moses’] sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him” (Exodus 2:4). While the Nile River is not fast moving, it is teeming with life. As any good big sister would do, she made sure no wild animals would try to play peek-a-boo with the bite-sized infant. But behold, “Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the arm among the reeds, she sent her maids to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So, she had compassion on him and said, ‘this is one of the Hebrews’ children’(Exodus 2:5,6). What a coincidence that the daughter of the king just happened to be in the right place at the right time to stumble upon Moses. The text says that she had compassion for the baby because it wept. Especially early on, babies are not able to do much more than cry. The mother’s instincts to care for, or “have compassion on,” that child is essential to the component of the feminine disposition. I know for myself I can struggle with crying babies. Not because the baby is annoying or loud, but I can hardly stand to hear the sound of the baby in distress. [Men may also be more stressed because they lack the same ability to sooth, so find that baby’s mother stat!] Again, Moses’ sister just happens to be there ready to ask the daughter of Pharaoh if she should find the baby’s mother (Exodus 2:7). Of course, she finds her own mother, and her and her brother's mother gets paid for being Moses’ nurse. Not only would Moses be looked after in his formative years in the luxurious conditions of Pharaoh’s home, but he would also see and know his own heritage as a Hebrew. Because of the feminine instincts to care for and have compassion on a child, Moses’ life was spared as a child. For that, Pharaoh’s daughter is to be commended for her compassion. If she would have taken the dark path and followed the Pharaoh’s orders, Moses would have been killed.

Conclusion:

We live in a world and time when the female is devalued. Some women are told to avoid having children or get rid of ones that are unwanted. It takes courage to go against what seems to be the current trend. Women are taught to care more about career and behave like men. However, it was the love, care and compassion that brought about the salvation of their situation. We must be thankful and encourage women to be and to act exactly how God has created them to be. It certainly does not make them any more or less valuable than men or masculinity, but it does mean that they bring a different element to the table than men, and societies are better for it. It seems like society always gets things backwards—men trying to act like women and women trying to act like men is not the desired narrative. The narrative that we find in Exodus certainly elevates women, and they are to be commended. We need more Shiphrah’s and Puah’s who fear God more than the king. We need more women like Moses’ mother, Jochebed. We need more women like Moses’s sister, Miriam. We need more women like Pharaoh’s daughter.

Opportunities for Ladies here at S Florida Ave:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Teach classes for all ages | PHOEBE group supporting FSOP |
| Visit the widows and shut ins | Send cards to encourage others |
| Pray for others | Fellowship in service |
| Raise up our children in the Lord | Attend ladies classes |
| Change out bulletin boards | Greet visitors |
| Write articles for the Ladies section in the bulletin | |
| Prepare food for various events or for those in need | |
| Support the elders, deacons, preachers and men of the church | |
- The list is **endless!** There is always something we can do!

*And let us consider
how to stir up one
another to love and
good works,
Hebrews 10:24*

PRAYER LIST

Current Shirley Loudermilk (health), Melissa Craft is home now but still needs our prayer, Sharon Egolf fell this past week and is recuperating at home. Cary Egolf (Sharon's son) health concerns

Continual: Wayne Shearer (health); Declan Potvin (eye); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Kathy Nester (health); Melody Baxter (health)

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

Brothers, pray for us...(II Thes. 3:1)

There will be an Elders, Deacons and Preachers meeting this Sunday, August 13th, at 4:00 PM. Please let them know if you have something you would like to be brought up in that meeting.



BACK TO SCHOOL: The FSOP students began the new semester on August 7! Please keep them in your prayers! Also if you would like to join them, you still have time to register for classes!



Also pray for our students and teachers at SFA who will be starting their new school year soon as well! May this be a great year for all and may others see your light shining for Christ!

Thank you!!

We want to thank everyone for the beautiful baby shower for Heidi and Ty last weekend. We are so thankful to be a part of such a loving and giving family here at SFA!!

Please continue to pray for them and for the baby which should be arriving in mid September!

Thanks again,
Rene' & Jeff Bingle, Heidi & Ty
Rhymes

To our church family,
Thank you so much for all the meals, prayers and kind words following the birth of our daughter Scarlett. We are so grateful to all of you!

Love, The Daugherty family

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder..... David Anderson

Wednesday, Aug 9, 2023

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader/prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Devotional Kyle Faneuf
Prayer Wadi Khoury

Sunday, August 13, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
A View for the Pulpit (Nehemiah 8)

6:00 P.M.

Sermon..... Brian Kenyon
Mission Report from Peru

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class..... Stacey Paulin
Song Leader (both services)..... Andre Medley
Announcements(both) Bobby Sheumaker
Scripture reading/Prayer..... Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)..... George Beals
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Open/Close bldg (both)..... David Anderson
Greeters..... The Bingles
Attendance cards (both)..... Sawyer/Klark
Sound Booth (both)..... Kyle Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Andre Medley
Scripture reading/Prayer Jarred Spivey
Closing Prayer Camron Bailey
Greeters PM..... Wayne & Anita Shearer

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Announcements..... David Anderson
Song Leader/prayer..... David Williams
Devotional Stacey Paulin
Prayer..... Wayne Shearer

Upcoming Events 2023

August

13 Elders/Deacons Meeting
19 Men's breakfast Haines City
27 Fellowship in Service
28 Ladies night out
30 Quarterly challenge

September

5 Senior Saint's meeting

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 23.....\$4,706.00
July 30.....\$10,663.00
Aug 06\$11,519.00
Contribution Average.....\$7,142.44
Weekly budget \$7,410.00

The Man (Woman) in the Mirror

When I look in the mirror who do I see? Does the reflection show Christ living in me?

Galatians 2:20 - "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."

(Can others see Christ living in me?)

Take a long look in the mirror and be true. Am I striving to be Christlike in whatever I say and do?

David said in Psalm 26:2 - "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my mind and my heart."

Am I happy with the reflection I see? Look deep within and determine if I'm pretending to be perfection, but inwardly I'm like the scribes and Pharisees.

In Matthew 23:27 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites. For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."

I see changes that need to be made, let me compare me to what God has to say. *Romans 6:16 - "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"* Colossians 3:12-17; James 1:21-22; Ephesians 4:17-25, 29, 31-32.



Lessons from II Timothy

Pieces of a Puzzle (II Tim. 3:15)

From an early age my son Judah has loved doing puzzles. It is so fun watching him sort out the different shapes, colors, and patterns into their proper place. Paul says a study of the Scriptures is like looking at puzzle pieces. "And that from childhood, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which is able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The stories you grow up hearing in Bible classes, VBS, and reading at home with your parents are the pieces of the puzzle. Timothy grew up learning those stories maybe just like you from his grandmother and mother. Using those pieces helps us to see the picture God wants us to see about Him, about people, about sin, about love, and salvation which He brings. What maybe is the most frustrating thing about putting together a puzzle is if you have all the pieces except for the very last one. In Scripture without Jesus, we are missing the last piece. With Christ Jesus, all the pieces come together to show God's perfect plan of salvation through the sending of His Son. How are you at your puzzle skills? Are you gathering your pieces and sorting them out? Maybe you're just missing the piece that brings it all together.



Ladies Night Out!

At Rene' Bingle's house

Monday August 28 @6:00 P.M.

Bring a Salad and/or dessert to share!

Sign up on Bulletin Board in Utility Room



Also: bring a bag containing 3 items that are special to you that you will tell us about! It can be anything (a photo, something you collect, something from a trip you went on, a toy from your childhood, etc, etc) Let's get to know our sisters better!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For you are the God of my salvation;
On you I wait all day."**

Psalm 25:5



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