



The Harvester

*Preparing Souls
To Serve The Lord!*

Volume 46

January 2026

Number 6

EVANGELISM A Review of Our 2026 Lectureship Book

Brian R. Kenyon

Our Fifty-First Annual Lectureship was a great time of focused study and fellowship. It was very well attended by faithful church family from all over the United States and a few international visitors. In fact, our opening session was the largest I have ever seen! Of course, the reason may have been the significance of the topic. Evangelism is a much needed topic to study and a much more needed activity to be done as a natural ingredient of individual Christianity! Below are some excerpts from the lectureship book. The book is currently available electronically. Hard copies are on the way and will be mailed to pre-orders as soon as they arrive!

Cary Gillis, in his chapter titled “Evangelism Must Be Deliberate,” writes (pages 351-352):

Evangelism is the action of making the gospel message of Jesus Christ intersect with someone’s life. It is the endeavor of causing those who are hiding their faces from Jesus [cf. Isa. 53:3] to look Him in the eyes, reminiscent of Peter denying Jesus and then immediately looking across the courtyard of the high priest and meeting Jesus’ eyes looking right back at him (Lk. 22:61). As with Peter, evangelizing means helping someone own their guilt. Only through taking ownership of the guilt of His blood can someone embrace the grace of His blood.

Evangelism means showing the world the reality—the bad news with the good—that they are the enemy of a God who wants to save them. They are guilty of the very blood that was spilled to make them innocent. Ideally, evangelism will bring someone along the trajectory of Peter’s arc, denier of Christ to

proclaimer of Christ. ... Here is a simple breakdown of the title of this lesson. “Evangelism,” as described above, is the act of causing the good news of Jesus to intersect with someone’s life. “Must” denotes an imperative. This is not optional. “Be Deliberate” means it does not happen by accident. It is the result of an intentional plan.

One of the biggest challenges to preachers being more evangelistic is the fact they are very busy. Much of the time they are doing jobs that should be distributed among other church members, but that is a separate lesson for another time. Hiram Kemp, however, wrote a chapter titled, “How Busy Preachers Can Still Evangelize.” As great as a preacher Hiram is, I have always been more impressed with his “Monday through Saturday” local work. He constantly has one-on-one Bible studies throughout his busy week, resulting in numerous baptisms annually. He writes (pages 420-421):

If the gospel will go forth in all of its power and capability in our generation, we must be busy sharing it with our family, friends, and neighbors (Rom. 1:16-17). Sharing the gospel involves more than a billboard announcement of Jesus as King or even a Facebook status that lists the plan of salvation. Instead, sharing the gospel means we will have to engage in Bible studies with the lost in our midst. Individuals must be walked through Scripture as they are taught what God expects of them from God’s word. This involves one flesh-and-blood person teaching someone and making time to ensure the teaching can be done (cf. Acts 1:8). While everybody in the local church can and

must be engaged in evangelism in some way, shape, or form, those charged with the responsibility of preaching should be on the front lines in this work. Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5), and that included preaching the word at various times (2 Tim. 4:2).

There are many stereotypes, when it comes to evangelists and evangelism. These stereotypes often make evangelism more difficult than it needs to be. In Rick Kenyon’s article, titled “Debunking Evangelism Stereotypes,” he writes, concerning the myth, “Baptisms Demonstrate Effective Evangelism” (pages 224-225):

Paul said, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel” (1 Cor 1:17). While we may never hear anyone say, “Baptisms are the goal of evangelism,” let us beware lest our emphasis on baptism speaks that sentiment for us. When our evangelistic efforts result in a new birth, there is all the reason in the world (and heaven) to rejoice. Yet, baptizing people is not the goal nor the ideal result of evangelism. The ideal result of evangelism is bringing people closer to God and helping them maintain that growth. God’s word works in their heart as God works through us by using our opportunities and relationships.

Baptism is never the end of that process. If anything, it is the beginning. A new birth requires much more follow-up and attention than the spiritual “prenatal” care brought about by Bible studies leading up to a baptism. For some, evangelism is spiritual midwifing. They engage in studies with people who might be close to their new birth and gladly walk them through it until their baptism. There may be a few

check-ins post-baptism, but the spiritual midwife’s job is complete. A new Christian is born!... now to the next one. Paul affirmed, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Cor. 3:6). Those who are blessed to assist in leading people to the baptistry cannot claim any more “effective” in evangelism as those who quietly and consistently water and plant. Frequently witnessing a key developmental step in one’s walk with God does not mean that one has the lockdown on effective evangelism.

Engaged members of local churches of Christ are in many ways the key to evangelizing a community. Dylan Johns, in his chapter titled, “Internal Local Church Evangelism,” writes (page 415-16):

Telling Christians to evangelize without equipping them to do so can only leave us discouraged. Training makes evangelism feel accessible instead of intimidating. There are two major areas that need to be in place to accomplish this. First, provide evangelism training. Practice starting conversations, using study guides, and answering common questions. Role-playing helps us grow comfortable speaking with atheists, religious neighbors, or curious family members. Second, provide simple tools. Have available business-card-like invitation cards with service times and information about the church, evangelistic booklets or correspondence courses, and links or QR codes to sound online resources.

