

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

CHURCH OF CHRIST

**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. 72 No. 19 5-14-19

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

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



**You are invited to attend the 2019 Vacation Bible School**

**South Florida Ave. church of Christ**

**Goodness of Daniel**  
June 2, 6:00pm

**COURAGE OF DAVID**  
June 3, 7:00 a.m.

**Micaiah speaks for God**  
June 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Kindness - Helping our Friends**  
June 5, 7:00 p.m.

**Jesus - The true hero**  
June 6, 7:00 p.m.

**South Florida Avenue Church of Christ**  
1807 S. Florida Ave  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
863-682-4702

# Wisdom's Warning: Hanging Out with the Wrong Crowd

Brian R. Kenyon

The Book of Proverbs has several sections that are introduced, “My son” (Pr. 1:8; 2:1; 3:1, etc.) or “Hear, my children” (Pr. 4:1; 5:7; 7:24, etc.). These sections constitute topics that God’s wisdom dictates parents should teach their children (and grandchildren). When parents fail to give this instruction, children are much more vulnerable to being devoured by the devil (1 Pet. 5:8). Consider godly wisdom’s warning against the wrong crowd.

My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. <sup>11</sup>If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; <sup>12</sup>Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; <sup>13</sup>We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; <sup>14</sup>Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse.” <sup>15</sup>My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; <sup>16</sup>For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. <sup>17</sup>Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; <sup>18</sup>But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. <sup>19</sup>So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners. (Pr. 1:10-19)

## Disaster Awaits

Becoming a part of the wrong crowd is disastrous! According to commentator James E. Smith, the word translated “sinners” refers to “those [who are] habitually addicted to crime,” such as “thugs” or “gang members.” This warning is extremely relevant in today’s society because many young people, both in and out of the church, have become members of gangs. These gangs may not be the type that wear leather jackets and spray-paint graffiti on public buildings, but any group that lures young people away from Biblical values is just as damaging so far as eternity is concerned. At least part of the reason why children join gangs can be attributed to the lack of attention that many of these children receive at home. Parents must remember that their children are to be a priority when it comes to their time. In fact, next to a spouse (Gen. 2:24), the most important earthly relationship that a parent has is with his or her children! Are we as parents spending enough time with our children to make them feel loved? Are we spending the time we need with them to influence them in the Lord’s way (Mt. 5:13-16)?

## Deception Allures

These alternative-to-godly-values peer groups can offer a life of adventure (cf. “lie in wait,” Pr. 1:11), a life of perceived authority over other, lesser beings (cf. “swallow them,” Pr. 1:12), a life of riches (cf. “precious possessions,” Pr. 1:13), and an all-for-one-and-one-for-all life of camaraderie (cf. sharing “one purse,” Pr. 1:14). Each of these is very attractive to young (and not so young) people. However, those who pursue this way of life end tragically (Pr. 1:15-19). A child of wisdom must avoid these kinds of peer groups (Pr. 1:15). The life of these gangsters is a life of violence and despair (Pr. 1:16). In fact, these sinners are so blinded to their own destructive ways that they are headed to their own, self created disaster (Pr. 1:17-18), as does “everyone who is greedy for gain” (Pr. 1:19 cf. Pr. 15:27). As parents, we need to create an environment in the home where our children are encouraged to be wholesomely adventurous, to realize true value, and to experience godly camaraderie, also known as fellowship! “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal. 6:7)!

## Conclusion

Why hang out with the wrong crowd when the “right crowd” offers so much more now and in eternity? In contrast to the disastrous end of the sinners described above, “the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day” (Pr. 4:18)! Parents must warn their children (and grandchildren) against the dangers of these gangs of sinners. The best way to safeguard children from being attracted to these “sinners” is for parents to spend time with their children. Giving children adequate attention and a feeling of belonging in the family will greatly reduce possible attraction to the wrong crowd!

**REMEMBER THE LORD IN ALL YOUR SUMMER PLANS!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington, Melody Baxter (leg problems), Janie Wise (shingles), Carlene Long (fallen), Ken Walker (sick) and Margaret Coone.

**Shut In Members:** Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Naomi Zamot (Jagie Kenyon's niece), Larry Lester, Gina, (daughter of Kathy Nester), Paulisky Irizarry, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Christina Jones, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle's father, Gail Patterson, family member of Darlene and Brenda, and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday May 18th:** Men's breakfast at North Lakeland church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. The church van will be going. The van will leave the church building at 7:25 a.m. All are invited to join us!

**Tuesday May 21st:** Senior Saints meeting. Dutch treat breakfast at Fred's Southern Kitchen at 8:30 a.m. Presentation at 9:30 in the fellowship hall on the "The History of the Kathleen Area".

