



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 35 September 6, 2022

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD

Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

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

The Prayer of Jabez

Joshua Cantrell

The Bible records over 650 prayers. Each one teaches us the importance of drawing closer to God. Prayer is how we stay connected to God (Ephesians 3:14-21). When we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit intercedes (Romans 8:26). Many blessings befall us when we pray to God. We give God our worries (1 Peter. 5:7), and God gives us his peace (Philippians 4:6-7). The prayer of Jabez only contains 32 words. Small in words, but powerful in point. The Bible records, "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him in pain. And Jabez called on God of Israel saying, Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may cause pain. So God granted him what he requested." (1Chronicles 4:9-10). All that we know of Jabez is contained in these two verses. These two verses are contained within the context of genealogy. Finding a prayer amid the genealogical tables is much akin to; finding a beautiful flower in the desert. A treasure hid in the sand. A star peeping through the dark storm clouds of the night. With some great Bible characters, we have information about each part of their lives. Jabez is only known by his prayer to God. The Bible does not tell us how religious Jabez was, but what we know of him and his prayer, shows us that he knew the God of Heaven could grant him what he was requesting.

It Was A Prayer With A Purpose

When we offer our prayers up to God they have to be with a purpose. Jabez says, "Oh that you would bless me indeed." God wants to bless us greatly. This is a request for spiritual benefits, "Bless me indeed." It is easy to get caught up in physical blessings. We often pray for a new job, a new home, and a new car. Jesus would say "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew. 6:33). When we fix our eyes on Heaven, God will give us everything in between Earth and Heaven. Purpose is the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists. Our prayers have to be purposed filled, with sound reason, and with Heaven on our minds.

It Was A Prayer For Prosperity

Jabez asks of God, "And enlarge my coast." As stated above there is nothing wrong with asking God for "possessions." We just have to make sure we are seeking him first. Jabez was ambitious, but he also had the right attitude. Paul records, "Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion. Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in Spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves." (Philippians. 2:1-3). God is very welcoming to ambition, but we cannot allow that to become selfish ambition.

It Was A Prayer For Power

Jabez would say, "That your hand would be with me." As we go through this life, we will need to help of God with us. Our culture has created this notion that you somehow don't need God. You can live without God, and be okay in his eyes. Jabez knew that on his own he could not succeed. Before Peter encourages us to give our worries to God, he speaks about humility. The Bible records, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you at the proper time." (1 Peter. 5:6). James would say, "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and he will exalt you." God expects us to be humble. Whether it be the enlargement of his border or a struggle against the evil one, Jabez knew that he needed God with him.

It Was A Prayer For Protection

The Bible records, "And that you would keep me from evil." Jabez needed what we continue to need today. The victory over evil. One of the greatest tools of the Devil is his desire to get us not to turn to God. The Devil wants us to fear the things of this world. God has, and will always protect us. If we allow him to. The Devil has been defeated. The devil no longer has any power over God's children. Paul records, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom of God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:24-26; 55-58). God will protect us from sin, death, and Satan. If we put our lives in his hands.

It Was A Prayer For A Painless Life

Jabez asks, "That may not cause pain." Should Jabez be overrun with sin, that would cause him grief, sorrow, and pain. God can help us to avoid these things in our lives. That is not to say we will not suffer (2 Timothy. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:16). All suffering is not punishment, God has to test us and prove us as well (Deuteronomy 8:2; Hebrews 12:6). Jabez was asking God that the pain he would face, would not lead him away from God. When we go through our trials today, may they never push away from God, but closer to him (James. 4:8).

The Answer To His Prayer

The Bible records the answer, "And God granted him that which he requested." How pleased God must have been with Jabez, and his prayer. God will bless us when we honor him. John would say, "This is the confidence we have approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us whatever we ask we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John. 5:14-15). Faithfulness and prayer are as well pleasing to God. Our prayers have to be Christ-centered and Heaven-bound. God will grant us "according to his will." May the example of Jabez, be a model for us to follow as we offer our prayers up to our God.