There are simple things that every Christian can do to become more evangelistic. First, get to know people in our lives. Ask questions and learn where a person is spiritually. Second, organize contacts. Keep

The Harvester

Published Monthly

Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33803
(863) 683-4043

Editor: Brian R. Kenyon, Director

Board of Directors

Ted Wheeler, Chairman
Brian Kenyon, Vice-Chairman
Tim Simmons, Secretary
Chad Tagtow, Treasurer

Steve Atnip Philip Lancaster
Bruce Daugherty Ben Radford, Sr.

Uleysses Richardson

**Training Preachers
Since 1969**

Special Thanks To Our Generous Supporters In November 2025

Florida Churches of Christ: Auburndale (Orange Street); Bartow (Griffin Road, North Jackson Avenue); Callahan; Daytona Beach (Beville Road); Dunnellon; Floral City; Gainesville (Thirt-Ninth Avenue); Haines City (Central); Hialeah; Jacksonville (Lake Forest, Wesconnett); Kissimmee; Lakeland (North Lakeland, SFA); New Port Richey (River Road); Orange Park (Lakeside); Port Charlotte; Sarasota (Osprey Avenue); Stuart.

Out of State Churches of Christ: Alabama (Double Springs, Bellingrath Road); Georgia (Dawson Road, Forest Park); Indiana (Columbus Avenue); Ohio (Tipp City); South Carolina (Seneca); Tennessee (Mt. View).

Individuals: M/M Rodrigue Aleandre, M/M Blane Anderson, David Atnip, M/M Dwight Bailey, M/M Robert Bauer, M/M Jeffrey Bingle, Mary J. Bradford, M/M Rico Brown, M/M Charles Burch, Annie Chambers, M/M William A. Clayton, Wes and Peggy Crisp, M/M Bruce Daugherty, David M. Deal, Christopher Dean, M/M John Donaldson, M/M Wayne Doran, John Ellwood, M/M Steven Ford, M/M John Greene, Kevin Guess, Michael Hall, Frank Hamby, Kim Hoffecker, Jim and Peggy Jones, M/M Hiram Kemp, Wadi Khoury, M/M Darnell Kirkland, Van Land, Clarence Lavender, Carla Lee, Brenda Mask, Eve Morelock, Robert and Melinda Morris, M/M Ed Parramore, Walter S. Person, Linda J. Pinckney, M/M Vic Pratt, Harry P. Roberts, Roger Rosie, Doris Rouse, James W. Shearer, Johnye C. Sims, M/M David Stearsman, Glenda Sullivan, M/M Jimmy Sweeney, Steve and Sue Tydings, M/M Lou Van Allen, Ada Walling, M/M Sidney Williams Jr., Angelique Williams.

Memorials: Rembert Allen (Gloria Allen); George Peterson (Dorothy Peterson).

Special Contributions: Atlantic Christian Fund; PayPal Giving Fund; Ritchey’s Truck Repair Inc.; Theology Podcast, Etc.

*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month’s financial statement.

a simple list of prospects and follow-up needs. Third, practice. Paul taught we must “know how to answer each one” (Col. 4:6), and Peter urged every Christian to “make a defense ... for the hope that is in you” (1 Pet. 3:15). These things do not happen by accident. Training, planning, and preparation must be woven

into our congregational life so evangelism feels normal rather than awkward and anxiety-inducing.

These are just a few excerpts to show what this book brings to the table of being better evangelists. **Order your copy today!**



Florida School of Preaching



1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
fsop.net fsop@fsop.net
863-683-4043 or 800-320-9780

Electronic Service Requested

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING
51st Annual Lectureship

EVANGELISM

January 19-22, 2026
"And the sower went forth"

- Over 35 Bible Lessons on Evangelism beginning at 9 a.m. each day
- Forum with Q & A Session Daily
- Ladies Only Sessions
- Congregational Singing Nightly
- Lunch Provided Daily
- Alumni Reception
- Appreciation Banquet
- Children's Classes
- Phoebe Group Dinner
- Exhibitor & Ministry Displays

Brian R. Kenyon, Director ♦ Livestreamed at fsop.net

Hosted by South Florida Avenue Church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803

FSOP.NET

Spring Registration: December 19–January 12 at fsop.net

Spring 2026 Semester Begins Jan. 12

Registration opens Dec. 19 at fsop.net. Any of these classes may be taken online for credit or to audit. Contact the office for more details.

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__8:30-12:00	Marriage and the Family (254)	Bauer	3
	__1:00-4:15	Acts (118)	Atnip	3
Tuesday	__8:30-12:00	Computers & Churches (290)	Wheeler	3
	__8:30-12:00	Greek II (224)	Kenyon	3
	__1:00-4:15	Psalms (268)	Wheeler	3
Wednesday	__8:30-12:00	English II: Composition (125)	Kenyon	3
	__8:30-12:00	Gospel of John (227)	Atnip	3
	__1:00-4:15	Personal Evangelism (120)	Kenyon	3
Thursday	__8:30-12:00	Pentateuch (164)	Kemp	3
	__1:00-4:15	Isaiah & Jeremiah (113)	D. Stearsman	3
Friday	__8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas (131)	Ford	3
	__1:00-4:15	Christian Evidences (244)	Beals	3
Extension Classes				
Thursday	__7:00-9:30	New Testament Church (131) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Eskew	2.5
Thursday	__6:00-8:30	Historical Background of the NT (170) (Tenth Street church of Christ, Apopka)	Kenyon	2.5

Registered Students Can Take Classes In-Person or Online!