



Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Gordon Retzer, President

Volume XIII, No. 3 • April—May—June 1997  
Communication Department • Cindy Kurtzhals, Director

## Young Adults Make A Difference—One Family At A Time

Florida's college and high school students experience a faith-maturing relationship with the Lord, generate \$2,000 to \$3,000 in summer wages, and bring area residents in touch with Christ.

Twenty-five to 30 college and high school students will pound the pavement in Tampa and Gainesville this summer to earn money for academy and college, and participate in area-wide evangelism. These 15-20-year-olds are part of the Florida Conference publishing



WES ADULT'S AULIAMONTE PHOTOGRAPHY

department's summer sales leadership and soul-winning programs, and they will touch families one home at a time. How?

Fifteen to 20 students will work in the Tampa and Lakeland areas and be based at Tampa Adventist Academy. They will survey area residents door-to-door to ascertain areas of interest which the local church can fulfill: family life seminars, *Revelation Seminars*, stop smoking or cooking school classes, and Bible studies. They will also sell any of 14 different titles of the durable, shiny

—continued on page 2

## Great Memories Draw Young Adults To Camp Meeting

Camp Meeting, the biggest event of the year in Florida Conference, is coming up May 23-31, 1997. For 38-year-old Suzette Gondera, a third/fourth generation Seventh-day Adventist, it's a special event—and the place of her conversion.

Before her story, memories, and excite-

ment is shared, the event needs to be defined for the 2,622 newly baptized members in Florida Conference in 1996. See, "*What Is Camp Meeting?*" on page 2.

### Suzette Gondera's Camp Meeting Experience

"I have very fond childhood memories

about Camp Meeting when my family attended," shares Suzette Gondera. "I have a special fondness now because when I attended Camp Meeting in 1989, I came to know the Lord and was converted."

Gondera felt her experience was quite unusual because she is a third

—continued on page 2



AMY CORTO

Suzette Gondera, right, and Doug, her husband, second man from left, and their three children camp out at Camp Meeting with their friends. The Gonderas live just five miles from Forest Lake Academy, yet they'd rather bring their camping trailer for the 9-day event rather than commute back and forth from home several times a day.

## Young Adults, from p. 1

covered magazine-books, called Magabooks, which relate to what is appealing to the individual. The seven to eight top sellers include *The Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages*, *He Taught Love*, *Bible Stories*, *Bedtime Stories*, and cookbooks. Priced between \$8-10, the Magabooks are affordable to most singles and families.

Tampa First church members mailed 100,000 *Discover Bible* enrollment cards prior to a June 7-July 12 evangelism initiative, *Discover 1000*. They will follow up the Magabook interests during this series and prior to one in September.

The June series is a Field School of Evangelism directed by John Fowler, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference secretary, with 10 Southern Adventist University students from Collegedale, Tennessee.

**Gainesville.** Ten students, who are already Magabook graduates, will be based in Gainesville. They will work with the "big books"—the same, large, colorful, hardback books the professional literature evangelists sell. Trained as successful leaders in the "big books" summer program, they'll return next summer as leaders in the Magabook program. Bryan de Valle will give leadership to both programs this summer. De Valle directed the Magabook program in Central Florida last summer prior to *Discoveries in Prophecy—2000 & Beyond* (Net '96).

## Camp Meeting Is Coming Up, from page 1

generation Seventh-day Adventist from one side of her family, a fourth generation Adventist from the other side of her family, and she attended Seventh-day Adventist schools from first grade through high school.

She was longing to get some kind of spiritual fulfillment and took the week off work so she could attend the seminars and evening meetings at Camp Meeting in 1989. It was in the *Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Seminar* taught by Bill Liversidge that it all came together for her.

"The Lord was working on my heart," she shares. "What was so peculiar about it was that while I was in the seminar I still had doubts. I wanted to change. I wanted to surrender totally to the Lord, but I had questions." Too shy to ask, "the Lord was gracious and He had someone else ask those same questions," she said.

"They were answered for me and that's when I totally surrendered. I was a born-again Christian."

Everything Gondera was taught in school and at home became clear. "I understood," she said. "It's like a light went on."

