



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 76 No. 48 December 13th, 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

(863) 682-4702

## 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)

Find us on

YouTube & Facebook

## 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.

## Be of Good Courage and Do It!

Joshua Cantrell

The Bible gives us many great declarations of faith. These examples are for our learning (Romans 15:4), our edification (Acts 20:32), and faith (Hebrews 11:6). Ezra records that God instructed them to put away strange wives they took up (Ezra 10:2-3). His exhortation to them was “be of good courage and do it” (Ezra 10:4). I do not believe that God has given us life, circumstances, and challenges that we cannot overcome. Sometimes we talk to God’s people and they believe their present circumstances cannot be fixed, which can be discouraging. We live in a world where sometimes God’s people do not believe that God can help us endure. They believe they have gotten themselves into a situation, or a situation has come to them, and they cannot get out of it. We offer solutions to their problems. They all lead to no avail, eventually leading us to conclude this person seems to have a problem for which there is no solution.

If you are a child of God, that is an impossibility. Peter says, “He has given us all thing that pertains to life and Godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). This does not mean that life will not move us, or cause us to hurt or have pain. It does mean that God is able, and God has the answer. There is a way through this that will lead us closer to the heart of God. It will be challenging and force us to be uncomfortable, but suggesting that we have to stay there and not get back goes against what God tells us we can do. We can say life is hard, and no one will disagree with that statement. We can say no one has walked a mile in my shoes, and no one would disagree. God has given us a great exhortation to “be of good courage and do it.”

As we read throughout the Bible, we can see that God’s people have done some great things, not because of how great they are, but because of how great God is. God’s people have always done the hard things. We have always done the things the world says we could not do. The point of this article is that you can too.

## The Example of Noah

When we read Genesis 6, we see how wicked the world was. The Bible records for us, “Then the Lord saw the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. So the LORD was sorry that he made mankind on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart” (Genesis 6:5-6). As a result of man’s disobedience, God said He was going to destroy the world. In such a state how could one be found righteous before God? The Bible goes on to say, “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” (Genesis 6:8). How was Noah able to stand out amongst the world around him? He was strong, and he did it.

## The Example of Joseph

Last quarter we did a verse-by-verse study going through the book of Genesis. Towards the end of the book, we read of Joseph and all the events that took place in his life. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37).

Potiphar's wife lied, which led to his being thrown into prison (Genesis 39). There, Joseph would spend two years convicted of a crime he did not commit. After two years the Butler remembered Joseph was in prison. After the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, Joseph was raised to be second in command in the land of Egypt. Joseph would eventually see his brothers again. After the death of their father, Jacob, the brothers thought Joseph would take vengeance upon them. The Bible records the heart of Joseph, "Then his brothers also came and fell before him and said, Behold, we are your servants. But Joseph said to them, do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about the result, to keep many people alive" (Genesis 50:18-20). How was Joseph able to endure until the end? He was of good courage and he did it.

## The Example of Moses

When Moses was born, his parents hid him because of Pharaoh's command to kill all the male children (Exodus 1:15-16). It's striking to think that many of those parents lost their children during this time in history. Moses' parents hid him, and by the providence of God, Moses was able to be brought up in Pharaoh's house as his child. Moses eventually fled Egypt at the death of the Egyptian, and God commissioned him to return to Egypt to free his people from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 3). The Bible records, "And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says, Let my people go that they may celebrate a feast to me in the wilderness. But Pharaoh said, who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and besides, I will not let Israel go" (Exodus 5:1-2). How was Moses able to stand face to face with Pharaoh and make this great declaration? He was of good courage, and he did it.

## The Example of David

When we look at the life of David we see how frail and young he was. A young shepherd boy would grow up to be the leader of God's people. As recorded in First Samuel 17, David went out to fight this great giant named Goliath. David was a youth, going to fight a man who had been fighting since his youth. David was told he could not do this. David looked adversity in the face and allowed his faith to be louder than his fears. The Bible records, "But David said to the Philistine, you come to me with a sword, a spear, and a saber, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Samuel 17:44). He trusted in God and that led him to slay the giant. David was of good courage, and he did it.

