

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

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

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Walking by the Same Rule

Raymond Elliott

I heard a Gospel preacher remark one time that during one of his many missionary trips to India, he spoke to a denominational body of believers who had discarded the use of instrumental music during their periods of worship. Also, they were partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of each week. He instructed them more accurately of the way and immersed the preacher and most of the members into Christ. A few years ago, I read in a brotherhood publication (Restoration Quarterly) that a congregation of the Lord was in existence in Canada during the early to middle part of the 19th century that was not comprised of brethren who had moved there from the United States. For many years, we have known of congregations existing in various parts of Europe and Asia that were not in any way connected with the Campbell-Stone movement in this country during the 19th century. In the study of the Restoration Movement, there is concrete evidence that New Testament churches were in existence before the Campbells became influential in different states (Examples: the Rocky Springs church, Bridgeport, AL was established in 1807 and the Oak Grove church, Rincon, GA was started in 1819).

Why am I drawing your attention to these matters? Because there are numerous brethren who are saying that the church of Jesus Christ is so aligned with the Campbells and to culture (mostly southern) that we are merely a denominational body like the rest of the Protestant world. This I deny. While much credit is to be given to Thomas and Alexander Campbell, the fact is, the church of the Lord existed before and after them in this country and in other parts of the world separate and apart from their influence.

How was this possible? It was by honest seekers of truth who decided to adhere to the teaching of Paul as found in Philippians 3:15-16. "Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded: and, if in anything, ye are otherwise minded, this also shall God reveal unto you: only, whereunto we have attained, by that same rule let us walk." Surely, God would not condemn division among believers and neither would Christ have prayed for unity if unity could not have been achieved. Remember that the fault lies not in the guide but rather in frail humanity. While it is admitted that there are some passages of Scriptures that are more difficult to understand and that we should ever be striving to increase our biblical knowledge and making corrections when we reach a better understanding, there is no real reason why we all cannot grasp the simple truths regarding the way of salvation, the worship to God, the scriptural concept of the organization of the body of Jesus and the purpose of the kingdom of God. Often, it is not our inability to grasp these truths, but rather our unwillingness to submit to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Frankly, My Dear...”

Grady Miller

Seventy years ago, *Gone With The Wind*, arguably the most anticipated, best known and first favorite of all Hollywood epics, premiered in Atlanta. That sweeping story of the Old South, based on Margaret Mitchell's best selling book, is still the one movie seen by more people than any other motion picture ever made.

The film was destined to be a classic even before it was released. David Selznick was not only a master producer and creative power in Hollywood, but he was also a public relations expert. The country's appetite for the movie was whetted by three years of delicious controversy and speculation. The international search for an actress to play the role of Scarlett O'Hara prompted heated debates in newspapers, magazines and society gatherings. When the movie premiered at last in Atlanta, that city of some three hundred thousand swelled to over one million!

A list of “first” or “near firsts” for *Gone With The Wind* is noteworthy. The movie ran for nearly four hours, defying conventional wisdom that so long a film could not hold an audience's attention. Technicolor technology had been around since 1917, but GWTW was the most ambitious movie to take advantage of the difficult -- and expensive -- process. In the bevy of Oscars and other awards showered on the film, an Academy Award was presented to the first black performer, Hattie McDaniel, for her portrayal of Mammy. And GWTW was the first big feature film to say “damn” on the screen.

Rhett Butler's parting jab at Scarlett is the most memorable line ever uttered on the silver screen -- “Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.” Little known by the public then -- or remembered today -- was the behind-the-scenes maneuvering and desperate struggle waged by David Selznick to keep “damn” in the final cut of the film.

The Motion Picture Production Code, Section V, clearly and explicitly forbade the use of “damn” in any movie distributed by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors -- virtually every theater in the United States! *Gone With The Wind* could not hope for release without the approval of the Code. But the official censor, Joseph Breen, refused to pass GWTW until the Selznick studio removed the offending “damn.”

Selznick immediately launched his counterattack. He had known there would be trouble with “damn” and had shot a second scene, just in case, with Clark Gable saying, “Frankly, my dear, I just don't care.” He had already agreed to not use the word “nigger” in the film as a concession to the NAACP. But, Selznick wanted to use “damn” and went over the head of Joseph Breen to Will H. Hays, the head of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors. He argued that “damn” was defined by the prestigious Oxford English Dictionary as a vulgarism, not an oath. He cited articles in such popular and socially accepted magazines as *Collier's* and *Woman's Home Companion* that freely used “damn” and contended that the word had gained general acceptance and was well within the mainstream of American life. And, he insisted that he could not make a faithful adaptation of Mitchell's book unless he used her actual words -- conveniently ignoring the fact that he had already tampered with the line by adding “frankly.” At last the Hays Office compromised. Selznick was fined \$5,000 for violating the Code, but GWTW was approved and released.

Sixty years later, it may be hard for some to understand what all the ruckus was about. Have you been to a movie lately, even a PG rated film? And never mind the movies! Why, hardly a daytime soap opera or primetime series on television -- even so-called “family” viewing -- does not feature vulgar and offensive language. The controversy over “damn” might be viewed as quaint and curiously old fashioned by a generation raised on infinitely cruder and more shocking profanity. A “damn” coming from the TV -- right there in the den where Dad, Mom and the kids are watching a favorite program or maybe a rental videotape -- hardly raises an eyebrow today. A word that once caused many a hearer to wince has seemingly lost its power to shock. Sin not only hardens the heart (Hebrews 3:13), but it also desensitizes and deafens the ears!