**How do you get a job like this?** Students can't just "get into" these power-packed summer programs. Spirituality and good work habits are the two main prerequisites. References are checked to determine both. "We want to make sure the students have a love for Jesus and that they want to work for

Gondera re-read her Bible and some *Spirit of Prophecy* books. "I got joy from them. I was like a sponge. I just couldn't get enough. It was like I had crossed over a

though she was a vegetarian since the age of 12, she didn't realize how poor her diet really was. She changed her lifestyle and has since helped conduct cooking classes at

the Markham Woods and Forest Lake churches.

Gondera is a member of the Forest Lake church in Forest City.

—Cindy Kurtzhals,  
Richard Shepard

## What Is Camp Meeting?

Camp Meeting is a coming together of God's family from Seventh-day Adventist churches all over Florida. It's a 9-day convocation for spiritual and practical-life enrichment, with programming for adults, singles, and children—infants through young adults.

Camp Meeting is held at Forest Lake Academy, 3909 E. Semoran Blvd. in Apopka (actually Forest City), just northwest of Orlando on S.R. 436. Much of it is uplinked via satellite and can be

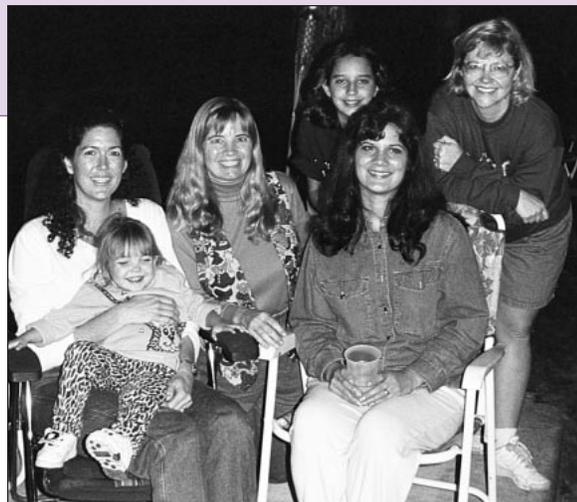
viewed by members and churches across Florida and North America.

There are Sabbath morning and afternoon programs, nightly concerts and sermons, and seminars presented three times a day. Kids have day trips, the singles have lunches out, and people who have taken their vacation at Camp Meeting for decades get to see old friends. Camp Meeting is a spiritual and social feast.

threshold. I was seeing things differently and understanding. I was praising God that He'd given me this opportunity, had worked on my heart, and that I came to Him."

Gondera is an active lay person. At that same 1989 Camp Meeting, she attended the health seminar by Weimar Institute of Weimar, California.

"Being in tune with God spiritually is important and so is a healthy body," she says. Even



**Suzette Gondera, seated right, and her friends love Camp Meeting and it shows. Also pictured from the left are, Adonna Payne, Erin Offenback (child), Amy Cotto, Hollie Gondera, and Cindy Offenback.**

Him," stresses Joe Holloway, Florida Conference publishing director.

Holloway and Larry Carter, a consultant to the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Decatur, Georgia, visited college and academy campuses earlier this year to share the Magabook and "big-book" sales and soul-

winning opportunities.

The benefits of these programs to the students and the Church are many and specific. "The Magabook program teaches students how to exercise their spiritual gifts, to study and pray, to develop good work habits, learn people skills, memorize scripture, and how to listen to God,"

says Holloway. "They learn how to depend on God. Their prayer life increases and their faith grows. And, the money's good. They can earn \$10-15 an hour. That's a lot better than working in fast-food restaurants," smiles Holloway. Plus, churches get an "evangelism staff" to enhance their summer outreach.

