

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. 73 No. 30 8-06-19

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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

Three LIES from the LION KING

Hiram Kemp

Last week, Brittani and I took our children to see the Lion King. We both remember seeing the movie when we were younger and wanted to see the new and improved computer animated version with our children. The movie overall did not change much from the cartoon version that became popular with children when it aired in 1994. The movie is largely about a lion named Simba whose dad (Mufasa) is killed by Simba's uncle (Scar), and how Simba must find himself and take his place as ruler of the jungle.

There is nothing wrong with enjoying good movies and recreation. There are lessons that we can learn from the culture around us, whether good or bad, and I think we should be paying attention for these lessons (Mt. 10:16). I am convinced that the Devil walks as a roaring lion, and sometimes we do not hear him roar because we are not as vigilant as we should be (1 Pet. 5:8). While I enjoyed the movie, there were three lies that the movie told that are being echoed in various ways throughout our culture. Christians must be careful not to believe these lies.

“When We Die, We Are Grass”

When Simba's dad is explaining to him what happens when we die, he tells him that when lions die they become grass. While several world religions believe various forms of reincarnation, the Bible rejects all of these ideas as blatantly false. When we die, we are in the hades realm until we meet God in judgment (Lk. 16:19-31). We will either be in torment or in paradise depending on the life we have lived and whether we have died in the Lord (Lk. 23:43). If we die in the Lord, we will be blessed, and we will enjoy rest (Rev. 14:13). If we die in our sins, we will perish forever and be separated from God (Jn. 8:21).

The world may not use the exact terminology from this Disney movie and claim that we become grass at death, but they echo similar thoughts. The idea that many have is that what we do in this life does not matter because when we die, that is it. While our bodies will be changed, we will be alive when this life is over (Phil. 3:20-21). We will exist in either heaven or hell at the conclusion of this world, and it will last longer than our life in this world ever could (Jn. 5:28-29). The Bible does make a connection between our lives and grass. Peter says all flesh is like grass and the glory of man resembles the flower of grass but God's Word endures forever (1 Pet. 1:24-25). Since our lives on earth are a vapor, we should build our hopes on things that are eternal (Jas. 4:14). The world does not have the eternal hope that we enjoy

as Christians, and so we should not expect them to offer eternal answers. For the faithful Christian, the scriptures teach us to expect glory at the end of life, not grass (Rom. 8:18).

“Life is Meaningless”

Two of Simba’s friends in the movie try and convince him that he should not worry about the hardships of his life. They have a philosophy called “hakuna matata,” which means no worries, or do not worry about anything. As Simba struggles to find his purpose in life, they tell him life is meaningless. The evolutionary doctrine that is popular in our world today suggest that we are here by accident and that life is meaningless (cf. Psa. 14:1). Those who subscribe to naturalism want us to believe that we are here by chance and that nothing matters (cf. Psa. 19:1-4). The same people that say life is meaningless are consumed with sorrow and grief when mass shootings and acts of terror take place in our world. When people continuously tell us that God does not exist and life is meaningless, we should not be surprised when they follow through with godless behavior (cf. Rom. 1:18-32).

It is not true that life is meaningless. God created man for his glory and wants us to reflect that glory in the world (Isa. 43:7). We are made in the image of God and have inherent value as a result of that fact (Gen. 1:26-27). God will hold us accountable for what we do in our bodies because the way we live now will influence our eternal destiny (2 Cor. 5:10). The idea that life is meaningless is designed to produce a care-free and optimistic attitude among its adherents, but this is rarely the outcome. Many who feel life is meaningless give in to their circumstance and quit life when it becomes overwhelming. God thought our lives had so much value that he sent Jesus to earth to die for our sins and to save us (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8). When people are struggling with the hard issues of life, instead of trying to comfort them, by saying life is meaningless, we should point them to the Messiah (Jn. 1:29). The Bible does teach that we should not worry, but it is not because nothing matters. We should not be consumed with worry because we can cast our cares and anxieties on a God who cares deeply about our lives and hardships (Phil. 4:4-8; 1 Pet. 5:7).

