

# 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. 69 No.43 10-25-16

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

Robert McAnally  
(863) 606-5664

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## 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

## 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.

## EMAIL

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

## WEB PAGE

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



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Are We Sinning to Save?

Hiram Kemp

The call from Jesus is "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is a very serious challenge when it is considered, and it is sobering to think that Jesus, the Lord and King of the universe, wants us to go into the entire world and proclaim the good news. Although the marching orders we receive from Christ are challenging and even overwhelming at first, they are still very realistic and the goal is one that can be accomplished (1 John 5:3). Just how are we to go into a lost and dark world and give them the good news about Jesus? How can we confront many who do not believe and are not interested in our invitation to come and investigate the facts about the God of Heaven? There are so many approaches that are often taken, but one that is constant in the religious world in which we live today is the idea that if we as Christians can show the world that we are not that different from them, if we can just loosen up and drop down our moral guard a tad, then we can better reach individuals with the gospel.

The problem with the approach that calls for Christians to give up their distinctiveness in order to save others, is that it is the exact opposite of what Jesus wants. Although Jesus wants the entire world to be saved (John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9), He calls for the world to be won over by his truth and the influence of the very different lives his people live as compared to those of the world. The thought that I can save more family and friends by giving in and sinning, is not only unwise, but it is not successful. When Christians attempt to save others by sinning, anybody who they have "converted" may be converted to spirituality, but he or she will not be converted to Christ. The call from Jesus is "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). We can convert the world around us when they see that we are different and do not apologize for righteous living (Ephesians 5:11-16). We can stand up and stand out without being stuck up. We should be willing to give up things that are not sinful, conveniences and cultural things, to teach people the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:19-22), but we must not blend in with the world. The world is full of carbon copies. Christian, be different!

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)**

# LITTLE OL' ME?

Hiram Kemp

As one reads through any of the Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), it becomes rather clear that Jesus came to this earth to die for the sins of the world (Matthew 26:26-28, John 10:11). Jesus loved humanity enough to give his life for us while we were still sinners and enemies of God (Romans 5:6-8). There is endless hope for those who will accept the invitation of Jesus and embrace Him in obedience as their Savior (Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 5:8-9). However, we as individuals may often feel small and insignificant as it relates to the sacrifice that Jesus made, and we may often think that our sins have been “too bad” for us to be redeemed. Or perhaps there are times when we do not think our everyday struggles and concerns are important to God, after all, he does have a universe to run (Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus had a messenger in the first century named Paul, who was writing to defend his position as an apostle of Christ in a portion of his letter to the churches in Galatia. In the defense of his authenticity as an approved messenger, he writes: “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*” (Galatians 2:20, emphasis added). I want to take special notice of the fact that Paul highlights that Jesus gave himself for Paul, especially. Had Jesus died for the world? Absolutely! However, Paul saw that Jesus had died for him specifically.

I encourage you to reread that verse and where it says “me” plug in your name. I believe that when we remove the personal aspect of what Jesus did on the cross from our individual lives, we miss out on something special. In a world where we may be just another number among many or just another face in the crowd, Jesus the Son of God died especially with you and me in mind. That fact alone should give us the courage to carry on from day to day. When we think that nobody cares about our hurts and pains, it is always helpful to remember that Jesus died for us and if he would experience a horrible death like crucifixion and be humiliated publicly for us all those years ago, most assuredly he cares for us even now. Jesus assured a crowd on one occasion that even the hairs on their heads were numbered by God (Matthew 10:29-30). Remember that while Jesus died for the world, he also died especially for you.

It has been said that if you were the only person on earth, Jesus would have still come to earth and given his life for the forgiveness of your sins. The plan of saving mankind from their sins was in the mind of God before the world began (Ephesians 1:4, Titus 1:2). However, have you ever noticed that right after Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, the first prophecy of the coming Savior is made in Genesis 3:15? There were only two people on the earth at this point, Adam and Eve, yet God had already put the plan of redemption in motion describing the redemptive work of Christ and the crushing of the tempter (Satan). If that had been you or me in the garden, God would have done the same thing. We can say, like Paul the apostle, that Jesus loved me and gave himself for me! The world we live in is prone to highlight the accomplishments of those who do extraordinary things and have extraordinary talent, and many times those who are enduring everyday trials and struggles feel forgotten, overlooked, and unimportant. You are not viewed as lowly and unimportant in the eyes of Jesus. He gave his life for you that you have the opportunity to obtain everlasting life.

John, in his account of the life of Jesus ends with these words: “But these are written, so that *you* might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing *you* may have life in his name” (John 20:31, ESV, emphasis added). Again, did you notice the singular and personal nature of John’s conclusion of the life of Christ? While the New Testament letters were no doubt read publicly by congregations (Colossians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:13), there is still a personal appeal to the individual that Jesus wants YOU to have eternal life through his name by believing in him. As you go throughout this week, take personal refuge and confidence in the fact that Jesus cares about you specifically and that he died for you personally, but do not do so in some arrogant or boastful fashion. Let this comfort you through life’s valleys, and allow it to humble you to live in a manner worthy of his love toward us (John 3:16-17). So when you hear the story of the Son of God who came from heaven to die for the world, you may be overwhelmed and ask, “Did He do that for little ol’ me?” The answer is an emphatic YES!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Genifer Johnson is having some medical testing done and is in alot of pain. Good to have Jim Turner, Jacqueline Dopwell, Ginny Hamby and Melody Baxter back with us for services. Also keep Jim Turner, Carol Eason, Ginny Hamby, Joe Dopwell, Jacquelin Dopwell, Kenny French, Faith West, Debbie Horsley, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, & Harold Rister.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Janet Crosby, Jim Edmondson and Duane Nelson.