—Cindy Kurtzhals

## Tithe and Love Offerings to God



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Donor No. \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**THE Personal Giving PLAN**

TITHE \_\_\_\_\_ % OF INCOME \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL CHURCH BUDGET \_\_\_\_\_ % \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FLORIDA ADVANCE \_\_\_\_\_ % \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Evangelism \_\_\_\_\_ % \$19,823.97

WORLD BUDGET \_\_\_\_\_ % \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MISCELLANEOUS \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FLORIDA EVANGELISM  
 YOUR 1996 CONTRIBUTIONS:  
 \$19,823.97**

### FLORIDA CONFERENCE A DECADE OF GROWTH — 1986-1996

|           | 1986   | 1996   |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Members   | 25,211 | 40,090 |
| Churches  | 132    | 160    |
| Companies | 2      | 25     |

RHEETA BOUITIN

## 1996—Evangelism Banner Year

The attitude of evangelism has spread all across Florida Conference. This has been evident through happenings such as *Discoveries In Prophecy (Net '96)*, *Discover Bible Schools*, evangelistic meetings, *Revelation Seminars*, and Bible studies. The Lord has blessed with an all-time record of 2,622 baptisms in 1996.

**Evangelism is a process.** Successful evangelism requires the daily teamwork of pastors, evangelists, and laity. Everyone who had the attitude of evangelism and who let it be shown in their words and actions had a part in this banner year. Everyone who

helped in meetings such as greeters, ushers, nursery, musicians, parking, Bible studies, extended invitations, made friends, prayed for family members over the years, or carried other responsibilities, had a vital part in these soul-winning team results.

As the evangelism program grows in the Florida Conference, so do the financial needs. Please remember when you fill out your tithe envelope that tithe is the basis upon which the evangelism budget is built. The place for evangelism is the local

church, supported by the local church budget. The "Florida Evangelism" line is where 100% of that money goes—directly to front-line evangelism in Florida. All three of these: tithe, church budget, and "Florida Evangelism," are very important for overall evangelism.

Florida Evangelism offerings for 1996 were \$19,823.97. Thanks for your support in words, actions, and funds. God has blessed our team effort. Let's continue with the attitude of evangelism in 1997.

—Ralph Ringer

“  
 Successful evangelism requires teamwork.  
 ”

### NEW HISPANIC COMPANIES—1996

- ◆ **Margate Spanish** was spawned from the Fort Lauderdale Spanish church October 12 with more than 60 members.
- ◆ **Naples** became a company November 9 with 30 members as a result of Fort Myers Spanish church's effort.
- ◆ **Pine Hills**, the off-spring of the Forest City Spanish church, became a company December 14 with more than 40 members.
- ◆ **Hialeah Gardens** emerged from the Hialeah Spanish church December 21 with more than 80 members.

—Rolando de los Rios

## Travelers Take A Quick Look At Adventists

Last year, approximately 11,000 copies of *A Quick Look at Seventh-day Adventists* were distributed in literature racks throughout Florida. Travelers driving interstates or taking public transportation between cities have the opportunity to pick up a copy of *Quick Look*. The 250 distribution points include welcome centers along three major interstates—I-95, I-75, and I-4—as well as motels, campgrounds, restaurants, service stations, airports, bus depots, and train terminals.

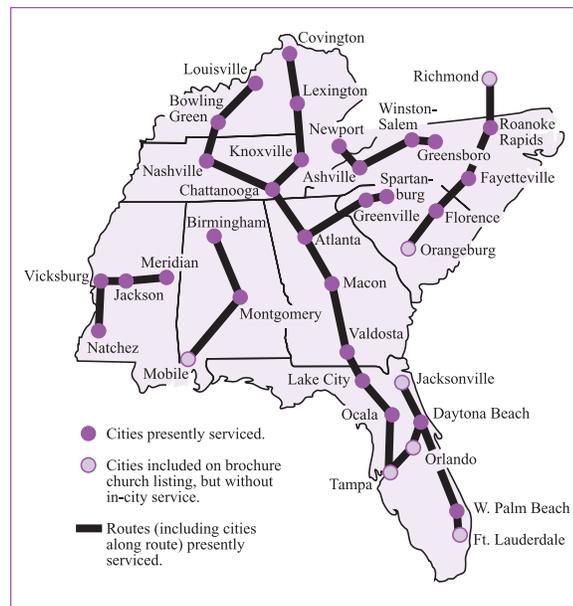
*A Quick Look at Seventh-day Adventists* outlines major doctrines, a brief history of the Church, and worldwide

statistics. It also includes a free gift—the booklet *Happiness Digest*.

