



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 46 November 22, 2022

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE  
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## EMAIL

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

## 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

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

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## HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Joey Treat ..... Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS STILL STANDING

Joshua Cantrell

The Book of Daniel has been long one of the most denounced and maligned documents of the Bible. The book conclusively affiliates the record of the coming Messiah and his kingdom, revealed both within the Old and New Testaments. It must always be understood and appreciated that God does nothing arbitrarily and that the very office of the prophet Daniel was to demonstrate this truth. Because of the events revealed in the Book of Daniel, one is forced to accept God's foreknowledge of the rise and fall of those powers and kingdoms established by man, as well as the eternal kingdom of God which will rise at their demise.

Historians place the time of the events of the Book of Daniel between 605-630 or 536 BC. Within this period, one becomes acquainted with the Babylonian and Persian kingdoms. The book was written during the lifetime of its primary character, Daniel. He, along with others, is a captive servant of the foreign leader who rules his homeland. Both Ezekiel and Jeremiah were contemporaries of Daniel, all of whom were reacquainted with the law of the covenant of God during the reign of King Josiah.

### PURPOSE AND MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM

Considering the Jewish kingdom's destruction, and the Jewish people being scattered and enslaved, there was a dire need for a word from God to make sense of it all. The Israelites knew they were the people of the covenant and, in light of current events, needed word of when and how the end of captivity would be fulfilled. The Book of Daniel, therefore, demonstrates that God's will is never altered by the events of man's history. On the contrary, God is always in control of his will and his divine agenda will always be accomplished (Daniel 4:35). Through Daniel's writing, God reassured and encouraged the prophet and the people to trust and obey Him. This would preserve them through this trouble and tribulation. God gave Israel a prophetic structure for that which was to come in what Jesus called "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:23-24).

### A PROPHET EMERGES TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM

Daniel was taken hostage during Babylon's first conquest of Jerusalem (605 BC). God, of course, used Babylon as an instrument of his judgment against his people because of their idol worship and extensive transgressions (Jeremiah 19:3-4). Daniel, being the noble blood, handsome and intelligent, was chosen to serve the king of Babylon (Daniel 1:3-7). Daniel demonstrated his faith by refusing the king's provisions and comforts and by accepting, instead, vegetables and water (Daniel 1:11-16).

Daniel was granted great wisdom, understanding, and certain abilities beyond man's learning (Daniel 1:19-21). He, therefore, became a great and beloved statesman and a trusted wise man of Babylon. It is interesting to note the unique structure of Daniel's writings. Chapters 1-6 are a detailed account of what was occurring in Babylon for a period of about seventy years. Daniel gave a first-person report of what God had revealed to him of things yet to come.

## THE KING'S DREAM AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

About the time that Daniel was completing this training to serve the king, the unpredictable monarch, Nebuchadnezzar, had a series of dreams (Daniel 2:1). The dreams were vivid and profound and troubling to Nebuchadnezzar to the point that he could not sleep. The king's court had an array of men skilled in astrology, divination, sorcery, and other arts (Daniel 2:2). They had long made a living reading stars, foretelling, and creating their takes on dreams. In their usual fashion, the leaders asked to be informed of the king's dream, "O king, live forever: tell thy servant the dream, and we will shew the interpretation" (Daniel 2:4). This request ultimately led to the king punishing them if they did not interpret his dream (Daniel 2:5).

That was a far-reaching and vicious order. Daniel eventually approached Arioch, who was charged with carrying out the executions (Daniel 1:14). Daniel asked Arioch, "Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation" (Daniel 2:24). On his appearance before Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful man in the world, Daniel informed him of one whose power had made the world. "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days" (Daniel 2:28).

## THE IMAGE OF THE KINGDOMS

Daniel stood and boldly revealed to the king what God had revealed. With his life and the life of so many others at stake, Daniel gave unmistakable details of the king's dream (Daniel 2:31-33). As Daniel gave the interpretation of the dream, the king was informed that the images were representative of four major world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. According to Daniel, the kingdoms that would follow Babylon would be "inferior to thee" (Daniel 2:39).

While Babylon's superior kingdom lasted seventy years, the Medo-Persian kingdom lasted two hundred years; the Greek kingdom at least one hundred and thirty years; and the fourth kingdom, Rome, endured intact for at least five hundred years. Despite riches, military power, and scientific knowledge, each of those kingdoms ended and disappeared from the earth.

## THE PROPHETS SAW THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

God used that occasion, and Daniel, to reveal that which had been determined even before the foundation of the world (Hebrews 4:1-6), the eternal reign of the kingdom of God. The fact that the "God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44), revealed God's determination to show that only his divine power could establish a kingdom. The concept of the sovereignty and universal authority of the kingdom of God recurs throughout Scripture.

The Psalmist declared, "The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:19). God's kingdom will never be dismantled but remain omnipotent and omniscient forever. When Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar on the occasion of his vision, he asserted God's eternal kingdom. Through the prophet, one is told that God can "set up" a kingdom, which can never be overthrown as were each of the four earthly kingdoms (Daniel 4:17, 25). Isaiah would record, "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted" (Isaiah 60:12).

