

# 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.32 08-09-16

## 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

## THE GOD WHO PROVIDES

Hiram Kemp

God is to be praised and extolled for many of His attributes. Throughout scripture God is called various names which highlight different attributes and characteristics He possesses (Gen. 17:1; Ex. 3:14; 17:14-15). On one occasion God provides a ram for Abraham to offer on Mount Moriah in place of his son Isaac (Gen. 22:9-13). Abraham calls the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh, which means "Jehovah will provide" (Gen 22:14). Of all the things that God does for mankind, the one thing we should praise him for regularly is the fact that he provides for us. It is all too easy to pass through life and forget to thank God for all that He provides (Psa. 116:12; 1 Thess. 5:18). Instead of complaining about the things that we do not have or constantly heaping up request for additional things we should first meditate on all God has already provided.

God has provided for our material needs. Jesus taught that men should not worry about food because just as God provides for the birds, He will provide for humanity (Mt. 6:25-26). The lilies of the field are a testimony to the fact that God will see to it that man is adequately clothed, and so there is no need to be anxious over clothing (Mt. 6:27-30). Men should spend their energies seeking the kingdom of God and be assured that their needs for material things will be provided by a benevolent God (Mt. 6:31-33). Every morsel of food we digest as well as every stitch of clothing that we wear reminds us of the God that does provide for us (Psa. 37:25). God knows we have physical needs, and He will supply those things.

God has provided for our spiritual needs. In the Old Testament God gave man the sacrificial system that would typify the eventual atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind (Lev. 17:11 cf. Heb. 10:1-4). Humanity with all of its creative genius could never concoct a plan that could save us from our sins (Rom. 7:24-25). God did not wait for us to come up with our own plan to be saved, He had a plan in His mind from eternity and worked it through the centuries to bring about our salvation (Eph. 1:3-4; Tit. 1:2). God sent His Son into the world to save a world that was heading toward eternal death (Jn. 3:16-17). God was willing to bruise His Son on our behalf (Isa. 53:4,10). More than providing for our physical needs so we can enjoy a few pleasurable decades on earth, God has provided for our spiritual needs. The greatest need we all have is to be rid of our sin and be reconciled to God (Rm. 5:6-10; 2 Cor. 5:19-21). God has made it possible for us to spend eternity with Him through obedient faith in His Son (1 Thess. 4:17; Heb. 5:8-9). Truly, God does provide (Gen. 22:14).

# Three Personalities, One God

*D. Gene West*

**T**he founder and first prophet of a large and wealthy American cult ridiculed the teaching that the three personalities of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit make up one true and living God. He wrote, "Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow--three in one, and one in three! It is a curious organization. ...All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God--he would be a giant or a monster." In this matter, these people join ranks with the Muslims who mock and make fun of Christians for believing in three manifestations of one God. The Muslims accuse those who believe what the Bible teaches about the nature of the Godhead or Elohim of being polytheists. However, while we are not polytheists, those who hold the view of the man whose words were quoted above, are. They believe there are millions of Gods on all kinds of worlds around the universe. They have a very anthropomorphic concept of God. They imagine that he is like humans, which he is not.

Perhaps the magnificent Book of Isaiah offers more verses in defense of monotheism than any other book in the Bible. Throughout chapters 43, 44 and 45 of this grand book, the truth of the existence of one God, and one God only, is emphasized again and again. Such passages as Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:5-6, 14, 21-22; 46:9 all accentuate the fact that there is only one true God, and there never has been one before him, nor will one ever follow him. Incidentally, this is contrary to the theology of this cult, for they teach an infinite regression of gods through all eternity. However, Isaiah 44:8 tells us that the God of the Bible knows no other God. The prophet wrote, "Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one." If the God of the Bible and the god of this cult were the same god, one would think that the God of the Bible would at least remember his own father. Yet, he plainly declared that he knows no God beside himself. In 43:10, the prophet penned, "You are My witnesses, says the LORD, And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me." This is the God worshiped by Christians, and nothing is clearer than the truth that he is one.

However, in the very first verse of the very first chapter of the Bible, we discover that Elohim, which is the plural form of a Hebrew word for God, is used to designate our Creator. Furthermore, in the creation narrative, we read such words as, "Let Us make man in Our own image, according to Our likeness." Here we have plural pronouns for Elohim, the predominate name for God found in this chapter (Genesis 1:26). Why would God speak in the plural if only one personality made up the Elohim? That would make very little sense. The fact that the founder and first prophet of this large cult could not understand this does not mean that this is not the nature of God. This man probably did not understand how a black cow can eat green grass, give white milk and birth to a red calf either, but it goes on all the time. We should be very careful what we ridicule! The truthfulness of a matter does not depend on our understanding of it. If every man on earth failed to understand that the earth revolves around the sun, that does not mean that the sun revolves around the earth.

Whether it is fully correct to refer to God as the trinity, we will not argue, but that does not demand that there are not three manifestations of the Elohim, which we know as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is our one true and living God, who loved us and died for us on Calvary.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner is home from the hospital with a blood infection and not doing very well. He will have to stay home for at least a month. Jacquelin Dopwell's cancer has returned. She will see the doctor on Aug. 16th to see if treatment will be continued. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, JoAnn Hoback, Debbie Horsley, Michelle Paulin 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 and Gerri Howell. Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**August 14th:** There will be a meeting after evening services in the north wing for anyone who would be willing to teach or help with cradle roll- 4th grade.