The *Quick Look* distribution project, coordinated by the Southern Union Conference communication department in Decatur, Georgia, helps raise awareness about Seventh-day Adventists.

The latest study of awareness of the Adventist Church was conducted during the 1990's by the Center for Creative Ministry, according to Kermit Netteburg, North American Division communication director. It showed that 52 percent of the people questioned had heard of Adventists, yet less than 20 percent could name anything about us.

### QUICK LOOK DISTRIBUTION ROUTES



Previous Gallup polls conducted during the 1970's and 1980's indicated that 65 to 70 percent of people polled had

heard of Adventists and approximately 25 percent could mention something about the Church.

—Pat Benton

# 1997 Florida Conference Camp Meeting— “Behold, He Cometh”



PHOTOS: WALTER MAIER



NANCY DELA CRUZ

**JUNIOR HIGH Ages 13-14 Grades 7-8**

*You want details?  
Show up every night, 7 pm,  
at the Girl's Dorm Chapel to find out  
the WHAT, WHERE, and WHO.  
unknown? Yeah. unplanned? Think again!  
You'll never look at Camp Meeting  
the same way after this.*

**C**amp Meeting is for everybody. A variety of creative and inspiring programs are designed for infants through senior citizens for nine days.

is your personal copy of the *Camp Meeting brochure for the week. You are encouraged to keep it and bring it to Camp Meeting.*

The back of the brochure includes satellite information so you can watch at a local church downlink site or at home in Florida. Friends nearly

A Camp Meeting brochure, the weeklong program, has been mailed to every member household in Florida Conference. It

anywhere in North America can also tune in. Satellite information and the main Camp Meeting schedule for adults is also listed below.

**New Camp Meeting information not previously available:**

- ◆ A patriotic Memorial Day segment will be presented during the

Monday, May 26, evening meeting.

- ◆ The Filipino-American Youth Angklong Ensemble will play bamboo instruments (pictured above) during the Friday, May 30, evening meeting.
- ◆ “At The Gate,” a New Port Richey Pathfinder skit, will be broad-

cast Sabbath, May 31, at 7 p.m. It will depict what is needed to get to Heaven. Also, the Pathfinder Leadership and Instructor Awards will be given to Jerry and Shirley Canther. The Medal of Valor Award will be presented to Doreen Ritterskamp.

## Camp Meeting Schedule & Satellite Channels

| Friday 23rd                                    | Sabbath 24th   | Sunday 25th   | Monday 26th                                 | Tuesday 27th                                 | Wednesday 28th                               | Thursday 29th                                 | Friday 30th                                 | Sabbath 31st   |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
|  | 8:00-9:00<br>Worship Service<br>Lonnie Melashenko          | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet  | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet      | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet       | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet       | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet        | 7:00-8:00<br>Devotional<br>Ron Clouzet      | 8:00-9:00<br>Worship Service<br>Benjamin Reaves            |
|  | 9:30-10:00<br>Sabbath School Preliminaries<br>Dan Matthews | <i>Complete programming information is in the Camp Meeting brochure, in your mail.</i>                            |   |  |  |   |   | 9:30-10:00<br>Sabbath School Preliminaries<br>Dan Matthews |
|  | 10:00-10:15<br>Music                                       | There are seven weekday seminars repeated three times daily at:<br>9:30-10:45 am, 2:15-3:30 pm, and 6:30-7:45 pm. |   |  |  |   |   | 10:00-10:15<br>Music                                       |
|  | 10:15-10:45<br>Sabbath School Panel<br>Terry Pooler        |   |   |  |  |   |   | 10:15-10:45<br>Sabbath School Panel<br>Terry Pooler        |
|  | 11:00-12:00<br>Worship Service<br>Lonnie Melashenko        | 1:30-3:00<br>Adventist Book Center Sale   | 11:00-12:00<br>Bible Study<br>Dick Duerksen | 11:00-12:00<br>Bible Study<br>Dick Duerksen  | 11:00-12:00<br>Bible Study<br>Dick Duerksen  | 11:00-12:00<br>Bible Study<br>Dick Duerksen   | 11:00-12:00<br>Bible Study<br>Dick Duerksen | 11:00-12:00<br>Worship Service<br>Benjamin Reaves          |
|  | 2:30-4:00<br>World Mission Report<br>Ray Tetz              | 1:30-3:30<br>Women's Ministries   |   |  |  |   |   | 2:30-4:00<br>“The Healing Touch”<br>Florida Hospital       |
| 7:00-8:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Walter Pearson | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Walter Pearson             | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Ernest Bursley  | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Barry Black | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Jim Pimentel | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Jim Pimentel | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Ron Halvorsen | 7:15-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Rose Otis   | 7:00-9:00<br>Evening Meeting<br>Gordon Retzer              |

