

ARE WE CAVING TO PEER PRESSURE?

There is nothing wrong with peer pressure, as long as the peers are the right kind of people. However, many times teenagers who want to be unique and their “own person,” seem to counter act that when their ways mold with the bad habits and ways of the world. Paul said that we should “not be conformed to this world” (Romans 12:2a). All would realize conformity to the world if a teenager started smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages. However, such a person’s conformity to the world started way before that. What are some signs that we are conforming to the world? Here are two: (1) when we won’t eat something we like (for example, broccoli) in the presence of our friends because one or more of them think it’s gross and don’t eat it; (2) When stopped at a red light with our right turn signal on, and the sign says “No Right Turns on Red,” but we turn anyway because we saw in the rear view mirror the car behind us was honking and the driver raising his hands in disgust because we at first did not turn. When we do things similar to these examples, we are traveling the road that leads to totally caving to peer pressure and jeopardize our relationship with God. We may think the first example is minor, but if our friends won’t accept us because we eat broccoli, they can pressure us into worse things. The second example is lawbreaking, but that’s what sometimes happens when we cave to pressure. To be strengthened against caving to peer pressure, “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2b). Love, learn, and live the word of God! ❤️ Brian



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 12 will be our next L2L day. We appreciate the adult mentors and those who volunteer to help our young people (and adults) grow spiritually.

Saturday, October 18 For our monthly youth devo and activity, we will be going to the semi-annual picnic and sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow. There will be other congregations represented there along with their youth. If you would like to go, please see Brian or Jagie for time and logistics.

Saturday, November 15 Venice church of Christ will host a youth progressive dinner. It begins at 3:00 p.m. at their church building. See Brian or Jagie if you want to attend.

Every Sunday this month @ 5:00 pm, our L2L Bible bowl teams will meet for practice. Learning the word of God to better know God and true Christianity is worth every sacrifice!

ONE Study

**Galatians
 Ephesians
 Philippians
 Colossians**

**LADS
 TO
 LEADERS**
 LEADERETTES

Our youth group is well into a focused study of ONE as revealed in these epistles of Paul!



Pray for our young people. They face extreme trials and temptations every day. Let us take them to the Lord and show them the wings of His guidance.

“Pew Packers” are meeting every Sunday evening at 5:45 to learn the Bible!

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
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

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Don Iverson.....India
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J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
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South Florida Ave. Church of Christ

Invites You To Our
2014 Fall Gospel Meeting
With
Billy Lambert
October 26-29, 2014



Sunday Services, October 26, 2014

9:30am — Faithful to the Word of God

10:30am — Our Greatest Temptation

6:00pm — The Best Thing Said About A Christian

Monday — Wednesday Services at 7:00pm

Monday — Be Faithful unto Death

Tuesday — The Burden of Unfaithfulness

Wednesday — Be Not Weary in Well Doing

Billy Lambert is a graduate of Faulkner University. He began preaching in 1962. He currently preaches for the Summerdale church of Christ in Summerdale, Alabama. Brother Lambert is the speaker for the *Getting To Know Your Bible* TV program that can be seen nationwide on DIRECTV. He does campaign work in Trinidad and Guyana, South America. He has participated in radio work for over 30 years and has held many meetings in several states. Brother Lambert has spoken on several Lectureships, including the Florida School of Preaching Lectureship. He has produced several articles for *The Gospel Advocate*, as well as developed several workbooks for spiritual growth. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Snook Foundation, as a Board Member at Faulkner University, and as Director for the Faulkner Foundation. Together, he and his wife, Louise, have three children and five grandchildren.

1807 S. Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801

(863) 682-4702

sfa.church@gmail.com

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

Elders: David Anderson, Kenny French, Bobby Sheumaker

Ministers: Bob McAnally, Brian Kenyon

Moral Opportunities

Andy Robison

Not long ago a speaker presented the idea that in our postmodern, amoral and immoral world, there still is an opening to talk with people about God. His point, if I remember correctly, was that even though biblical morality seems lost in the present generation, most people still have some point at which they can see a wrong has been committed. Atrocities make them recoil in disgust. It is at this point that Christians may have an opportunity for evangelism with even the hardest of unbelievers.