“The Dead Are Looking Down on Us”

When Simba stared up into the sky, he was taught that the stars represented all of the great kings of the past looking down on the living. While many laugh at this idea, this may be the most commonly believed lie in the movie accepted by Christians. Many give special attention to the dead as if they are aware of what is taking place in this world and in our lives. However, the Bible gives no indication that the dead are involved in our lives or that they can even see what we are doing. Solomon says the dead do not know anything under the sun (Eccl. 9:5-6). While the writer of Hebrews does say we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses as we run the Christian race, he is referencing the faithful lives of Old Testament characters as testimony that cheers us on (Heb. 12:1-2). Their lives stand as an example that we can persevere. He is not saying that they look down and see how we live.

This should not discourage us (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-18). If our loved ones have died in Christ, they are in the best place possible and would not want to look on this sin-filled world any longer (1 Jn. 5:19). If they did not die in the Lord, there is no comfort provided by them peering back into the world and watching us live our lives. The truth is that someone is looking down and watching us, but it is not our dead loves. It is the living God (2 Chr. 16:9)! The eyes of the Lord are in every place as he beholds the evil and the good (Prov. 15:3). All things are open and naked before him, and we should be most concerned about what he sees (Heb. 4:13). The world is often worried about the wrong set of eyes watching. There is someone looking down and watching and what he sees and knows should be what matters the most to us (Job 31:4).

Conclusion

I enjoyed the Lion King movie. I am not anti-Disney. However, as I watched the Lion King, I am aware there is a lion who is the king of lies who wants to deceive the world, and we must be on guard against his schemes (Jn. 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8). As Satan deceives the whole world, may we not be deceived (Rev. 12:9). There is life after death; life has value and meaning; and only deity looks down and observes our earthly lives.

**IN WHOSE HAND IS THE LIFE OF EVERY LIVING THING,
AND THE BREATH OF ALL MANKIND? (JOB 12:10)**

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby Ray Naschick, Wadi Khoury, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone (spine surgery 9-4-19).

Shut In Members: Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Bob McAnally, Larry Laster (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr. (Neil Entwistle's father), James and Ellen Shearer (Wayne Shearer's parents), Brinlee Alford, Derek Bush (Debbie Bush's son) and Reba Smith who called for prayers for her friend Carol Nichols who has been in an auto accident.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 10th: Youth group game night at 5:00 p.m. at the Sweeney's. Please bring drinks and desserts.

Sunday, August 11th: Youth group will go to lunch and then bring communion with a devo to our shut-ins after morning service. Let Vince know if you are going.

Sunday August 11th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

August 16-22nd: Polishing The Pulpit in Sevierville, TN

Saturday, August 17th: Men's breakfast at Jackson Ave. church of Christ in Bartow.

Saturday August 17th: Ladies there will be a baby shower honoring Tina "Willcutt" Stout at the Eagle Lake church of Christ at 2:00 p.m. RSVP to Mariann Willcutt at (863) 224-3715 by 8/10/19.

Tuesday August 20th: Senior Saints meeting at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. There will be a security presentation by Bobby Simpson, a new project presentation and we will also make plans for the remainder of the year.

Responses

Stephanie Kenyon and Staci Smith asked for prayers of the congregation on Sunday to help them with strength to live a better Christian life. Please pray for Tawana Burkett who has asked to Bible study. Pray for her to come to know and obey the truth.

Place Membership

Harry & Victoria Williams have requested to place membership with us. Let us please welcome and encourage them and their family.

Visitors

Mary Moore, Ellen Shearer, Eric Bunch, Sherman Williams, Jerry Greene, Dr. Curt Morelock and Eve, Margaret Khoury, Allen & Rachel Grimes, Larry Lester and Tawana Burkett, Jennifer Waldon, John & Janie Glass, Cynthia Hoffelder, Tiffany Hash, Sam & Megan, Heidi Rhymes, Molly Mizell, and C.J. & Kelcey Grimes, Avery and Riley.

