

# 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. 70 No. 48 12-19-17

## ELDERS

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Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

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Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

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Hiram Kemp  
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## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## 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  
since 1969

## 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.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



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

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

## The Greatest Example of Sacrificial Giving

Brian R. Kenyon

For some, this is the time of year more attention is focused on Jesus as the “babe in a manger.” Unfortunately, too many want to leave Jesus as that seemingly powerless, gentle baby “wrapped in swaddling clothes,” instead of making Him Lord over their lives. For others, this is the time of year all about gifts, gift, gifts! Unfortunately, many of these are either oblivious or forgetful of the most amazing gift this side (or any side) of eternity, Jesus Christ!

Paul summarized this great significance, **“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”** (2 Cor. 8:9). Up to this point in this section of Scripture, where the apostle was encouraging participation in the collection he was taking from Gentile churches of Christ to help the saints in Jerusalem, Paul encouraged the Corinthians to continue their contribution by appealing to the example of the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:1-5), to their own gracious beginning (2 Cor. 8:6), to their abounding spiritual diligence (2 Cor. 8:7), and to the dedication of the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:8). The “grace of our Lord” (2 Cor. 8:9) connects the giving of God’s Son for our salvation with the love and sacrifice necessary for the giving of our lives to him (2 Cor. 8:9a).

### Jesus Was Rich

Paul’s acknowledgment that “He was rich” was in reference to Jesus’ pre-incarnate glory as God. Jesus was and is Divine nature, the same as the Father and the Holy Spirit. Everything God was and is, Jesus was and is (Jn. 1:1). Jesus is eternal, existing before Abraham (Jn. 8:58). Jesus shared the same eternal glory as the Father (Jn. 17:6). The Hebrews writer said that Jesus was “the express image of His [God’s] person” (Heb. 1:3). The term “express image [the very image of his substance, ASV; exact representation, NAS; exact imprint of his nature, ESV]” is translated from the Greek word, which, when transliterated, spells *character*. Jesus is the exact character of God! As such, Jesus was “rich,” just like God (Eph. 2:4), the owner of all creation (Ps. 24:1; 89:11). While the Macedonians gave from extreme poverty (2 Cor. 8:2), Christ gave from wealth beyond imagination!

### Jesus Became Poor

Though Jesus as God was wealthier than human minds can imagine, “yet for your sakes He became poor” (2 Cor. 8:9c). The term translated “became poor” has reference to being reduced to bleak poverty. This poverty is in *(continued on page 4)*

# Make Plans Now to Be a Part of This Study!

Monday is MLK, Jr. Day! Use the holiday for the Lord! The afternoon program has young people in mind!



Forest Antemesaris



Stephen Atnip



Rico Brown



Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.



Jimmy Clark



B. J. Clarke



Bill Davis



Cloyd B. Frock, Jr.



Elvis Galbreath



B. Kenyon, Director

## Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803  
(863) 683-4043 ♦ www.fsop.net ♦ fsop@fsop.net

# Do You Understand



Bruce Harris



Jason Hendrix

# The Biblical View of the Home?

43rd Annual Lectureship

January 15-18, 2018

Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Hiram Kemp

### Monday

9:00 Family Beginnings (Gen. 2:18-25) Stephen Atnip  
9:40 Blended Families: Different from the Start Jerry Martin  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Does OT Polygamy Justify Polygamy Today? Dan Stearsman  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Young People and Family

1:30 A Christian in a Non-Christian Home Forest Antemesaris  
2:00 What to Look for in a Spouse Ty Rhymes  
2:30 Why Abimelech Could Not Have Her (Gen. 20) Hiram Kemp  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Biblical Role of Wives Troy Postlethwait  
7:45 Wives Married to Non-Christians (1 Pet. 3:1-6) B. J. Clarke



John L. Lewis

### Tuesday

9:00 Breakdown of the Home's Impact on Society Jason Hendrix  
9:40 Harmonizing the Home Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Dealing with Adultery Logan Summers  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Extra Effort Families

1:30 Special Needs Children Cloyd B. Frock, Jr.  
2:00 Making Strides with "Steps" Teral Walker  
2:30 Rearing Children in Blended Families Elvis Galbreath  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Biblical Role of Husbands Bruce Harris  
7:45 Husbands Living with Their Wives (1 Pet. 3:7) Jimmy Clark



Dean Miller



Troy Postlethwait

### Wednesday

9:00 Sustaining Faith Through Unexpected Death Rick Kenyon  
9:40 Reeling in Rebellion Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 How the Love of Money Impacts the Home Jimmy Clark  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Home Wreckers

1:30 Divorce David Stearsman  
2:00 Pornography Jack Wilkie  
2:30 Selfishness Chad Tagtow  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Traits of a Successful Father Christian Torres  
7:45 Why Some Fathers Fail Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.