**Others:** Tom Holland, Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner and Alyssa Buckner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**October 29th:** Fall Get Together-at Tyler and Jessica Anderson's house from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share, a lawn chair and feel free to participate in a trunk or treat!

**November 4th-5th:** Men's Retreat at the Eagle Lake Church of Christ.

**November 5th:** Ladies Day at the Kissimmee Church of Christ at 9:00 a.m.

**November 6th:** Fellowship In Service after evening services.

**November 12th:** Youth Seminar at 6th St. Church of Christ. Registration at 8:45. Let Hiram know if you are interested in going.

## Responses

Alex Hoback and Victor Travis, who has been visiting recently, asked for the prayers of the congregation. Let us please encourage them.

## Placed Membership

The Wilcutt family, (Matt, Shannon, Dylan, Landan, and Peyton) placed membership with us. Please let us welcome them into our family.

## Sympathy

Please remember Graham McDonald and his family in the passing of Graham's brother Glen.

## Visitors

Victor Travis and Alexis, Mr. & Mrs. Ruldoph Brooks.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** ..... Josh Estridge  
Fred Rapley ..... **Assist** ..... David Anderson

### Sunday, October 30, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... David Williams  
**Prayer**..... Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Grimes  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio & Quadarius  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Chuck Wyatt  
**Open & Close Building**..... Jimmy Sweeney

Wed. November 2, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005*

### Sunday, November 6, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Prayer**..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Antonio Martin

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Paulins  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul & Ian  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building**..... Charles Paulin

Wed. November 9, 2016

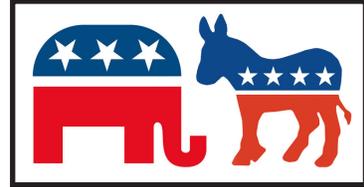
**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 02.....	\$6,838.53
Oct. 09 .....	\$4,375.00
Oct. 16.....	\$4,825.05
Oct. 23.....	\$4,760.25
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$4,937.77</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# “Christianity and Politics Don’t Mix!” Really?

In just a little over a week, Americans will vote for the next President of the United States as well as other civil offices and proposed amendments. This is definitely the most controversial election of the 21st century so far and some may say even in all American history. Many are disappointed in the choices they have for the highest office in the country. It is often said during election cycles, and especially this one, that “Christianity and politics don’t mix!” I suppose it would ultimately depend on what exactly people making such statements mean by “mix,” but is not “Christianity” supposed to be in every aspect a Christian’s life? What area of a Christian’s life is to be excluded from “whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17)? All Christians are to be a “living sacrifice” for God all the time and in every aspect of their lives (Romans 12:1-2). Members of the church must not think that Christianity is only to be incorporated into “church things,” while other matters of life are off limits. Christianity is meant to be the filter through which we view everything and make the appropriate changes in our lives (Colossians 3:1-17). There are two major things Christians must keep in mind concerning politics and elections. First, since there usually is not a faithful Christian running for office, who a Christian votes for or whether he or she even votes is a decision ultimately between the Christian and the Lord. There are some who cannot in good conscience vote for any of the present candidates because of their perceived character, while others may consider their vote as “the lesser of two evils” or “the more ideal of *(continued below)*”



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

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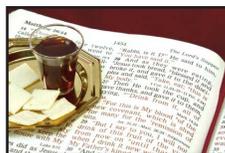


The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .



Beginning November 12, 2016, the Sixth Street, Kissimmee, and South Florida Avenue churches of Christ will jointly host a monthly youth seminar. This first one will be hosted by Sixth Street. Registration begins at 8:45 am. Let Hiram or Brian know if you want to attend and/or if you need transportation. Lunch will be provided.

If you (young or older Christian) can help take communion to shut-ins, please let Hiram know. All of us pitching-in will encourage!



**Pray for and encourage our young people and their mentors as they work with this year’s L2L program!**

*(continued from above)* the less than ideal candidates.” It seems to this writer that voting is a matter of “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” (Mark 12:17). Americans live in a country that allows its citizens to participate in the political process. With enough votes the course of this nation can be changed for good or evil. Why not vote for candidates whose policies and their moral implications are more in line with Biblical values (Proverbs 14:34)? Second, many political disagreements are over matters of judgment (such as how much tax money should be allocated where, etc.). However, when civil policy truly violates God’s objective moral standard, the Christian has no choice but to influence “obey[ing] God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Why would Christians knowingly vote for candidates who openly state their unbiblical views and desires to make policy that would promote ungodliness? Should not Christians use their vote wisely to preserve a society where “we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:2)? ❤️ Brian