### CAMP MEETING VIA SATELLITE—CHANNELS SUBJECT TO REVISION

- ◆ Every evening meeting and both day-long Sabbath services (except the 8:00 a.m. service) will be broadcast via satellite. Churches can downlink programming for their congregation. Those unable to attend church who have satellite dishes (not mini-dishes) can tune in from home—in Florida or across North America. *Not broadcast:* morning devotionals, 8:00 a.m. Sabbath worship service, seminars, and the 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies.
- ◆ All satellite broadcasts will air on **Galaxy 9, Channel 2** except for the World Mission Report on Sabbath, May 24. It will be broadcast on **Galaxy 6, Channel 2**.
- ◆ To verify information, or for assistance to find Spanish translation broadcasts on audio subcarriers, call the Adventist Communication Network—1-800-226-1119.

# Safety Issues Addressed At Conference Office



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**Florida Conference office in Winter Park**

**New Conference Office and Adventist Book Center Hours Effective June 1**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Friday**  
**8:30 a.m.-noon**

your arrival. Compliance with this security measure is appreciated.

Effective June 1, the time which the Conference office's doors are open for visitors will change from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. This will allow the staff to have worship before the building is opened to guests, without worrying about monitoring the doors.

Thank you for taking note of the new hours and security measures.

—Rhonda Harper

**F**lorida Conference is committed to provide a safe and secure working environment for employees. To help realize this goal, the Conference recently

contracted with a security specialist to conduct a thorough inspection of the facility.

As a result of this inspection, 12 light-sensor flood lights were in-

stalled around the outside premises to provide better lighting at night.

Other safety suggestions are under consideration.

When entering the Conference office, you

may have noticed signs requesting all guests to sign in with the receptionist. You will be asked to wait in the foyer until the person you are meeting is called to announce

## Son Rededicates Life After Concert

**“M**y son rededicated his life to the Lord after hearing Christian Edition,” said Dorothy Brennwald. Christian Edition, a male chorus from Glendale, California, performed a community concert at the Sarasota church on March 23.

Christian Edition, whose repertoire combines classic hymns with contemporary sacred music, drew between 250-275 community guests to Sarasota. Church membership is 121.

“The church was packed!” says Gladys Duran, Sarasota church communication director. “Many who came to the

concert were stepping inside an Adventist church for the first time.”

The high community turnout was the result of an aggressive publicity campaign launched by



**Christian Edition**

the church.

Public service announcements and news releases were sent to local radio and TV stations and newspapers. Posters were put up in area churches, restaurants, and Christian

book stores. Thirty-five posters and invitations were also mailed to area businesses.

“It was a lot of work, but it paid off,” says Duran. “Hearts were touched by the beautiful music and the concert created positive community awareness about the Sarasota church.”

“I loved Christian Edition and their total dedication,” adds Brennwald.

“Their only desire is to minister to the soul and to help you have a closer walk with God. It was more than a performance—it was a spiritual adventure with God.”

—Gladys Duran

## “You Can’t Outgive The Lord”

**L**orraine Lindquist believes putting God first—in tithes, offerings, and Christian living—has satisfied all her needs.

“The Lord is so good to me and my family,” she says. “My Lord supplies all our needs.

“We have plenty of food and water. We have jobs and transportation. We have a home to live in and a beautiful church to worship in. We have a lovely church family and I have a husband who is good to me.

