

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Delbert Leavens

### RECORD

Attendance: **64**

Contribution: \$ 2347.10

**Weekly Budget: \$ 2363.00**

### *Thought for The Day*

"Man is always inclined to be intolerant toward the thing, or person, he hasn't taken time adequately to understand."

*BROWN*

## Church of Christ of Venice

**4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293**

### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Kerry Keathley

Songs: Tim Simmons

Sermon: Ted Wheeler

Closing Prayer: Merritt Bailey

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell

Songs: Tim Simmons

Sermon: Song Service

Closing Prayer: Chris Dorris

### COMMUNION

Marty Wingo Mike Weber

Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

# Church of Christ of Venice

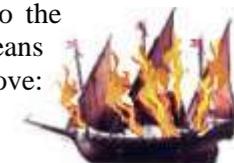
"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

September 30, 2007

Volume 17, Number 39

## Burning Your Ships

When Hernando Cortez and his small force of men landed at Veracruz in 1519 to begin their conquest of Mexico, Cortez purposely set fire to his fleet of 11 ships. On the shore, his men watched their only means of retreat sink to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. With no means of retreat, there was only one direction to move: forward into the Mexican interior to meet whatever might come their way. *Devotional*



*given by Eddie Holt*

### It's all about commitment!

Sadly today, many refuse to commit themselves to anyone or anything, and more and more people are proving unfaithful to promises they have already made. Unwilling to "burn their ships" behind them, many enter into agreements or "covenants" without any REAL commitment, always making sure to leave the door open so they can return to their former conduct or way of life should the going get tough.

### In order to follow Christ, we, too, must "burn our ships."

Our "ships" include anything that would prevent us from following Jesus and finding the truly abundant life (John 10:10) and eternal life to come (Mark 10:28-30). "Burning our ships" means that we will turn away from any sinful thought, attitude, or action and determine to follow Jesus. This is what the Bible calls **repentance** (see 2 Cor7:9-10).

*Continued on page 2b*

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  
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Outreach:



## Ghana Flood Relief

### HEAVY RAINS DEVASTATE NORTHERN GHANA

This week we were able to wire \$4,450 to Ghana. These funds will be used to purchase and distribute food relief around Saboba and Jimbali. Jimbali was site of the recent tribal fighting. Some of the food will be sent to Kiteek. (Photos below from Kiteek.)



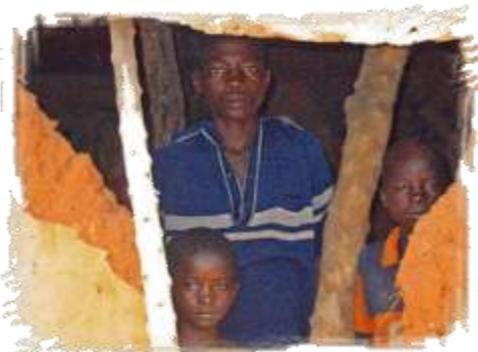
The Bunkpurugu-Yunyoo District authorities have agreed to help us in sending relief to Jimbali by supplying the vehicles needed to transport and distribute the grain.

This week our appeal for Ghana Flood Relief should be mailed nationwide to 9,268 churches of Christ.

We would like to thank all who have been able to help with the flood relief. Please

continue to remember those affected by flooding and the fighting in your prayers.

*Ted*



Jesus used the farming occupation to illustrate the commitment that is required in following Him: *"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62).

**The Apostle Paul “burned his ships” in order to follow Christ:** *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3:13-14).

**Jesus wants to lead us to eternal paradise in heaven.** To follow Him, we must believe in Him (Acts 16:30-31), “burn our ships” in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). And, we must commit to following Him faithfully throughout our journey (1 John 1:7).

**Following Jesus is worth ANY and EVERY sacrifice that we may have to make, but we must burn OUR ships, and follow Him.**

Won't YOU?

*David Sargent*

CHAGBANI—church building



JIMBALI—women returning to their homes



NANYIAR—collapsed house



## Remember in Prayer

FRANCES LEAVENS

LARRY DAVIS

ROY WINGO

JACK HOBBEY

RUBY CACY

HELEN WILLIS

VALERIE FINLEY

BENNIE HOUSE

BUDDY WARD

DORIS WHITE

CLARENCE RIGGENBACH

FRANK SMALL

IVA & LEM TURNER

PATRICIA FORD

JEANETTE THOMPSON

## TODAY'S SERMONS

The Folly in Fighting God  
*Proverbs 21:30*

Song Service

*1 Chronicles 16:23*

## Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Sep 30: Song Service - 6:00p
- ✓ Oct 18: Booster Banquet @ Florida School of Preaching

— COMING SOON —

**Panama Slides & Report**

*Tim Simmons*

**Ghana Slides & Report**