

# 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.....9:30 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

## *What a Man Learned When He Saw God*

Hiram Kemp

The Bible is clear that no man has ever seen God (Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn. 4:12). When God spoke with Moses, He said no one could look on his face and live (Ex. 33:20). So what is meant by the title of this article, that a man saw God? Occasionally in scripture, God manifests himself to his people. Sometimes God manifests himself to judges; other times to prophets, and even kings. The technical term for these appearances is called a theophany. A theophany is when God appears to humanity in various forms, while concealing the totality of his glory. For example, at the burning bush, God appeared to Moses and at Mount Horeb, God showed Moses his backside (Ex. 3:1-6, 33:15-23). Isaiah 6 is another instance where God appeared to his servant and manifested Himself to some degree. Isaiah worked with God's people in a time of sin and rebellion. The people of Judah were given over to idolatry, and God was warning them about the punishment that was to come, but they would not listen (Isa. 1:2-20). Isaiah was called to the prophetic office to cry out against the people and warn them of the punishment to come. When God appeared to him, he learned a few lessons. We should learn these lessons as well.

## *God is Holy*

Many today claim to have had a direct encounter with God, but in describing what they have seen, it is rarely like what Isaiah wrote. Isaiah saw God sitting on his throne and the seraphim surrounding the throne. As they flew they cried, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isa. 6:2-3). God is holy and those that occupy his presence not only acknowledge that holiness, but they announce it. When John was privileged to see a vision similar to the one Isaiah saw, his description of things was similar. The four beasts before God's throne cried out, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8).

Scripture is filled with reminders that God's people are to be holy. Holy means to be set apart, to be consecrated for a special purpose. In this case, the purpose was for God's service. The motivation for Christians to be holy is because God is holy. When Israel was preparing to go into the land of Canaan, they were told they must be holy and distinct from the surrounding nations. Moses said the reason for their holiness was because God is the Lord (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 20:26, 21:8). When Peter wrote to Christians whom he described as pilgrims in the world, he commanded them to be holy because God is holy (1 Pet. 1:1, *continued on page 2*)

15-16). What Isaiah saw and realized was that God is holy. We should not take this lightly. Those who do not produce holiness in their own lives will not see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Too often, Christians can fall back on the thought that “nobody is perfect.” This is true, but we are all called to be holy (Eph. 5:1-6).

## *The Unclean Cannot Stand Before God*

After Isaiah came into contact with the holiness of God, he realized how unworthy he was to be in His presence. Isaiah described himself as undone, unclean, and having unclean lips (Isa. 6:5). Isaiah should not be viewed as one of the vile and wayward people of the land, yet when compared with God’s holiness, he stood no chance. Isaiah recognized that his righteousness was as filthy rags before the pristine holiness of God (Isa. 64:6). Isaiah did not truly realize his condition until he saw, “the King, the Lord of hosts” (Isa. 6:5). Many times, we do not know our true condition until we see things from God’s vantage point.

It is one thing to be holier than others. It is another thing to stand before God and see ourselves as we truly are (1 Sam. 16:7; Isa. 65:5). Isaiah appreciated that in his state of uncleanness he was in no condition to stand before God. People who have never obeyed the gospel and had their sins washed away will not be able to stand before him in judgment. Without Jesus as our advocate, we would tremble in the heavenly courtroom (1 Jn. 2:1). Woe to those who think they will be able to represent themselves in the day of judgment and be acquitted of their sins (Acts 13:38-39). The lesson Isaiah learned needs to be retaught to the masses today. When we are unclean in our sins, we should see our unworthiness before God. The saying, “God knows my heart” is true, but that is a scary thing if my heart is not right in the sight of God (Acts 8:22).

## *God Can Clean Us and Use Us*

Isaiah confessed his unclean condition, and God sent the seraphim and cleaned his lips and his sin was purged (Isa. 6:6-7). The call to enlist a servant is then extended, to which Isaiah responded, “Here am I; send me” (Isa. 6:8). God then gave Isaiah his task as a prophet to go and speak to the people the message he had been given (Isa. 6:9-10). Isaiah learned that only God can clean-up sin. No one can behave well enough to earn God’s forgiveness. It is given by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). God is the one who chooses to remember our sins no more when we accept his gracious offer of pardon. At the thought of this, we should rejoice (Heb. 8:12). God cleaned-up Isaiah and made him fit for service, and He does the same today when men and women obey the gospel (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rev. 1:5). The credit for our clean state belongs to God and not us. We should remember it is God that has washed us free from our filth (Isa. 43:25). God promised that he would make sins white as snow if the people were willing, and he did this for Isaiah (Isa. 1:18). Today, God stretches out his hand to save, and he will clean up sinners if they are willing (Acts 2:21; Rev. 22:17).

Once Isaiah is cleaned-up, he is now ready for service in the work of the Lord. God does not cleanse us of our sins so that we may sit idly on the sidelines of life (Mk. 5:19). We are his workmanship created to do good works (Eph. 2:10). Isaiah was now to go among the people and warn them of the destruction that would be theirs if they remained in sin. Having seen the holiness of God, he was in a perfect position to tell them of their eventual ruin if they came into his presence defiled. We are those who know that the wrath of God awaits the children of disobedience. We should sound the alarm and warn others (Col. 3:6).