Rick Kenyon



Jerry Martin

### Thursday

9:00 Surviving Widowhood Dean Miller  
9:40 Turning Trials to Triumphs Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Biblical Principles on Training Children Melvin L. Otey  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Challenged Families

1:30 Inner City Families Rico Brown  
2:00 Single Parent Homes John L. Lewis  
2:30 Culturally Mixed Marriages Philip Vanwinkle  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Is the Lord Building Your House? Hiram Kemp  
7:45 Christ: The Pattern for the Home Melvin L. Otey



Melvin L. Otey



Ty Rhymes

Broadcast live at [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net) ♦ Lectureship books available \$16



Daniel Stearsman



David Stearsman



Logan Summers



Chad Tagtow



Christian Torres



Philip Vanwinkle



Teral Walker



Jack Wilkie

# Invite Your Family, Friends, and Neighbors!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Kenny French and Evelyn Wyatt are back at home. Wanda Bruno has been discharged from the hospital and staying with her daughter. Also remember Genny Johnson, Ginny Hamby, Brenda Mask, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler.

**Others:** Lynn Stevens (cousin of Daniel Stearsman), Bob McAnally, Bob Murrell (the French's son in law), Joy Baker, (Michelle Paulin's cousin), Duane Nelson, Joyce Stearsman and Jack Pinckert.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Dec. 21st:** Senior Saints trip to see local Christmas lights. Meet at the building at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday Dec. 23rd:** Young and young at heart are invited to an outdoor Christmas movie night at the Grimes' at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a movie snack to share and a lawn chair.

**Sunday Dec. 31st:** Chili Cook Off after evening services. Bring your best chili. Cooks sign up in foyer. A senior citizen's New Years Eve ball drop will take place at 8:30 p.m. Bring friends and neighbors.

**Sunday Jan. 7th:** Fellowship In-Service following evening services. Please bring finger foods.

**Tuesday Jan. 23rd:** Seniors (or others interested), there will be a Crime Prevention presentation at 10:00 a.m.

## Sympathy

Janet Crosby, a former member here, passed away on Monday December 10th in Illinois. Please keep her family in your prayers.

## Possible Deacon

The elders would like to bring John McShane before the congregation to be considered for the work of deacon. If there are any objections, please submit them in writing to the elders

## Visitors

Rex Long, Dennis & Jean McCarter, Charles Ramey, Jennifer Wilson, Bill Turner, Bitsy Thomas, Teresa Reeves and Kaylen, Mark & Venessa Legg, Emily Hernandez and Wayne & Anita Shearer.



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

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

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### January

Frank Hamby ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland  
John McShane ..... **Assist** ..... Bobby Simpson

### Sunday, December 24, 2017 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

### 10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Matt Willcut  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal

### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tyler Anderson  
**Greeters** ..... Darlene/ Brenda  
**Att. Cards** ..... Paul and Ian  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Bob Cooper

### Wednesday, December 27, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005*

### Sunday, December 31, 2017 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... David Williams  
**Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

### 10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Simpson

### 6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Greeters** ..... Tyler & Jessica Anderson  
**Att. Cards** ..... Willcut boys  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Bob Cooper

### Wednesday, January 3, 2018

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

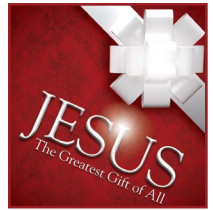
Nov. 26.....	\$4,607.82
Dec. 03.....	\$6,147.12
Dec. 10.....	\$5,661.50
Dec. 17.....	\$6,414.95
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$5,415.92</b>
<b>2017 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,716.51</b>

## The Greatest Example of Sacrificial Giving (continued from page 1)

reference to His becoming human and being subject to the pain, suffering, and death characteristic of the human condition. The Divine Word, took on human nature. He “became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). Although Jesus was among the poorer class (cf. Lk. 2:24; 9:58), the reference to His becoming poor is not in relation to material wealth. Materially, others were worse off than Jesus (cf. Jn. 12:3-6; 13:27-29). The point is that Jesus did not consider his wealth (being on an equality with God) something to be hoarded, but “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8). In the same sense Jesus “was rich,” He “became poor”!

## We Can Be Rich

Jesus humbled Himself to come to this earth “that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9d). “Might be rich” is not a promise of material wealth, but to the riches of salvation. No amount of wealth could be of more value than “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:18-20). Jesus took on human “flesh and blood” that “through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through (continued below)



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

Return Service Requested

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

**Save the Date**

**Feb. 23-25, 2018**

**YES Weekend**

Forrest Park, Valdosta

**Theme: ENDURE**

*If you would like to attend YES Weekend, see Hiram or Brian so we can work on accommodations & travel logistics!*



**Think souls! Let's Invite our friends and neighbors to church assemblies and/or to one-on-one Bible studies!**

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



*Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!*  
*As Always, Keep Jesus First!*

(continued from above) fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb. 2:14-15). The wealth resulting for us due to His death on Calvary is beyond accurate count, but may be summarized as “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). This wealthy, abundant life made possible by Jesus is enjoyed now in a limited way (Jn. 10:10), but will not be fully experienced until Jesus comes again and the faithful are fitted for an eternal dwelling with Him (cf. 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Jn. 3:2). Christ gave Himself in order that we might have salvation!

## Conclusion

No matter our view of this time of year, we must keep our minds focused on the greatest gift, Jesus' sacrifice. May this motivate us to greater sacrificial service all year. Let us imitate Jesus, the greatest example of sacrifice! ❤️ Brian