**May 26th-29th:** The first annual Family Enrichment Seminar at the Griffin Rd. church of Christ in Bartow. The speaker will be Kevin Patterson.

**Friday May 31st:** Ladies' Swap Till You Drop. Bring your items to the church building by May 22nd and on May 31st at 7:00 p.m., you can come and swap. See the flyer for more details or see Rene Bingle for any questions

**Sunday June 2nd:** Fellowship In-Service at 5:00 p.m. before evening service.

**June 2nd-6th: Mark Your Calendars!** Our Vacation Bible School. Please invite family and friends. Flyers are on the table. Come and see where you can help. There will be a Potluck Fellowship Meal on Sunday after morning services to kick off V.B.S.

**Saturday, June 1st:** Door knocking at 8:30 a.m. Please see Vince if you want to join the group. We need as many people as possible!

## Updated address

Dick Burbage is currently living at Lakeland Hills Center - 610 E. Bella Vista St., Room 209B

## Congratulations

Briana Coleman gave birth to a baby boy, Nicholai, weighing 7lbs-14oz on May, 9th. Congratulations to Rosalind Coleman on becoming a grandma again and Bernetta Green on becoming a great-grandma again.

## Sympathy

Luke Pratt, grandson of Bob & Bea Pratt, was killed last week in a home invasion. Please keep Bob and Bea and their son Bobby and family in your prayers during this very difficult time.

## Visitors

Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Sherman Williams, Haley Pack, Harry & Victoria Williams, Mike & Liz & Justin Bosley, Hank Bolding, Heather Glass, Tawana Burkett, Larry Laster, Denise Gulizia, Julie Fontaine, Patrick Skaggs, Christopher Mills and Christy Wright.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

**May**

**Open/Close building-David Williams**

Josh Estridge ..... **Table** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
John McShane ..... **Assist** ..... Dustin Walling

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**.....Jim Turner  
**Prayer**.....Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**.....Alex Parramore  
**Announcements**.....Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**.....Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**.....Wesley Brunson  
**Sermon**.....Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jim Edmonson  
**Greeters**.....bettie b/Melissa Craft  
**Cards**.....Willcut boy's

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Sermon**.....Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jim Turner

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

**Song Leader**..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer**..... Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer**..... Tyler Anderson

## May- Clean-up David William's (R-Z)

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**.....Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**.....David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**.....Kyle Williams  
**Announcements**.....Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**.....Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**.....Wayne Shearer  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Ken Walker  
**Greeters**.....Bingle/Shearer  
**Cards**.....Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**.....Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**.....Tyler Anderson  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Fred Hamby

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

**Song Leader**..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer**.....Wayner Shearer  
**Closing Prayer**..... Tim Croson

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

<b>Apr. 21</b> .....	<b>\$6,414.65</b>
<b>Apr. 28</b> .....	<b>\$6,542.00</b>
<b>May 5</b> .....	<b>\$7,520.64</b>
<b>May 12</b> .....	<b>\$6,357.70</b>
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$6,687.59</b>



*Member Spotlight*  
**Bea Pratt**



Bea was born in East Lynn, West Virginia and grew-up in that area. As a child she wanted to be a secretary. Her first job was at Badcock in the credit department. She also worked as one of the first secretaries for FSOP. She has visited Italy, India, China, Kashmir, and Canada. She likes to spend her free time with her husband, Bob. She also likes to play chess. Her most satisfying accomplishments are becoming a Christian and being a wife and mother. She and Bob have two sons, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



*Member Spotlight*  
**Tucker Sweeney**



Tucker was born in Lakeland and has lived here all his life. As a child, he always wanted to be a firefighter. His first (and current job) is as a ranch hand. He has been on mission trips to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama. He speaks a little Spanish. His favorite dessert is brownies. His favorite book is *Tom Sawyer*. His favorite season is hunting. In his free time, he likes to fish, hunt, fix things, and hang out with friends. His most satisfying accomplishment is buying his truck. The best advice he's been given is "If you're gonna be dumb, you gotta be tough."



*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 . . .

**Pray & Plan for Our  
 VBS June 2-6, 2019**



**Special Thanks to all who helped with the Florida School of Preaching graduation last Sunday! Your fellowship in the Gospel is of great value!**

**THINK SOULS!** Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.



**MISSION TRIP PERU**

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

We are **A MISSION-MINDED CHURCH!**

In addition to the large-group mission trip to Peru, several of the members here are going on other campaigns. **Brian** left May 15 for Ghana, Africa, and will return, Lord willing, May 30. **Dee and Alex** are going to the Philippines. **Casey** is going to Costa Rica and Panama. **Tucker** is going to Costa Rica. Let us pray for their safety and the Gospel's free course into honest hearts!