

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Yeary.....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

Why You Should Attend PTP

By Hiram Kemp

Polishing the Pulpit (PTP) is a lectureship/workshop that occurs annually in Sevierville, Tennessee. PTP takes place the third week in August each summer. There were roughly 700 sessions and around 200 speakers on the program this year. More than 4,500 Christians were present during this week of spiritual renewal as Christians came from all over the world for this spiritual feast. This is a great event that is overseen by the elders of the church of Christ in Jacksonville, Alabama. If you have the chance next summer, this is something you should consider attending, even if you can only make the weekend sessions. It would be well worth the trip. The theme of PTP is always: Renew, Refresh, and Recharge. Those who attend experience all three of these things (Isa. 40:29-31).

Renew

The Bible speaks of the mercies of God being new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). When someone obeys the gospel he or she is a new creature in Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). However, the Christian still needs times of renewal in his or her life on a regular basis. We take vacations from our jobs and the normalcy of life to be renewed in zeal, purpose, and focus during the year. PTP allows for spiritual renewal as one can get away from the routine of everyday life and spend time with several thousand Christians studying, praying, and praising God together. Not only is the Christian renewed after spending a week at PTP, but friendships are also formed and renewed every year as you are able to see so many friends at once that you do not see throughout the year (Phil. 1:3-5). When you leave a program like PTP, your dedication to God is renewed as you have been encouraged and enlightened. There is a desire to renew your passion for studying God's Word (Ezr. 7:10). There is a renewed commitment to prayer and communion with God (Acts 2:42). A renewed focus on reaching the lost is kindled as you are privileged to hear many heart-stirring lessons on evangelism (Mk. 16:15). Those who attend PTP are renewed, not by the human agents that God works through, but by the God of heaven who touches their hearts through the proclamation of his word (1 Thess. 2:13). *(continued on page 2)*

POLISHING THE
PULPIT
Aug. 17-23, 2018

Refresh

Paul pleaded with Philemon to refresh his heart in the Lord and this is what PTP accomplished for those who were privileged to attend (Philemon 20). The world seems to be getting darker every day, and sometimes Christians can become discouraged at what we see around us. A program like PTP refreshes the Christian as one sees there are others around the world engaged in the same spiritual warfare and fighting the same battle (1 Pet. 5:8-9). Paul told the Corinthians that we are all being changed into the same image by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18). Passages that we often hear and are familiar with are preached from by different preachers, and there is a fresh perspective on things we may have overlooked. There are sessions where men can attend and become a part of a mock eldership as they attempt to solve problems and are introduced to the types of things elders deal with. Countless sessions are available for women to attend and hear other women speakers teach lessons on being a godly wife, balancing work and motherhood, and ways to keep balance with Bible study and prayer with a busy schedule. PTP provides special lessons for those who are college-age and teens. There is even childcare provided for toddlers. There are great lessons on child rearing and discipline, health and fitness, how to study the Bible, and many lessons on marriage and family. It is refreshing to hear different speakers from all over preach in different ways and yet herald the same gospel message (Jn. 17:20-21). As Jude told Christians to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered, PTP shows that there are many today who are still contending for that faith (Jude 3). We all need to be refreshed from time to time. We may find ourselves going through the motions spiritually or failing to maximize our talents for the Lord. Being refreshed at an event like PTP will help to revive our spirit.

Recharge

Jesus was the busiest preacher that ever lived. He went about doing good, healing, and preaching the good news (Acts 10:38). Yet Jesus would often get away from the crowds and rest so that he could be recharged and regain his strength. God does not get tired and does not need to be recharged, but we do (Isa. 40:28). Jesus once told his disciples to get away from the crowds and to rest because they had not even been able to eat (Mk. 6:31). Though our schedules are crammed and every minute of our day is filled with requirements and deadlines, we need times of rest so that we can recharge. PTP, though it is a program that is filled with speakers and sessions, provides an occasion for Christians to spiritually recharge our batteries. Those who teach Bible class every quarter and are constantly involved in the work of the local congregation may feel that they are on the brink of burnout. However, after attending PTP, the Christian is renewed spiritually, filled with new ideas and desires to do more for the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). Like a cell phone that must be charged daily if it will be of any use to its owner, there are times when Christians must be recharged if we would do any good for our owner in heaven. The recharging for the Christian takes place as he or she is plugged into God's Word and God's people. PTP provides opportunities where elders can be recharged as they are challenged but also encouraged that they are doing the best work in the world. Deacons find out how they can better serve and are introduced to the many ways others effectively serve throughout the church. Christians are recharged as fellowship, hugs, and laughter are shared by many throughout the week.