## Conclusion

The fact that our God is with us should be a great encouragement for us to keep going. Paul encourages us to "press on" (Philippians 3). As he writes to Timothy, he encourages him to keep fighting (1 Timothy 6:12). This fight, this race is not a sprint, but a marathon (Hebrews 12:1-2). If we endure until to end we have a crown of life waiting for us (2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 2:10). I pray each of us will continue to be of good courage, and do what our God tells us we can do. Paul would say, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

### *Psalm 139:23-24*

"Search me, O God,  
and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxieties;  
And see if there is  
any wicked way in me,  
And lead me  
in the way everlasting."

### *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.



# 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  
 Neyome Brunson- trip to Sri Lanka  
 George Davis- toe surgery  
 Bill & Carlene Long- strength

## PRAYER LIST

Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Pat Chisholm - tests done  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Brenda Mask - blood pressure issues  
 Sophia Smith- LRM  
 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

The Florida School of Preaching Lectureship is taking place January 16-19, 2023. Your help is needed before and during lectureship. Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board with volunteer opportunities for everyone! If you have any questions, see Kathy or Jagie



To the SFA congregation:  
 Sometimes, God answers our prayers through special people like you ALL!  
 Thank you so much,  
 Johnny and Shannon

### Welcome to our Family

*Steven & Susan Tydings have placed membership with our family here at SFA. Let us please welcome them as we continue our work for the Lord.*

The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App.**

Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied.**

If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### December

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

Announcements ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Song Leader/Prayer..... David Williams  
 Devo ..... Josh Cantrell  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney

### Sunday, December 18th, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Peace on Earth.. Vince Daugherty  
 Luke 2:14

#### 6:00 P.M.

Year End Review .. Joshua Cantrell

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class ..... Frank Hamby  
 Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Andre Medley  
 Lord's Table ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Closing Prayer ..... Terrance Dindy Jr.  
 Open/Close bldg (both) ..... David Deal  
 Greeters..... Olivia & Ingrid  
 Attendance cards (both) ..... Ellis & Sean

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Lord's Table ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Closing Prayer ..... George Davis  
 Greeters ..... D & N Williams

### Wednesday, December 21st, 2022

Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney

### Upcoming Events

#### December

- 13 - FSOP Monthly Ladies' Class
- 16 - Youth Polar Express Night
- 17 - Christmas Lights and S'mores @ the Shearers'
- 19 - Christmas Caroling

#### January 2023

- 1 - Fellowship In-Service
- 6 - New Year's Bonfire - Brian & Jagie Kenyon's
- 8 - Elder's Deacon's & Preachers Meeting

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov 27 .....	\$5,594.00
Dec 4 .....	\$10,213.00
Dec 11.....	\$9,659.00
Contribution Average.....	\$6,556.36
Weekly budget .....	\$7,663.43

Most people have something(s) they are passionate about. For example: cooking, reading, photography, a college football team, or their family. One of mine is sending cards to people. For the past two years that passion has shifted to writing, especially poems. What drives my passion for writing is the desire to encourage others as well as to point people to Christ.

Do you have a passion for spiritual things? If you have a talent or a passion for something, find a way to use that for the glory of God. (Colossians 3:23-24) "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30.

**Instructions From a Father (Pt. 4)  
How to Learn: R is for Reverence**

**A simple definition of reverence is to have a deep respect for something. Another definition is to have a proper fear of something. Proverbs 1:7 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction." Fear, honor, respect for God is the beginning of knowledge. Having a proper respect for those who are above you will treat you well in learning. Reverence for parents, reverence for teachers, reverence for elders, even reverence for kids who are a little older than you. By simple definition those who have been on this earth longer than you will likely be more knowledgeable, have more experience, and wiser than you. You can learn from them all if you have a proper respect for them. When you are open to learning new things from people in your life you will find others extremely interesting and full of all kinds of knowledge that you can gain from them. Having a proper attitude of reverence for others will serve you well, but if you dishonor others thinking you have it all figured out already you will be sadly mistaken. "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid." (Pro. 12:1).**

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

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10



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