Communion to Shut-Ins

August 11	Youth group
August 18	Deal & Turner
August 25	R. Kenyon
Sept. 1	Van Allen

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Bob Pratt

David Anderson	Table	Kyle Faneuf
Jeff Bingle	Assist	Frank Hamby

Sunday, August 11, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Paul Romine
Prayer	David Williams

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth	Casey Paulin
Announcements	Matt Willcutt
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	John McShane
Sermon	Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer	Tyler Anderson
Greeters	Dix/McShane
Cards	Willcutt boys

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer	Kyle Bingle
Sermon	Peru Mission Report
Closing Prayer	Alex Parramore

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Song Leader	Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer	Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer	Charles Paulin

August Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

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

Sunday, August 18, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Jim Turner
Prayer	Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth	Alex Parramore
Announcements	Matt Wilcutt
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	Bobby Simpson
Sermon	Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer	Jim Edmonson
Greeters	Brenda/Darlene/Estridge
Cards	Caelen/Camron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer	Wayne Shearer
Sermon	Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer	Ken Walker

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Song Leader	David Williams
Opening Prayer	John McShane
Closing Prayer	Alex Parramore

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 14	\$6,846.00
July 21	\$5,946.63
July 28	\$7,462.81
Aug 04	\$ 6,802.75
Contribution Average	\$ 6,541.68



Member Spotlight

Jenna Hendrix



Jenna was born in Lakeland, and grew up in this area. Her first job was answering phones. She is currently a first grade teacher for Polk County School Board. She has visited France, Mexico, Bahamas, and several South and Central American countries. Her favorite season is Fall. She is good at listening. In her free time, she likes to cook, and she enjoys doing new things with her children. Her most satisfying accomplishment is being a mom. The best advice she's been given is "Proverbs 3:5-6." She and her husband, Jason, have 3 daughters.



Member Spotlight

Rick Kenyon



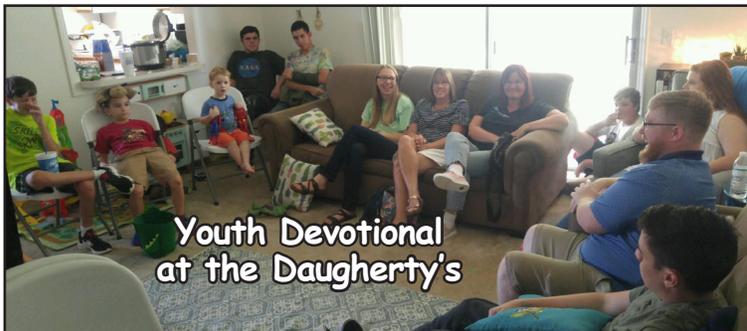
Rick was born in New Iberia, Louisiana and also lived in Tennessee and Georgia. His first job was as Mr. Paul Thornhill's Saturday "farm hand." He currently works for a railcar repair company and Sam's Club. He has visited Canada, Ghana, and England. He likes to spend time with family. His favorite books are the Bible and *Pilgrim's Progress*. He likes his wife's cooking. He is good at making people smile. The best advice he's been given is "The truth, no matter how painful, is the only foundation to build upon." He and his wife, Stephanie, have 2 children.



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 . . .



Youth Devotional at the Daugherty's

Calling All Youth (and Their Parents): Our youth group is picking up great momentum in the Lord! We would love for you to join us in fellowship as the youth group (and their parents/chaperones) serve God through Bible study, service projects, and fellowship events. To get started, see Vince and/or come to the parent meeting **August 24** @ 9:30 am in the fellowship room. Let's serve God together!

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



God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)**
- Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)**
- Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)**
- Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)**
- Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2), which includes assembling for worship (Jn. 4:24) & encouragement (Heb. 10:25)**