Conclusion

A person does not have to attend PTP in order to go to heaven. There are many lectureships and workshops that take place locally that provide encouragement to Christians throughout the year. However, no Christian will make it to heaven who is not constantly renewed, refreshed, and recharged. The dates for PTP in 2018 are August 17-23. I would love to see many from SFA attend and enjoy this spiritual feast together. I realize for many this is the time when school is about to begin and this could make attending difficult, but even coming just for the weekend would be profitable. If you are able, work PTP into your schedule for 2018, you will not regret it. The world is spiraling out of control and many who have built their lives on sinking sand are sinking fast. Christians have placed their hope in Jesus Christ and are resting on the solid foundation of faith in him (Mt. 7:24-27). PTP not only polishes the pulpits of preachers throughout the world, but it also works to polish the lives of members who attend.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby will find out this week what the next step will be for treatment. JoAnne Mitchell is having some medical testing done. Please keep them in prayer. Also Jim Turner, Margaret Coone, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason, Vince Daugherty, (student at F.S.O.P.) and Josephine Bowman in prayer.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Janet Crosby, Jack Pinckert, and Corey Perry.

Upcoming Events

Sunday Sept. 3rd: Fellowship In-Service after evening services. Please bring finger foods.

Monday Sept. 4th: Annual Labor Day Lectureship at Sixth St. Church of Christ.

Wednesday Sept. 6th: Ladies class will resume every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday Sept. 9th: Ladies Brunch at the North Jackson Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Sept. 10th: Ladies planning meeting to discuss the Ladies Day in October will be after the evening services.

Tues. Sept. 12th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Sept 16th: Men's Breakfast at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven at 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday Sept. 19th: F.S.O.P. Ladie's class at 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 29th - Oct. 1st: Rush at Freed Hardeman University for middle school and high school students.


Saturday October 7th: South FL. Avenue's Ladies Day!

Question and Answer Service

Every last Sunday night of the month, there will be a Question and Answer service. Place your questions in the box in the foyer and Hiram will discuss answers during that service. The first one will start in September.

Visitors

Graham & Beth McDonald, Pauline Gilmore, Victor and Alexis Travis, Rudy Brooks, Imari Bennett, John Hendrix, Jenna Hart, Josh Potvin and Dora Viner.

 Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Charles Paulin **Table** C.J. Grimes
Tucker Sweeney **Assist** Bobby Sheumaker

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Stacey Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Anderson

Greeters The Edmonsons
Att. Cards Willcut boy's
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. Sept 6, 2017

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer David Deal

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson
Greeters The Kenyons
Att. Cards Paul & Sebastian
Open & Close Building Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. Sept. 13, 2017

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Aug 06..... | \$6,128.50 |
| Aug 13..... | \$5,116.75 |
| Aug 20..... | \$4,954.00 |
| Aug 27..... | \$5,034.25 |
| Contribution Average..... | \$5,332.08 |
| 2017 Weekly Budget..... | \$4,716.51 |

A Regular Day's Lesson on "Wine"

While in Ghana, West Africa, our mission team was leaving a rain forest national park. At the gate were a few street vendors. One of them came to the front passenger side window holding up bottles of what he called "palm wine." When the preacher in that front seat told him we did not drink alcoholic beverages, the vendor responded, "This is not fermented. The fermented bottles are over there," pointing to his table a few feet from the edge of the road. Almost immediately my mind went to John 2:1-11, where Jesus turned water into wine. It must always be remembered that the main point of that miracle is to show Jesus' power over nature, but since the passage is often used by those seeking to justify their drinking alcoholic beverages, an observation about "wine" is in order. As even that Ghanaian street vendor acknowledged, "wine"



does not automatically refer to an intoxicating beverage, even in Bible times (see Guy N. Woods' *A Commentary on the Gospel of John*, page 52). The context must determine its meaning. For example, the Lord made a comparison through Isaiah with "the new wine [that] is found in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8). Obviously, naturally plump, juicy grapes are not intoxicating! It is true that in the non-refrigerant times of the Bible, grape juice could not be well preserved and would start to ferment shortly after it was stored, but even then, the alcoholic content was minimal, which is why the injunctions not to consume significant amounts are in place *(continued below)*



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

Return Service Requested

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



Coming Soon to South Florida Avenue

Beginning with the winter quarter, we will have a new Bible school curriculum. For those interested, our first training workshop will be Oct. 15 from 2:00-5:00 pm. See Hiram if you want to help.

The Church & The Home Working Together

Save the Date Oct. 7, 2017

Ladies Day @ SFA w/ Kathy Pollard

"Falling in Love with Your Bible"

(continued from above) (Proverbs 23:30; 1 Timothy 3:8; Titus 2:3). Jesus' turning water into wine is not justification for alcoholic beverages today. Would Jesus, who always "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38), be the direct cause of getting people intoxicated? "Alcohol continues to stand the test of time as a frequent and reliable source of ruin" (Rick Kenyon, *Do You Understand Biblical Morality?*, page 166). Why even dabble in something with the destructive influence of alcohol? "Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). May we always accept Jesus' authority over our lives as He is sovereign over creation, rather than using His turning water into wine as "justification" for that which Biblical wisdom clearly condemns (Proverbs 23:29-35). Even a Ghanaian street vendor acknowledges that "wine" does not always mean an intoxicating beverage! ❤️ *Brian*