



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

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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

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work
Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

Evangelist Efforts: What Does That Mean?

Rick Kenyon

Over the past few weeks, you may have heard announcements concerning meetings and prayers for our “evangelistic efforts.” You may have even read about them in the bulletin. If you haven’t attended any meetings, or just now being introduced, you are left to yourself to define “evangelistic efforts.” Before anyone gets too creative in their speculations, we will define them as organized endeavors to provide each Christian with an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with those around us. Because evangelism is so broad, we want to provide multiple outlets so that each person has the option to participate in something. The goal (besides sharing Jesus with other people) is to demonstrate a balanced approach of evangelism whereby strengthening and adding to the church.

Unfortunately, due to an imbalanced application, some misunderstand the concept of evangelism and reduce it to a stranger-turned-Christian process. Too many Christians associate evangelism with an extroverted, well-studied, quick-on-your-feet, systematically organized go-getter who loves to “get out of the comfort zone.” Granted, such go-getters are blessings to God’s Kingdom and are invaluable to leading others to Christ. However, it is a disservice (and disheartening) to measure one’s role in evangelism by those standards. Anyone can engage in evangelism no matter the skill set or role. Let’s begin by considering the following definition.

Evangelism. The word “evangelism” does not exist in the New Testament. The concept is built upon two words: “Evangelist” (meaning “bringer of good news” occurring only three times: Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5) and “Gospel” (meaning “good news” occurring over 99 times). Because that “good news” is rooted in salvation through Jesus, the ultimate goal of evangelism is bringing people into Christ and reminding them why they are there. Because of that, evangelism may be defined as the premeditated process of sharing the love of God by using your relationship and obedience to God to initiate or build up others’ relationship and obedience to God. Consider the Chain of Evangelism:

Self → Family → Church → Others

Self. Evangelism must start with yourself/myself. I must be secure, consistent, and confident in my own relationship with God before I can successfully bring others into obedience and a relationship with God (cf. Rom. 12; Eph. 4:17-5:21; Philp. 2:1-15; 4:4-9; Col. 3:1-17). This requires self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5) and a disciplined life: “*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified*” (1 Cor. 9:27, NKJV).

Family. We must seek to share/reinforce the love of God with the family that we encounter on a daily/regular basis by fulfilling the family role that God gave us (cf. Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:17-20). No matter your role, you have a responsibility to fulfill. Despite the attitudes and reactions of your family, we must strive to live Christ-like in our family’s day-to-day life. Bringing up children to love God is a form of evangelism (Eph. 6:4). Faithfully loving your spouse (especially if he/she is not a believer), is evangelism (1 Pet. 3:1-7). How can we seek to bring others into the family of God, when we have not taken the proper time or effort to ensure the spiritual well-being of our own families?

Church. We must reinforce/practice “admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted,

help the weak, be patient with all” (1 Thess. 5:14; cf. 1 Thess. 5:11-14; Philp. 4:1-3; Matt. 5:21-26; James 5:19-20). Before we seek to bring outsiders in, have we done all that we can to bring the lost ones home? Lost souls are not just the ones who have never obeyed, they also include the ones who have once obeyed but fallen away (2 Pet. 2:20-22). To bring lost souls back to Christ is evangelism (James 5:19-20).

Others. By how we live our lives and interact with our family (physical and spiritual), we can extend the efforts of sharing God’s love to those outside the faith (cf. Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25). Ideally, evangelism will become an attitude and lens that magnifies Christ in our lives. No longer will it be just something we do, it will be who we are. By focusing on our own relationship to God, we are suited and stabilized to influence and positively impact our family. By loving our family the way God wants, we can extend that love to our brothers and sisters. From there, we’re able to demonstrate in every facet of our lives the love of God and life of Jesus. If you have not engaged in the evangelism effects yet, then please consider some of the following on-going works (to get involved with any of these works, please see Rick or Dee).

Fellowship-in-service. Every first Sunday of the month following the 6:00 pm worship service, there is a card-signing opportunity to encourage and reach out to others. Cards are provided and divided out into various categories: birthdays, anniversaries, sickness, visitors, absentees, new converts, etc. Both Christians and visitors are recipients of the cards, and the idea behind it is to have as many signatures on these cards as possible. With each person’s signature, we seek to show the recipients

that their South Florida Avenue family loves and cares for them. As an added bonus, this evangelistic effort increases our fellowship with one another and, hopefully, we’ll be able to start sharing meals again as we sign cards.

Card Shower Ministry. Each time we get a new community visitor or a name of someone who needs prayers, we want to “shower” them with cards to communicate our love and concern for them. This will hopefully pave a way to lead people to Christ. If nothing else, people will know us as a church that genuinely cares and reaches out to people. It’s as simple as sending a card.

Social Media. Facebook. Twitter. YouTube. Each platform is subject to evil and discouragement. As lights to the world, let us reclaim technology in the name of Christ. Like it. Share it. Subscribe. Invite others. Let the world know that the devil does not have a monopoly on social media. It doesn’t take much to spread joy. Over 12,000 people have seen and been exposed to our good news of Skyler’s baptism on October 7th. Show others that we are able to use the gift of technology to digitally evangelize.

