

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.44 11-01-16

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

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Untouchable?

Brian R. Kenyon

The summer after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl, a group of us who attended an area VBS went to eat at Outback Steakhouse in South Lakeland. We were on the waiting list for a large group of tables in the middle section. Finally, the party left who occupied the tables the hostess said would be ours. When the busboys cleared the tables, we thought we would be seated. However, another large party came through the back door and sat at the tables. There were large muscular men at each corner of the section. One of the sisters in our group got suspicious when one of these muscular men followed a man from the table to the bathroom. I began to look closely at the middle section of the restaurant. Lo and behold, among them I saw none other than coaches Jon Gruden and Monte Kiffin. It turns out that the large muscular men at each corner of the section were bodyguards. Our group agreed to be divided among three tables, but there we were, in the midst of the then Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneer's brain trust!

What followed was very interesting to watch. Word soon spread throughout the restaurant of who was seated in the middle section. People wanted autographs, but the bodyguards made sure no one got near the coaches. Parents would send their cute little children with pen in hand, but no, the bodyguards turned them away. Young attractive women tried their luck, but no, the bodyguards turned them back. Some even produced "Bucs 48 - Raiders 21" t-shirts, but you guessed it—no autographs! In all fairness to public relations, though, the head coach did agree to have his picture taken with the Outback staff as he was leaving, but for most of that night, Coach Gruden and his entourage were untouchable!

As I reflected upon that incident, I thought of one of the tremendous blessings about our God. Paul preached to the Athenians that God "has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:26-27). Imagine that! The God who spoke this world into existence (Heb. 11:3) is not too high and mighty to be concerned about us! The Almighty God is within reach of every one of us! Spiritually, God is not untouchable! As popular and as legendary as Coach Gruden was at that time, he had (and has) nothing over God, yet the coach was, for the most part, unapproachable. God not only wants us to approach Him, but He has also made the way possible—through Jesus Christ, the Lord (Jn. 14:6; Heb. 10:19-22). Have we approached God to receive the blessings He offers?

“Your Sin Will Find You Out”

Brian R. Kenyon

Election time provides a great motivation for people to examine our nation’s history, especially over the last few decades. One observation is that those entrusted with power have often let us down. Think, for example, of the financial crises that have occurred over the last few decades from which we still have not fully recovered. One Biblical line comes to mind in these situations: “be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23). As others have correctly indicated, what happens to many financial institutions is not a failure of capitalism nor a failure of the free market system. Rather, plain and simple, it is the failure of people entrusted with a responsibility who instead of fulfilling it with integrity, greedily lined their own pockets with perks and bonuses. The tragedy, no matter the “spin” put on it, is that citizens suffer.

Failed Responsibility

This failure to uphold one’s responsibility is the context of Moses’ words, “be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23). As the wilderness wanderings were concluding, the clans of Reuben and Gad did not want to cross over the Jordan River to help the rest of Israel go to war against the inhabitants of Canaan (Num. 32:1-5). Instead, they wanted to settle in the land of Gilead. Both Moses and the Lord were angry over their request. Moses reminded them that this decision would discourage the people and that this same kind of discouragement was what led to the wilderness wanderings in the first place (Num. 32:6-15 cf. Num. 13:27-14:5). Moses, however, compromised with Reuben and Gad, allowing them to settle in Gilead as long as the men would “arm yourselves before the LORD for the war . . . But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:20-23). This is not just saying their sin would be known, but that their sin would be the very agent in bringing about the discovery of their sins (cf. Gen. 4:7)!

The New Testament contains examples of those who were entrusted with responsibility, but failed and disaster resulted for those individuals. For example, consider the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-30). The lord of those servants gave to “each according to his own ability” (Mt. 25:15), and in so doing, expected each to increase the sum of money entrusted to him. When the one talent man gave an account, he had nothing to show for his talent, and “his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant . . . you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest’” (Mt. 25:26-27). Because of this failure of responsibility, his lord said, “Therefore take the talent from him . . . And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 25:28-30).

Perceived Unaccountability

Consider the unfaithful servant in Luke 12:41-48. Because this servant was given free reign and the master of the house delayed returning, he began to “beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk” (Lk. 12:45). Like some who should have been vigilant over our nation’s affairs, the servant’s perceived unaccountability led him to indulge in the flesh (cf. Gal. 5:19-21). However, “the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes” (Lk. 12:46-47). Some live as though they do not have to answer to anyone, but sooner or later, we will all give an account for everything we do (2 Cor. 5:10)!