Even from the early days of the covenant, God stressed the eternal nature of his promise, "He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever" (1 Samuel 17:12). God's kingdom, according to the psalmist, will always be in the thoughts of God, for "he will ever be mindful of his covenant" (Psalm 111:5). How great are his signs! How mighty are his wonders? His kingdom is everlasting, and his communion is from generation to generation (Daniel 4:17, 25).



### Instructions from a Father (Pt. 2)

#### How to L-E-A-R-N: L is for Listen

"Wisdom call aloud...She speaks her words: 'How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you'" (Prov. 1:20-23). To learn something new, by definition, we venture into new, unknown, or unexplored territory. The first thing we need to learn is to listen. Your mother always said, "God gave you two ears and one mouth so you should do twice the amount of listening as talking." There is wisdom in listening. However, so often a son fails to listen to the wisdom of his father. A child can learn the hard way, but the father begs and pleads in love for him to listen to sound advice, keep himself from heartache, and avoid the path of regret. Wisdom says, "whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil" (Prov. 1:33).

-VD



# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Jim Turner - health  
 Brian Smith - heart health  
 Debbie Bush - struggles  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Wayne Shearer - health  
 Geny Johnson - health  
 Sophia Smith- in Blake @ Bradenton  
 George Davis- toe surgery  
 Bill & Carlene Long- strength

## PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Bernetta Green - health & strength  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Brenda Mask - blood pressure issues  
 Betsy Thomas - injury  
 Neyome Brunson- trip to Sri Lanka  
 Charles Paulin- health  
 Jeff Bingle- health

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list.

## Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Congratulations to Johnny and Shannon (Chisholm) Russell who were married September 4th, 2022. If you would like to celebrate their marriage with a gift, a table will be set up in the back hallway or you may contribute to the money tree. Please give money to Rene or Jagie. Since they recently moved into their own place, they are in need of a few larger items, which they will accept new or gently used. Please see Pat Chisholm for details about these items.



Happy Holidays

If you want to bring in Christmas cards for the "elves" to deliver, please have them in no later than December 14th and PLEASE have them in alphabetical order by the last names.



We need volunteers to help at the AFSP Walk out of Darkness being held on Sunday, Dec. 4th. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board. We will also need coolers, 16.9 oz water bottles, granola bars, and fruit. Please bring the water and snacks to the pantry. Please do not bring fruit until closer to time. See Rick Kenyon or Kyle Faneuf for more details.



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022

Announcements ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Song Leader/Prayer..... Andre Medley  
 Devo ..... Joshua Cantrell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Frank Hamby

### Sunday, November 27th, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

He Said It, I Trust It... Joshua Cantrell  
 Joshua 1:5-6

#### 6:00 P.M.

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth ... Vince Daugherty  
 Hebrews 2:9-10

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class ..... Frank Hamby  
 Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Andre Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Potvin  
 Lord's Table ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Williams  
 Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Jason Hendrix  
 Greeters ..... Fife  
 Attendance cards (both) ..... Cam'ron/ Caelen

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Andre Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Closing Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
 Greeters ..... Nona & Janis

### Wednesday, November 30th, 2022

Announcements ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... David Williams  
 Devo ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

## Upcoming Events

### November

30- Quarterly Challenge

### December

4 -Walk Out of Darkness  
 4 -Fellowship in Service  
 8 - Ladies' Scrapbook Night  
 11 -Elders, Deacons, & Preachers' Meeting  
 11 -Ladies' Cookie Swap  
 16 - Youth Polar Express Night



## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov 6 ..... \$7,298.00  
 Nov 13 ..... \$7,987.00  
 Nov 20 ..... \$4,899.00  
 Contribution Average..... \$6,433.02  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43

## Women of the Word

## Daddy Can Fix It

Rene' Bingle

I have always been a daddy's girl, and as some of you may know, my dad was in the hospital recently. When I was growing up, my dad could fix anything that I would break. One time I even broke a glass chicken into many pieces, and he helped me gather up the pieces. Daddy then meticulously glued them back together. As I got older, he would fix my bike, he would fix my car, he would fix things in my house, and I am sure he helped fix a broken heart or two. But now, he's the one who needs things to be fixed, and I feel so helpless. Last night I was really sad about this and was wanting so badly to be able to help him- then I remembered that although I can't, I can bring his needs before the One who can! And I can ask fellow saints to do the same. (James 5:16) How often we think of prayer as the least we can do rather than the most we can do! God, our heavenly father, is always ready and able to fix what is broken in our lives if we'd just ask. Psalms 121:2- My help comes from the Lord which made Heaven and Earth!

## Psalm 139:11-16

"If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"  
Even the night shall be light about me;  
Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,  
But the night shines as the day;  
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.  
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And that my soul knows very well.  
My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the  
earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet  
unformed. And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them."



**Ladies'**  
**COOKIE SWAP**  
**@ Stephanie's house**  
Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 P.M.

LADIES SHOULD BRING 2 DOZEN OF EACH  
COOKIE THEY WANT TO SHARE.  
PLEASE BRING COPIES OF THE  
RECIPE FOR LADIES TO TAKE HOME.  
THERE WILL BE GAMES, COOKIES,  
AND REFRESHMENTS. PLEASE JOIN US!  
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON  
THE BULLETIN BOARD.

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

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



## South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

I will praise the name of  
God with a song,  
And will magnify Him  
with thanksgiving.  
Psalm 69:30



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.