Indeed, “damn” is apparently tame enough now for our children to read aloud from a play in the classroom at school. Odd, isn't it, that only a few years ago our high school kids would have been paddled for saying “damn” out on the playground, but now they can say it right out loud in literature class. Why will the referee pin a technical foul on a player -- and coach -- if he describes a call with that word, or maybe even excuse him from the game, but the same word is appropriate and suitable for classroom reading? The kids, sure enough, giggle and laugh, just as children do when they know they are doing something a little naughty and getting away with it. Is it any wonder why some of our kids get so mixed up, with all the confusing signals we sometimes send them?

Thankfully, some are yet determined to let no corrupt communication proceed out of their mouth (Ephesians 4:29). God's people abstain from filthy and foolish talking (Ephesians 5:4). Jesus said that “those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart” (Matthew 15:18). What does speech salted with profane and vulgar words reveal about the heart of the speaker?

There is much that has “gone with the wind” in the last seventy years. Public standards of morality and decency change with the times -- God's Word doesn't! (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: June Hendrix was home Sunday night with a fever. Ginny Hamby will be having surgery on Tuesday and possibly more chemo in January. Also keep Grace McAnally, Betty Thornhill, Claud Romine, Kimberly Westbrook, Janet Crosby, Sharon Edler, Jim Turner, Gloria Nelson, Jacquelin Dopwell, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Billy Moore, Barry Richardon, Louise Stewart, (Becky Shuemaker's mom) Jude Hash, Wayne Hendrix, and Keller Stephens.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Duane Nelson.

Others: Trevor Raymond, Chrissi Fuesner, Ann Wood, Bert Allen and Kathy Bitting-Peel. Please pray for all of these.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 21st: Men's Breakfast hosted by Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale at 8:00 a.m.

Dec. 5th: 2nd Annual Community Fun Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hilltop Church of Christ.

Dec. 6th: Fellowship in Service and Baby Shower for Hailee Claire Hendrix and her family following evening services. If you are able to join please bring finger foods.

Thank You

Dear Church family, thank you for the prayers and concern during these past 3 months. My surgery is Tuesday and possibly more chemo in January. Please continue to offer a prayer for us as we continue this journey. Thank you for your encouragement.

In Christian love, Ginny Hamby

Sympathy

Reubin Crawford, a former member, passed away this last week. Please pray for his wife Jeanette and family. Per his request there will be no services.

Visitors

Mark & Lee Hanstein and Rachelle Stiffler

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Frank Hamby **Table** Jimmy Sweeney
Jim Turner **Assist** Josh Estridge

Sunday, November 22, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon Bob McAnally
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards Quadarius & Antonio
Closing Prayer David Deal
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. November 25, 2015

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

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

Sunday, November 29, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon SFA young men
Greeters Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards Paul & Sebastian
Closing Prayer C.J. Grimes
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. December 2nd, 2015

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 25.....	\$4,193.00
Nov. 01.....	\$5,685.00
Nov. 08.....	\$4,603.75
Nov. 15.....	\$4,942.38
Contribution Average	\$4,623.98
2015 Weekly Budget	\$4,302.98



HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week

“Walking Our Talk”

WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

Leaving Logic Loses Souls

A visitor recently came to the school of preaching. He had past affiliations with a church of Christ and had been studying with a preacher in another city who encouraged him to visit the school. He wanted to sit in on a class, and the instructor told him he was welcomed. However, the class that afternoon was logic, which was probably the worst possible class of the semester to visit in the middle of the term, without having had any of the prerequisite information and skills necessary to understand the current class session. In addition, a test was already scheduled. Even with all that, however, the visitor still wanted to stay. As the students were completing the test, the instructor photo copied the pages of logic notes the class would resume covering. After looking at the notes, the visitor wanted nothing to do with logic class. In fact, he left so quickly that the soul of his shoe, which was already loose, came completely detached and remained behind. Two observations from this incident. First, by forsaking logic, a person will forfeit his soul. How true the saying: "No one turns on logic until logic turns on him." Because God is a rational Supreme Being, He is completely logical. Thus, His inspired word is logical, and, in fact, often uses logical arguments. "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD" has always been heaven's challenge (Isaiah 1:18). Jesus dealt with people who refused His logic, and it cost them their souls (Matt. 21:23-27; John 8:31-59)! New Testament Christianity (not denominationalism) is the only rational *(continued below)*



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, Nov. 21 Bible Bowl team will meet at Hiram and Brittany's house at 10:00 am for a study session!

Sunday, Nov. 22 Stacey and Michelle Paulin will meet with those of our youth group who are participating in the "Art Says It" event with L2L at the church building @ 4 pm.

Anytime we assemble for Bible study or worship, Steve will be here about 30 minutes early and stay a little late for any of our boys who would like help on their L2L songs.

Sunday, Dec. 13 will be our next L2L Sunday. We will meet at 4:00 pm to work on the events we have signed up for.

This Week's Memory Verses → **Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33** discipleship

(continued from above) religion. This is not to say that everything about it is completely understood by every human. However, the following "argument" helps illustrate this point: (1) If God exists (and He does); and (2) if the Bible is the inspired word of God (and it is); and (3) if the Bible teaches the religion of Jesus Christ as the only God-approved religion (and it does, John 14:6); then, (4) a person can *know* that the religion of Jesus Christ is the only God-approved religion. Why reject the logical truth? Second, no matter the reason, a lost soul is tragic. The most valuable possession we have is our soul (Matt. 16:26). Jesus died to save sinners (John 1:29; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-21). We must do whatever it takes, according to God's will, to reach the lost and point them back to Jesus (Mark 16:15-16). May God help us hurt for lost souls and teach them His logical word. ❤️ Brian