Conclusion

We have a responsibility to glorify God in whatever we do and over whatever He has entrusted us (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17). Let us use our abilities for the Master and not think we can escape accountability (Rom. 2:6). May each of us determine always to serve “God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb. 12:28)!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Keep C. J., Kelcey and Avery Grimes who have had a stomach virus this week in prayer. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Joe Dopwell, Jacquelin Dopwell, Kenny French, Genifer Johnson, JoAnn Hoback, Carol Eason, Elizabeth Tubbs, Janet Crosby, Dorothy Trice and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Blanche Dopwell & Dayne Romine.

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

Others: Jackie and Joyce Stearsman and Chrissi Fuesner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

November 4th-5th: Men's Retreat at the F.F.A. Leadership Training Center in Haines City. Hosted by 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 6th: Daylight Savings Time Ends. Please don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

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

Response

Ron Cox responded to the invitation Sunday night and asked for the prayers of the congregation.

Hither Thither and Yon

Gene Patterson is moving to Daytona Beach in 2 weeks. Please wish him well in his new home. We will miss him.

Sympathy

Ancil Hicks, elder of the Kissimmee church of Christ passed away this last week, also Garland Elkins, past editor of the *Spiritual Sword*, longtime preacher for the Getwell church of Christ (Memphis, TN), and a dean at MSOP. passed away this last week. Please keep all these families in your prayers.

Visitors

Victor Travis, James Turpin, Peter Saunders Tiffany Hash and Megan and Helen Albright.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

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

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

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 13, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer John McShane
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... The Frenchs
Att. Cards..... Paul & Quadarius
Closing Prayer Tim Croson
Open & Close Building..... Charles Paulin

Wed. November 16, 2016

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Fred Strickland

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 09.....	\$4,375.00
Oct. 16	\$4,825.05
Oct. 23.....	\$4,760.25
Oct. 30.....	\$5,709.36
Contribution Average	\$4,955.31
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,422.60

What Could “Wiki” Leak on You?



WikiLeaks is “an international non-profit organization that publishes secret information, news leaks, and classified media from anonymous sources” (www.en.wikipedia.org). Those even remotely following the news lately have heard how WikiLeaks has revealed to the public what its personal subjects thought were private and/or classified emails concerning “top secret” information. Most of what has been “leaked” lately are the emails of a particular presidential candidate. The information may or may not be admissible in a court of law because of the way it was obtained, but what it reveals is at the very least embarrassing and at the worst downright illegal and dangerous to national security. One major truth this shows, all politics aside, is that we better be careful what we do in “secret.” How would we feel if WikiLeaks leaked private media messages we posted or if it revealed our browser history for everyone to see? Well, guess what? God knows more than WikiLeaks ever could and what is revealed to Him is much more consequential than being broadcast on public media outlets. There are no “privacy settings” from God! He “knows the



secrets of the heart” (Psalm 44:21). He is able to search “all hearts” and to understand “all the intent of the thoughts” (1 Chronicles 28:9). This ability to know human hearts is good for God’s faithful children because it allows Him to answer prayer (Matthew 6:8; Romans 8:26-27). It is also for the good of God’s people to know that nothing can be hidden from Him because it will better motivate us to keep our “secret” things pure, for “all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). God, *(continued below)*



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

Non Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Lakeland, FL
 Permit No. 254

Return Service Requested



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

**T
H
A
N
K
S**



to the Andersons for opening up their home & yard for a Fall Festival. A great time was had by all present!



The youth group (and any who want to help) will meet Sunday, Nov. 6, @ 4pm to decorate benevolent “turkey bags.”

(continued from above) who still “sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18), both now and in the life to come (Matthew 25:31-46). Whether publicly or privately, our lives must be in harmony with God’s will. Jesus said, “I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works” (Revelation 2:23). May we live in such a way that if WikiLeaks published our private lives or media posts for others to see, they would “see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). ❤️ *Brian*



Make Plans Now to Attend
Nov. 12 @ 9:00 am - 1:30 pm
320 W 6th St, Lakeland

For more details, see our website, Facebook, or bulletin board