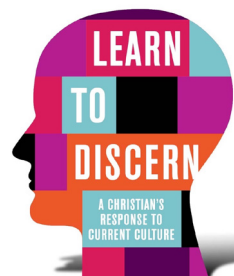
There will be a potluck wedding shower for Josh & Daniela Cantrell on Sunday, August 25th after evening worship. They are registered on Amazon and we will be collecting money for a money tree, as well. Please give your money to one of the elders' wives by August 23rd.

Help Needed!

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to bring snack- sized chip bags, cookies, and drinks for the upcoming youth seminar. Please bring items in by Friday, September 15th.

YOUTH SEMINAR September 16-18, 2022

- Friday, 7:00 pm "Current State of Affairs"
- Saturday 9:30 am "Absolute Truth"
"Moral Relativism"
"Importance of One's World View"
- Sunday, 9:30 am "The Family"
- Sunday, 10:30 am "The Church"



Register on our website or use the QR code.

Congratulations
Elementary Class
for your diligent study this quarter!
You did an excellent job in the quarterly challenge



SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Bill Long - cancer treatments
 Geny Johnson - health
 Olivia Smith - tests

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Prayer requests & Updates

Kathy Nester and Dorothea Lauther are having difficult recoveries from their surgeries.
Curtis Morehead came home from the hospital on Monday.

Thank you for visiting

Leigh Anne Garland
 Brandon & Sarah Henson

Hasani Harper
 Johnny Russell

Remember!

Sundays at 5:45 pm
 Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm
 Pew packers in auditorium

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

Scrapbooking Ladies Night



Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 pm
 fellowship hall. See Jagie for details.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

SEPTEMBER

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Devo Vince Daugherty
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Sunday, September 11, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Rich Man and Lazarus... Joshua Cantrell
 Luke 16:14-15

6:00 P.M.

The Importance of Scars ... Joshua Cantrell
 John 20:19

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Frank Hamby
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Open/Close bldg (both) Brian Kenyon
 Greeters Bingle
 Attendance cards (both) Sawyer/ Ellis

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Ralph Rogers
 Lord's Table Josh Estridge
 Closing Prayer Wayne Shearer
 Greeters Fife

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Terrance Dindy Jr.
 Devo Josh Cantrell
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Upcoming Events

September

11 - Elders, deacons, preachers meeting
 13 - FSOP ladies class
 14 - Ladies' class, 10am
 16-18 - Youth Seminar
 17 lunch- (team 4)
 18 - Potluck Meal (team 1)
 22 - Ladies' night out
 24 - Ladies' day- Orange St

September

23 - Fiesta Friday
 25 - Cantrell Wedding Shower potluck

October

1 - SFA Ladies' Day



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 21 \$4,324.00
 Aug 28 \$6,572.00
 Sep 4 \$8,831.00
 Contribution Average \$6,575.00
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

Mountaintop Experience

Ingrid Stewart

While standing more than 4,500 feet at the top of the Smoky Mountains, I looked out at just a small piece of the awesome beauty God has created on this earth. I saw trees that no man planted, that have been growing for probably hundreds of years. I saw clouds sitting on the mountains and wondering what Moses' mountaintop experience must have been like. The Almighty God created these mountains effortlessly, just as He effortlessly created me. If he has the might to do this, how much more is he able to tackle any problem that arises in our lives. Let's climb the mountaintop and commune with God whenever we feel life is too overwhelming, when we have burdens that are weighing us down, to ask for wisdom as we face life or just to say, "Thank you God!"
God is awesome, mighty, and powerful. (Psalm 90:1-2; 148:1-14)

Psalm 15

Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

He who walks uprightly,
And works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;
He who does not backbite with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he honors those who fear the Lord;
He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
He who does not put out his money at usury,
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear God's word
(Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Believe in Jesus as God's Son
(Jn. 8:24)
Repent of Past Sins
(Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)
Confess Faith in Jesus Christ
(Rom. 10:9-10)
Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins
(Acts 2:38)
Live Faithfully by God's Word
(Rom. 12:1-2)

"...through love serve one another."
Galatians 5:13

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

*But I have trusted in Your
mercy; My heart shall rejoice
in Your salvation. I will sing to
the Lord, Because He has dealt
bountifully with me.*

Psalm 13: 5-6



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