**August 21st:** Baby Shower and Potluck for Kyle and Alexa Williams after the evening services. For more info please see Becky Sheumaker or Rene Bingle.

**September 5th:** 23rd Annual Labor Day Lectureship at the Sixth Street Church of Christ. The theme is "The Mind Of Christ."

**September 10th:** Youth Day at the OceanSide Church of Christ in Atlantic Beach, FL.

**Nov. 4th-5th:** Men's Retreat at the Eagle Lake Church of Christ.

## Thank You

Dear Church family, thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, cards and prayers for my family due to the passing of my mother. Your kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult time are greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for us as we travel to Virginia to finalize the wishes of our parents and close their estate.

In Christian love, David & Tonya Anderson

## New Address

Dick & Joyce Burbage have moved to: Azaela Park 1325 Grasslands Blvd. Lakeland, FL 33803 Room # 132.

## Visitors

Vickie & Abbie Wainwright, Howard & Robin Johnson, Matthew & Shannon Willcut and boys.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### August

Frank Hamby ..... Table ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Fred Rapley ..... Assist ..... Josh Estridge

### Sunday, August 14, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class ..... Ken Walker  
Prayer..... Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Williams  
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
Opening Prayer ..... David Anderson  
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp  
Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Opening Prayer ..... John McShane  
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp  
Greeters..... The Grimes  
Att. Cards..... Quadarius & Sebastian  
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Bingle  
Open & Close Building ..... Bob Pratt

Wed. Aug. 17, 2016

Song Leader ..... Steve Hunley  
Opening Prayer ..... John McShane  
Closing Prayer ..... Kyle Bingle

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

### Sunday, August 21, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class ..... Kyle Bingle  
Prayer..... Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... David Williams  
Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
Opening Prayer ..... Charles Paulin  
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp  
Closing Prayer ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Opening Prayer ..... C.J. Grimes  
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp  
Greeters..... The Williams  
Att. Cards..... Paul & Ian  
Closing Prayer ..... David Deal  
Open & Close Building ..... Bob Pratt

Wed. August 24, 2016

Song Leader ..... Jim Turner  
Opening Prayer ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 17.....	\$4,613.26
July 24.....	\$4,606.43
July 31.....	\$5,074.60
Aug 07.....	\$6,252.21
Contribution Average.....	\$4,991.51
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

# Let Jesus Bear Your Care

Part 1

Have you ever felt like the world was caving in on you? Or that you were under so much pressure that you could not take it any more? All of us have probably felt that way before. What did we do? Sometimes our actions can make matters worse. Peter said that when we feel overburdened, we should be “casting all your care upon Him [Jesus], for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Faithful Christians will be exalted in “due time” (1 Peter 5:6), but until that time comes, they are not alone nor without comfort! According to commentators, the word translated “casting” means to throw on, to give up to, or to surrender, so as not to be bothered anymore. The word translated “care [anxiety, ASV]” means concern; anxiety, worry (Matthew 13:22; Luke 21:34; 2 Corinthians 11:28). It is the kind of anxiety that causes distraction. The verb form is found in Luke 10:41, where Martha was so worried about peripheral things that she was distracted from the importance of Jesus. Although this “care” would apply to all anxieties (Philippians 4:6), the context particularly applies to persecution related worries. Also, “casting all your care upon him” is subordinate to the main command “humble yourselves” (1 Peter 5:6). This shows that “casting” our anxieties on God is a way of humbling ourselves before Him, fully relying on Him, rather than ourselves, to provide our needs (see Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 21:17-19). God really cares for us! He does not want us to “go alone” on any burdensome road. He desires to guide us along the way. Let’s let Him bear our every care! ❤️ Brian



*South Florida Avenue*  
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*Lakeland, FL 33803-2653*

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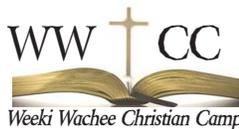
The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## August 12-14 Teen Recharge

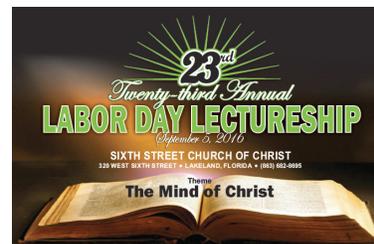
at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp

Theme: **“I Have the Power!”**

**Saturday, August 27**



Weeki Wachee Christian Camp



## Lectureships Aren't Just for Grown-ups!

Make plans now to attend the Labor Day Lectureship hosted by the 6th Street church of Christ in Lakeland! Our preacher, Hiram Kemp, will be one of

the speakers. Lunch will also be provided. Let's support our sister congregation and, more importantly, support the Lord and His work! Help make this a great day of fellowship!



There will be a meeting for parents, mentors, and chaperones (not students) for the 2016-2017 Lads to Leaders year. The “strategy session” meeting will begin with a meal in the fellowship room at 5:00 p.m.

## Pray for Our Students and Especially Our Teachers as They Return to the Classroom

Much ungodly pressure can squeeze them, but nothing that God can't handle!