## *Conclusion*

Isaiah was willing and volunteered to do the Lord’s work and God used him in a great way. How many times have we said the words of Isaiah, “Here am I send me”? It is easy to say those words when it is a mission we want to go on for God, but what about when it is something we would rather not do? Grace says, since God cleaned me up, I will serve him and do what I can no matter what it is. Isaiah saw God and learned that the proper response to his grace is a heart and hands that are willing to serve. No one has ever seen God in all of his glory, but one day we will (1 Jn. 3:2). Whether that day is a day of dread or a day of delight depends on whether or not we learn the lessons Isaiah learned when he saw God. Ω

**I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. (Isa. 6:8)**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Faith West, Bob Cooper, Wanda Bruno, Sharon Washington, Jim Turner, Bill Long, Ginny Hamby, and Margaret Coone.

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

**Others:** Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Joyce Stearsman, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding and Tim Wade (friend of the Kirklands).

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday July 17th:** Senior Saints meeting. Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. Video on Evolution at 10:00 a.m. Then packing blessing bags. Bring any items from home that may be used.

**Saturday July 21st:** Men's breakfast has been changed from 6th St. to Orange St. church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday July 21st:** Door knocking for the up-coming V.B.S. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the building. Come and help us promote our V.B.S.

**Thursday July 26th:** Senior Saints outing to the Polk County History Center. Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. All teens are invited and lunch will be provided for the teens!

**Saturday July 28th:** One day Vacation Bible School here at S.F.A. Please invite family and friends.

**Sunday July 29th:** Monthly Fellowship Meal following our morning service and the afternoon service right after our meal. Jimmy Sweeney's team is in charge of set-up and clean-up.

**Pew Packers: We will start pew packers for the kids again on Sunday evenings before worship service at 5:45 p.m. This will include songs and bible questions related to our cards for Engraving Heavenly Truths. All ages are welcome.**

## Congratulations

**Ian Enamorado and Michael Lane** were baptized into Christ at C.F.B.C. this last week!

**Heidi Bingle** passed her entrance exam to be a Registered Nurse!

## Sympathy

JoAnn Chancey, Ginny Hamby's mother, passed away on Tuesday July 3rd. The funeral service will be Saturday July 14th at the Main Street Baptist Church in Bartow at 10:00 a.m.

## Thank You

Thank you so much for all the cards, love and support along with donations to the F.S.O.P. in my dad's name. Family is everything during a time like this. Love, Don Starks's family

## Response

Wesley Brunson confessed sins and wants to ask for the prayers of the congregation.

## Visitors

Johnny Davidson, George & Marion Beals, Michael Lane, Tiffany Hash, Sam and Megan, Dustin Walling, Junior Erickson, Linda Boon, Kayden, Callie, Collin and Lily.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

David Anderson ..... **Table** ..... Ken Walker  
John McShane..... **Assist** .....Jimmy Sweeney

**Sunday, July 15, 2018**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**.....Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** .....Fred Strickland  
**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**.....Tucker Sweeney  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Paul Romine  
**Sound Booth**.....Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer**.....Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Casey Paulin  
**Sound Booth**.....Alex Parramore  
**Greeters** ..... Williams  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio/Paul  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Phil Fife

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer**..... Frank Hamby  
**Closing Prayer**.....Phil Fife

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

**Sunday, July 22, 2018**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... David Williams  
**Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** .....Fred Strickland  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Matt Willcut  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sound Booth**..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon**.....Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**.....Bobby Simpson  
**Sound Booth**.....Tucker Sweeney  
**Greeters**.....Dix  
**Att. Cards**.....Paul/Ian  
**Open & Close Building** .....Phil Fife

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Matt Willcut  
**Opening Prayer**..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tucker Sweeney

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 17.....	\$5,436.39
June 24.....	\$4,371.18
July 1 .....	\$5,673.16
July 8 .....	\$6,198.52
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$ 5,805.27</b>
<b>2018 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$ 4,887.98</b>

# Bible Camps: An Under-Utilized Tool of the Church



Last week, fifteen people from the South Florida Avenue congregation attended Central Florida Bible Camp. Two teenagers, Michael and Ian, were baptized into Christ. Kyle was one of the directors of the week. Hiram, Wayne, and Brian spoke in chapel. C. J., Megan, and Michael came to CFBC for the first time. Wayne and C. J.

were counsellors, Anita handled the canteen, and Amanda and Megan helped in all kinds of ways behind the scenes. All had a great time! The thought occurred to me, especially after reading some of the social media posts, that Bible camps, such as CFBC and Weeki Wachee Christian Camp, are powerful tools of evangelism and edification, not just for young people, but for everyone who attends! We need to support these camps with our prayers, money, and involvement. May our whole lives be consumed with God's business (Rom. 12:1-2)! ❤️ *Brian*



**Weeki Wachee  
Fall Youth Recharge  
Aug. 3-5, 2018**

**Theme: "Under  
New Management"  
Make Plans to Attend**



*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 . . .



By the grace of God and His wonderful plan of salvation, we have plenty of reason to rejoice at the baptism into Christ of three people over the last few weeks. Victor was baptized Saturday, June 30, 2018, and both Michael and Ian were baptized at CFBC on Thursday, July 5, 2018! "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10). Let us encourage our new brothers!

## Thanks to All Who Helped

As John reported, there is a party interested in moving the old preacher's house to their lot, pending the proper permits, etc. The first phase entails us cleaning out the contents of the house. We started this Monday and Tuesday, filling two dumpster loads. Special thanks to all the church members who came to help. Your sacrifice of time (and much sweat) was greatly appreciated!

