

# YOUTH GROUP

The Holy Spirit-inspired wise man once said concerning young people, “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment” (Eccl. 11:9). God wants young people to have fun! He wants them to enjoy this memorable time in life! It’s okay to enjoy fun activities—Friday night football games, the midnight premier of a heavily anticipated movie, or even sleep-overs consisting of hanging out all night eating pizza. Just remember that God will bring us all into judgment one day. This is not meant to be a bummer, but to make sure our “fun” is consistent with godly principles! It is possible to have fun and be a faithful Christian at the same time! In fact, this is part of the goal for our youth program. We want to create an atmosphere where learning God’s word, living God’s word, and associating with people of God’s word are all enjoyable and desirable. We know that youth is a “once in a life time” period of life. Thus, let us do all we can to make it fun, remembering to live it in such a way that when we meet God in judgment, we will pass the test through Christ’s blood and have ultimately fantastic fun forever in eternity with God! ❤️ *Brian Kenyon*



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

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



**September 8** --- Following our morning worship services, there will be a pot luck / fellowship meal and congregational meeting. This meeting will be an awareness, encouragement, and planning session for our youth, their parents, and all those interested in working with our youth. Join us to learn ways you can help our youth!

**Saturday, September 14** --- There will be a youth devotional and fellowship with activities. Our guest speaker will be Kyle Smith. The time will be 6:00 pm. We are looking for someone to host this event, either at the church building, his or her house, or some other location. If you are interested, see Brian Kenyon or Jason Hendrix.

**Future Plans** --- We want to involve our youth in as many “extracurricular” activities as possible with young people of other churches of Christ. If the Lord wills (Jas. 4:15), we plan to attend the YES (Youth Enrichment Seminar) Weekend at Forest Park, Valdosta, in February 2014 and doing well at the L2L finale in Orlando in April.



Although the Sunday morning teen class has been studying it for a while, the Book of Acts is the theme for this year’s L2L program. Thus, our young people (and adults) will be focusing on this great Bible book. Our young people are in the process of deciding in which activities they will be involved. Let’s encourage them to learn Acts! Keep posted for activities relating to our L2L program!

# 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. 66 No.36 09-03-13

THE SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE, LAKELAND, FL 33803

## Basic Bible Knowledge Class

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
David Williams  
Chuck Wyatt

### MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

### SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

### OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.  
Worship.....10:30a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

### HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

### MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald.....Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

### EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

### WEB PAGES

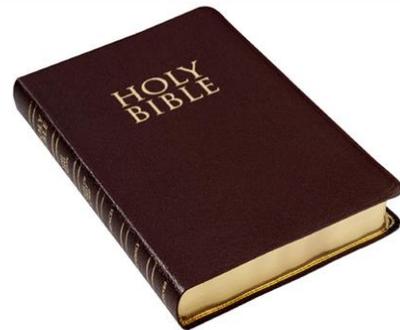
[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)  
[www.sfacc.net](http://www.sfacc.net)

### Fall 2013 Class Schedule

- **September 11, 2013** (Week #1)  
*Topic: How To Read Your Bible*
- **September 18, 2013** (Week #2)  
*Topic: What Is Biblical Authority?*
- **September 25, 2013** (Week #3)  
*Topic: What Was The Old Testament Law?*
- **October 16, 2013** (Week #4)  
*Topic: What Is The New Testament Law?*
- **October 23, 2013** (Week #5)  
*Topic: What The Bible Says About The New Testament Church*
- **October 30, 2013** (Week #6)  
*Topic: Why Are There So Many Churches?*
- **November 13, 2013** (Week #7)  
*Topic: How Do I Become A Member of The Lord's Church*
- **November 20, 2013** (Week #8)  
*Topic: Am I Right In The Sight of God?*



All Classes Will Be Held In Our Fellowship Hall and Will Start At 7:00pm



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ invites you to an 8-week basic Bible knowledge series of lessons. This class is designed to meet the needs of anyone who:

- ◆ Is not familiar with the Bible
- ◆ Wants to know more about The New Testament Church
- ◆ Is seeking the truth about Christianity
- ◆ Is unsure about what church is right for him or her
- ◆ Is feeling like he/she should be worshipping God, but isn't
- ◆ Wants to do something good for himself/herself
- ◆ Is feeling like something isn't right with or is missing from the doctrine that is being delivered at his/her denomination
- ◆ Wants to be a part of a church, but doesn't know which one is the right one to attend

The great thing about this class is that it is simple to understand, sound doctrine and no one will be put down or criticized for having a lack of knowledge, because our whole goal is to build knowledge in understanding God's word and the truth that is found within it. Please don't miss this opportunity to help build your basic Bible knowledge.

Phone #: (863) 682-4702 [www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)

# WHY DO THE INNOCENT SUFFER?

*By Richard Kelley*

**W**e are often inclined to ask, “Why do the innocent suffer?” In light of the recent overwhelming tragedy along the equatorial Indian Ocean, the question has again, like the Tsunami itself, “come to the surface.”

