

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Delbert Leavens

### RECORD

Attendance: **41**  
Contribution: \$ 1536.00  
**Weekly Budget: \$ 2854.00**

### *Thought for The Day*

OUR MISSION?

"1 out of every 113 people in the world will die this year. ... and how many of these will die in Christ?"

*TED*

## Church of Christ of Venice

**4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293**



### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Kerry Keathley  
Songs: Joe Austin  
Sermon: Ted Wheeler  
Closing Prayer: Delbert Leavens

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Ted Wheeler  
Songs: Joe Austin  
Sermon: Christian Nsoah  
Closing Prayer: Marty Wingo

### COMMUNION

Tim Simmons Dick Navarre  
Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

# Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

August 19, 2007

Volume 17, Number 33

## The Great Commission Still Reads ... "INTO ALL THE WORLD"

Following the Second World War, the churches of Christ experienced a wonderful awakening to the crucial need of world evangelism and the demands of the Great Commission. New fields were entered one by one. Young people from Christian colleges and schools of preaching went to foreign mission fields in an overflowing, ever-increasing stream. Great success stories from the foreign fields filled our brotherhood journals as multitudes were won to Christ in Africa, Asia, and South America, and strong, solid foundations were laid in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere.

But in the 1970's, the picture has begun to change. Following the intense disillusionment resulting from the Vietnam War, a new wave of isolationism has swept over the United States. Many Americans now want to withdraw from the rest of the world, neglect our allies, and retreat from involvement with anyone outside our immediate sphere of interest. Unfortunately, many members of the Lord's church have allowed their views of political, isolationism to influence their thinking in regard to the mission of the church. Instead of wanting to reach out, to carry the gospel to every nation and every creature as our Lord has commanded, the trend is now to withdraw from involvement in foreign work and to put money that formerly supported works overseas into efforts closer to home.

Thus, notices appear from' time to time in the papers

*Continued on page 2*

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a nursery available at the rear of the auditorium. Bible classes for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders  
Delbert Leavens  
Wayne Vowell  
Ted Wheeler

Minister  
Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services  
Bible Study-10:00 am  
Worship-11:00 am  
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday  
Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ  
4301 Highway 776  
Venice, FL 34293  
USA

Telephone:  
941-493-2403

Email:  
[mail@venicechurchofchrist.com](mailto:mail@venicechurchofchrist.com)

Internet:  
[www.venicechurchofchrist.com](http://www.venicechurchofchrist.com)

Outreach:



from a congregation wanting to support mission work "within driving distance" of home base. Sadly, the home congregations that are able fully to support men in mission work are usually in the areas of the nation where the church is the strongest numerically. This writer knows of one church that wanted to support a worker within 300 miles of home. But the particular area in which the church is located is one of the strongest areas for the Lord's church in the United States, indeed, in the whole world. It would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for one to drive as much as twenty miles anywhere in that entire area without finding at least one, and usually several, good-sized prosperous churches.

Some of the interest and support formerly given to foreign evangelism has gone into good, needed works at home. For example, buying busses to bring people in the local community to services or the sending of men to genuine mission fields in the USA. These are good works and are to be commended. But, cannot we do these good works at home and continue our advance on the foreign fields as well? With a USA brotherhood that is two and one half to three million members strong, with sixteen to eighteen thousand congregations, and more than 8,000 gospel preachers, plus many trained, willing, and able members in most congregations, cannot we preach the gospel to every creature, not only in the USA, but in every nation just as our Lord commanded us?

For many years, some of the great preachers among us have sought to prod us into doing more on the foreign field by pointing out that the USA has approximately only five per cent of the world's population but ninety five per cent of the full-time gospel preachers. With the world's population now standing at close to four billion, souls and expected to reach seven billion by the end of this century, only twenty-four years from now, the picture has changed very little. Now is the time not to decrease our efforts but to increase them and press forward with a much greater effort than ever before! What can be done to arouse once again our great brotherhood to its responsibility in foreign evangelism while continuing to press the battle on every hand at home? First, preachers of the gospel need to teach, preach, and emphasize the Great Commission. It has often been said, "*As go the preachers, so go the churches.*" This is often very true whether one is speaking of anti-ism, liberalism, or the promotion of good works! Local preachers, by teaching and whole-hearted encouragement, can do more to help the church fulfill its responsibility in world evangelism than anyone else.

Elders, as shepherds of the flock, have a special responsibility to see that men are sought out, trained, and supported adequately in carrying the gospel to every creature. In a day when elders are usually swamped with pleas for support of projects of every description, some of them questionable no doubt, but many of them worthwhile, they need to remember the mission of the church of Christ and maintain this priority.

Surely, nothing is more important or needful than the pure preaching of the gospel of Christ to lost souls who have never had the opportunity to hear! Every member of the body of Christ also must be awakened to the fact that he too is a minister of Christ and as such has the same responsibility to help carry out the Great Commission as do the elders and preachers.

Brethren, Jesus said, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*" (Mark 16:15.) And, despite our disillusionment with foreign involvement politically and militarily, and despite the opportunity to engage in many good and worthwhile works at home, the Great Commission has not changed! It still reads "Into all the world." The question: will we be obedient to it???

*Rod Rutherford*

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## You Forgot My Soul

You lived next door to me for years;  
We shared our dreams, our joys, our tears.

A friend to me you were indeed,  
A friend who helped me in my need.

My faith in you was strong and sure;  
We had such trust as should endure.

No spats between us e'er arose;  
Our friends were like—and so, our foes.

What sadness then, my friend, to find  
That, after all, you weren't so kind.

The day my life on earth did end,  
I found you weren't a faithful friend.

For all those years we spent on earth  
You never talked of second birth.

You never spoke of my lost soul  
And of the Christ who'd make me whole.

I plead today from Hell's cruel fire  
And tell you now my last desire.

You cannot do a thing for me;  
No words today my bonds to free.

But do not err, my friend, again—  
Do all you can for souls of men.

Please with them now quite earnestly,  
Lest they be cast in Hell with me.

*Reprinted from Christian News*

## Remember in Prayer

VALERIE FINLEY

NITA BRAGA

PATRICIA SMITH

FRANCIE LEAVENS

DORIS WHITE

CLARENCE RIGGENBACH

FRANK SMALL

IVA & LEM TURNER

PATRICIA FORD

JEANETTE THOMPSON

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## TODAY'S MESSAGES

What Is The Lord Looking For?

*1 Samuel 16:7 & Luke 19:4*

Ghana Report

*Christian Nsoah*

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*"When the world seems large and complex, we need to remember that great world ideals all begin in some home neighborhood."*

Adenauer

## Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ **Aug 24:** Barbeque Cookout @ 4:00 pm.
- ✓ **Aug 26:** Song Service @ 6:00 pm
- ✓ **Sep 2:** Fellowship Meal @ noon
- ✓ **Sep 30:** Song Service @ 6:00 pm