When such an event as the Holocaust is discussed, people will generally (though tragically, not always) recognize the inherent awfulness of such a thing. Then, the Christian has the opportunity to pry a bit. “Why is that wrong?” one might ask. It may take some time to peel through the layers of superficial responses: “Well, it just is!” However, perhaps it can be done. Maybe the Christian can get the unbeliever to see that without a transcendent God, morality really means nothing. Without a Creator, who gets to make up moral rules? If someone responds that a government does, then Hitler’s gas chamber guards were just doing the right thing. Hopefully, people will see the errant nature of that logic. If someone responds that morality is based on inherent goodness in man, one could ask him to define that goodness. One leaving (unscripturally) an ailing wife to marry another might not seem good to that first wife, but it might seem great to the selfish husband or the new woman. So, goodness, at the core, without a transcendent lawgiver eventually becomes purely subjective.

If a Christian can find a person honestly seeking truth, this person can be challenged with these thoughts. As others have put it, “If God does not exist, nothing matters; if God does exist, nothing else matters!”

Perhaps the scandals of the current day can be openings to discuss these principles with people. People can see that, whether left-leaning or right-leaning politicians be involved, cover-ups and harassments are wrong. Hopefully, the recent trial exposing an abortion doctor for his infanticide will open the eyes of people that the two practices are inherently the same – one inside the womb and one outside. And why are these things wrong? Well, there must be a higher power. If there is not a God, then the highest power is either government or the individual. If government is the highest power and government does these things, then there is nothing wrong with them. The one shocked is then shocked without basis. If the individual is the highest power, then one cannot judge these individuals (whoever is responsible) in government for they might not have thought these things to be wrong. They may even have thought them to be good in a utilitarian (end-justifies-the-means) sense. Yet, people inherently know there is something wrong. People who are honest will be forced rightly to the conclusion that there must be a moral authority, there must be a higher power, and there is a God.

This is the moral argument for God’s existence. It, along with the cosmological and teleological arguments, carries the weight of proof. I cannot see God, yet I know He is there (Romans 1:20). Without seeing Him, I can love Him (1 Peter 1:8). With His presence, I can know by the revealed message what is right and what is wrong. I don’t have to wonder (John 12:48; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:3).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Rosalind Coleman, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Jacquelin Dopwell & Margaret Coone.

Relatives: Billy Harrison, Bob Kirkland, Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton.

Others: Bill Carroll is now in rehab. Peggy Boyles (sister of Virginia Walker) is in LRMC with an undiagnosed illness. Billy Harrison, Frank Wood, Robie DeWitt & Bonnie Hendricks.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1st - 22nd: - Fall Faith Series at Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven each Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

Oct. 11th: - Hotdog Roast & Sing at the Springhead Church of Christ at 4:00 pm. Singing will begin at 5:30 pm.

Oct. 18th: - Semi-Annual Picnic/Sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow. Orange Street in Auburndale will host. Please bring your favorite dish to share & a chair if you like.

Oct. 24th - 26th: - 87th Homecoming at N. Jackson Ave. Church of Christ in Bartow. Jason Hendrix will be speaking on the 24th & Brian Kenyon will be preaching at the morning service on the 26th.

Oct. 26th -29th: 2014 Fall Gospel Meeting here at So. Fla. Avenue Church of Christ. Bill Lambert from Sumnerdale, Alabama will be the speaker.

Visitors

Mrs. Wanda Powell & Amy, Alicia Smith & Ltraile, Jack Walker.

Thank You Note

Thank you so much for all the prayers, flowers, and cards in memory of my mom. A special thanks to the ladies who prepared the lunch, and to Kathy & Rene' for setting up everything. I don't know what we would have done without such a strong Christian family. Thank you so much for your love and support.

Love,

Michele Paulin and family

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Fred Strickland..... **Table** Jimmy Sweeney
Jim Turner..... **Assist**..... Robert Cooper

Sunday, October 12, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jason Hendrix
Prayer..... Stacey Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Closing Prayer Sam Crow

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Hiram Kemp
Greeters Kenny & Reba French
Att. Cards..... Paul Sweeney & Ian Enamorado
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. Oct. 15, 2014

Song Leader..... Ken Walker
Opening Prayer Steve Hunlley
Closing Prayer Frank Hamby

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

October 19, 2014

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Kyle Williams
Closing Prayer Chuck Wyatt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Anderson
Greeters The Kenyon Family
Att. Cards..... Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. October 22, 2014

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 14	\$3,794.01
Sep 21	\$3,979.26
Sep 28	\$4,631.00
Oct 05	\$4,301.00
Contribution Average	\$4,495.49
2014 Weekly Budget	\$4,256.38

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"Don't Give Up"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