Indeed, this is sometimes a difficult question to answer. Small children, elderly grandparents, innocent bystanders often suffer due to undue wrongs, helpless mistakes and unwillful ignorance. You may have heard this--not a direct biblical quote--but a common saying: “God will not lay anymore upon us than we are able to bear.” This reflects a biblical statement: “There hath no temptation [“trial of man’s fidelity, integrity,” Thayer] taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able” (1 Corinthians 10:13). The principle is that God’s answer for our troubles is greater than the troubles themselves. As Batsell Barrett Baxter once said of natural calamity:

Gravity can be cruel, when someone falls from a height and is crushed in the fall; but without gravity it would not be possible for the normal activities of life to go on. The occasional destructive aspects of nature are so few in comparison with its blessings that the verdict must be solidly in favor of God’s system. (I Believe Because 275-76).

The greatest example of innocent suffering ever was that of Jesus, both during his life (Isaiah 53:3; Hebrews 5:8), and ultimately his death on the cross. That dreadful night Innocence was “betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Mark 14:41). On that occasion, pure, incarnate Love was subjected to the ultimate manifestation of man’s wickedness: “He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Consider this: at what point--if God desired to rescue a life or cease suffering in a particular case--would it be enough? Too often man wishes to make God in his image, and after his likeness. While it is human and normal that we want relief from suffering (Job 3:3), we usually associate our attitude toward suffering (that is, desiring to be relieved from it, or relieving others from it) with our “goodness.” Therefore, if we naturally want to relieve suffering, and that stems from our goodness, but God does not do that in every instance, then we perceive that God is not “good.”

Of course, this is not true as indicated at Calvary. If anybody deserved to be relieved, for even one moment, it was Jesus Christ. But in that hour, Jesus fully realized something we are apt to forget--“we are standing on the brink of another world” (William Law). Alas, how injurious it would be in the Day of Judgment if God had never provided for mankind the means by which we might refresh our senses to this inevitable truth!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Dick and Joyce Burbage are both recovering at home. Also: JoAnn Hoback, Sam Bolding, Ann Howard, Louise Starks, Jacquelin Dopwell, Margaret Coone, & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Jimmie Mathis is now in the care of hospice. Louis Tillis, Jo Chancey & Annie Beth Coone.

**Shut In Members:** Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

**Others:** Maurice Davis, Steve Roberts, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel, Katelyn Donavant & Danny Edmonds.

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 1st** - "Fellowship in Service" after the evening service in the fellowship hall, Please bring finger foods.

**Sept. 2nd** - Labor Day Lectureship at Sixth Street. There will be several speakers, & lunch will be provided.

**Sept. 7th** - Community Bible Study at 5th Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow. Begins at 10:00 am.

**Sept. 7th** - Door knocking party for our Basic Bible Knowledge class, Meet at the church building at 8:00 am.

**Sept. 8th-11th** - 60th Anniversary & Gospel Meeting at Springhead church of Christ. There will be different speakers each night. Hotdog Roast & Singing on Sept. 7th. at 4:00 pm. RSVP by 9/2 at 967-3474 for the roast.

**Sept 15th** - Men's Breakfast at South Florida Avenue at 8:00 am. Please check bulletin board for more information

## Thank You Card

*Thank you for all the acts of kindness during my surgery. We are so thankful to have such good church members.*

*Chuck Wyatt*

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Kenny & Reba French will be traveling out west for about a month. Sharon Egolf is visiting in Georgia. Please keep them, and any others who may be traveling in your prayers. Also the one who are serving in the military.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### September

Bobby Sheumaker ..... **Table** ..... Jim Turner  
Fred Rapley ..... **Assist**..... Kyle Williams

**Sunday, September 1, 2013**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Prayer**..... Jeremy Padilla

**10:30 A.M.**

**Announcements**..... David Williams  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Casey Paulin

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader** ..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker  
**Greeters**..... The Williams family  
**Att. Cards**..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bob Pratt

**Wed. Sept. 4, 2013**

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Brian Kenyon

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857*

**September 8, 2013**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Brian Kenyon  
**Prayer**..... Jason Hendrix

**10:30 A.M.**

**Announcements**..... David Williams  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeremy Padilla

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader** ..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Greeters**..... The Sweeney Family  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado  
**Open & Close Building**..... Jimmy Sweeney

**Wed. September 11, 2013**

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

**Aug 04** ..... \$4,569.46  
**Aug 11** ..... \$3,729.71  
**Aug 18** ..... \$4,978.91  
**Aug 25** ..... \$3,687.24  
**Contribution Average** ..... \$4,160.91  
**2013 Weekly Budget** ..... \$4,255.13



## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week - *The Library of Congress*  
WONN 1230 and WLKF 1430

or on our web page

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