Weekly Prayer. Each Sunday evening before worship, we will assemble in the fellowship room at 5:45 to briefly discuss and pray for our evangelistic efforts at South Florida Avenue. Specific names and works are lifted up to God for His divine approval. If you are unable to make it at that time, then please pray for the work on your own time (Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2-4; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Thess. 3:1). *“Commit your work to the LORD, And your plans will be established”* (Prov. 16:3, ESV). Love God. Love people. Live like Jesus.

A FRIGHTENING SIGHT

Mark 4:35-41 & 5:1-20

At the end of Mark chapter 4, Jesus rebuked a storm while at sea. All Jesus had to say was, “Peace be still” and immediately the sea was calm. Jesus’ disciples were first afraid of the wind and the waves, but then they were more fearful of the power of Jesus, “and they said to one another, ‘who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’” (Mark 4:35-41) Then as Jesus and the disciples got out of the boat, Scripture says they were met by a demon-possessed man running full speed toward them. Mark’s account says he lived, “among the tombs”, “no one could bind him, not even with chains” because he would pull them apart, “neither could anyone tame him.” “And always, night and day, he was in the mountains in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones” (Mark 5:1-5). What a frightening sight! I am sure the nerves of the disciples had to have been worn out just by the storm, but then a terrifying scene was unfolding again right before their eyes. However, because Jesus was there, there was nothing to fear. The demon-possessed man fell at Jesus’ feet and was subject to Him. Jesus had the power to exorcise the demons out of the man, and by the end, the man was “sitting and clothed in his right mind” (Mark 5:6-15). These two accounts teach us that no situation is too scary for Jesus. Also, we learn that we are right to run to the Lord when there are things that scare us.

Senior Saints by John McShane

As I amble along on my usual morning walk on Sunday, I passed the Access Church. Every Sunday, I hear the same noise as I walk near the church. A steady droning of a bass drum that goes on endlessly. This is one of the many new “churches” that have come to life in Polk County, and it got me wondering why there are so many new “churches”? Could it be that a person cannot find the spiritual experience he wants and decides to start his own church? Or could it be that, as I heard a long time ago, that starting a new church is an easy way to become a millionaire? I am sure that some of the folks starting these churches are doing it with good intentions, but they fail to preach the whole word of God, instead, preaching what people want to hear. All this came to mind Sunday night when Vince brought his lesson in Ephesians. Ephesians 5:6 caught my eye and it reminded me of these new “churches”. It reads, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience”(KJV). Many people are flocking to these new churches that are seriously getting misled regarding their salvation. We need to continue steadfast in the faith, preaching and teaching the truths found in the Bible to a lost and spiritually dying world.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Carol Edmonson - loss of Jim
 Bernetta Green - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Kathy Nester - eye surgery
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Flo Duffy - eye problems
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annette Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Tanner Estridge - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Sharon Egolf - health

Recent requests:

Katrina Greene - knee replacement

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down.

Thank you to the entire SFA church of Christ family for the love, support, and encouragement you have given me in these first few weeks. Each of you have made this transition smooth, and enjoyable. May we continue to support each other, love each other, and uplift our God at all times. **Joshua Cantrell**, minister

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To our SFA family,
 Thank you very much for all
 the food and prayers. We appreciate all of
 you. Love, **Kenny & Reba French**

I am so thankful for my Christian family at
 South Florida Ave. for the prayers, calls,
 and cards while I was in the hospital. I
 appreciated it so much, In Christian love,
Sharon Egolf

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Sisters Sending Sunshine reveal will be on Saturday,
 October 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Rene's home.
 If you want to participate in the next round,
 please let Rene know by Oct. 20

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be
October 31, 2021.
 if you would like to give additional funds at other times of the
 month, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate
 the contribution as part of the Building Fund.
 It will be collected by the elders.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Sunday, October 17, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "My Church"
 Matthew 16:18

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Ian Enamorado

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Jason Hendrix
 Greeter Fife
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Allen Grimes
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Greeters E&C Smith
 P.M. Song Leader Matthew Webb
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Alex Parramore
 Closing Prayer Cam'ron Bailey

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Jonny Singh
 Devo David Anderson
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

October

21 - Ladies' prayer night
 23 - Sisters reveal, 10am
 24 - Young men led service
 26 - FSOP ladies class, 7pm
 31 - Singing Service
 - Trunk or Treat

November

6 - SFA corn roast
 7 - fellowship in-service
 14-17 Fall gospel mtg
 19 - Youth group
 thankful meal

December

4 - Youth group
 caroling & parties
 18 - Wreaths Across
 America



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 3 \$6,893.00
 Oct 10 \$7,141.00
 Oct 17 \$6,352.00
 Contribution Average \$6,963.95

My heart is raw, My mind ablaze,
Both eyes run dry, My prayers are raised.

My Father knows, He lets me be.
These fiery trials, They're molding me.

The silent screams, All frantic pleas,
They soon will cease, When on my knees.

Until that time, As I decrease,
I'll watch and wait, With borrowed peace.



STUDY WITH US

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 7pm

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

THE BEATITUDES Part 2

Teacher: Shenia Brownlow-Dindy

All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at
1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or on Facebook.
Live stream through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.

If you have questions please contact the Florida School of Preaching at (863) 683-4043.

Weekly prayer time for our evangelism efforts every Sunday evening - 5:45 pm fellowship hall

Ladies Prayer Night
October 21, 2021
6:30 pm fellowship hall

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.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Return Service Requested

**"HALLELUJAH!
SALVATION AND
GLORY AND POWER
BELONG TO OUR GOD"**

Revelation 19:1