“I’m also blessed to



CHRIS DRECHSLER

**Lorraine Lindquist plans her gifts to the Lord as she fills out her tithe envelope.**

have been able to give my grandson, Scott Kincaid, a Christian education at Jacksonville Junior and Forest Lake Academies.”

Lindquist is a deaconess and a Sabbath school secretary at the Jacksonville Southpoint church. Larry, her husband, is head elder.

—Mel Wall

**Pray for Tampa Bay’s Discover 1000 Summer Evangelistic Initiative.**

# Church of God Pastor Joins Adventist Church

**J**im Duncan, pastor of the Holly Hill Church of God in Daytona Beach, with Susan, his wife, and Ashley, his daughter, were voted into membership at the Winter Springs church, February 1. He resigned as the Church of God pastor the next day, having served many years as a pastor and missionary.

“This is what the Lord is leading me to do,” Duncan told his Church of God congregation. “He’s leading me in a different direction. I’ve got to follow or I’ll be in rebellion and my ministry will not flourish,” he said, as he referred to himself joining the Adventist Church.

Three and one-half years ago, Ray Gately, a member of the Daytona Beach Seventh-day Adventist church and a Kirby vacuum cleaner salesman at the time, knocked on Duncan’s door trying to sell a vacuum cleaner. That was the beginning of a friendship which played a part in Duncan’s decision to

leave his church and join the Adventist church. “Ray became a part of the family,” said Duncan. “When my kids didn’t see him, they asked where he was.”

“I didn’t start by telling him about the Sabbath,” emphasized Gately. “I just listened and talked with him.”

The friendship and Bible studies developed over the three and one-half years. “God had already been dealing with me about the Sabbath, yet I kept fighting it,” Duncan said. “To me, it was Greek. I thought I was already keeping the Sabbath. The scripture in Jeremiah kept coming to mind, ‘I have plans for you, plans to prosper you, to do you good, not to harm you.’” Duncan knew that to be blessed of God, he must obey the commandments, including the fourth one.

One day, while watching a Christian television

**Many quiet, reserved people played a part in presenting Seventh-day Adventist doctrines to the Duncans. Pictured left to right is Beverly Doll, Naomi Bullock, Dr. Tom Bullock, Dr. Tom Doll, and Ray Gately.**



GLORIA DOLL

**After joining the Winter Springs church by profession of faith on February 1, the Duncans were baptized April 12 by Winter Springs Pastor Gus Scheuneman. Pictured left to right is Susan Duncan, Ashley Duncan, Pastor Gus Scheuneman, and Jim Duncan.**



TERESA AROCHO

show, a guest on the show said, “You are not blessed if you’re not keeping the Sabbath.” Those words pierced Duncan. “It really hit me hard. I knew it was the Lord.”

After Duncan learned about the Sabbath, he visited the Daytona Beach church once or twice. His family began studying

with Daytona Beach members Dr. Tom and Beverly Doll and Ray Gately. “I was also doing research on my own,” Duncan said. “Everything has to be backed up by the Bible.”

One day, Gately felt the Lord impressed him to go to Duncan’s office. “I called the [then] Adventist president, Elder Obed Graham,” announced Gately, “and he wants us to get together for a meeting next week.”

“I thought he was kidding,” Duncan explained. “Ray did this without my knowledge. In the Church of God organization, it’s hard for a pastor to get an appointment, let alone a layperson.”

Duncan, Gately, Doll, and Graham met the next week. “I had reservations,” said Duncan. “I didn’t know if I had to

keep my guard up, but Elder Graham was so disarming. He had no fences up. There was no defense, no offense, just plain, straight facts.”

During subsequent meetings, plans were made for Duncan to serve as an intern pastor for six months at the Winter Springs church. This fall, he’ll attend Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, to complete his studies to become a Seventh-day Adventist pastor.

“It was difficult to leave my parishioners, however, the only way I can describe what God has done for us is hot syrup and hot butter on hot pancakes. That’s how great things have gone for us. Sweet—with the goodness of the Lord,” declared Duncan.

—Kathy Connatser

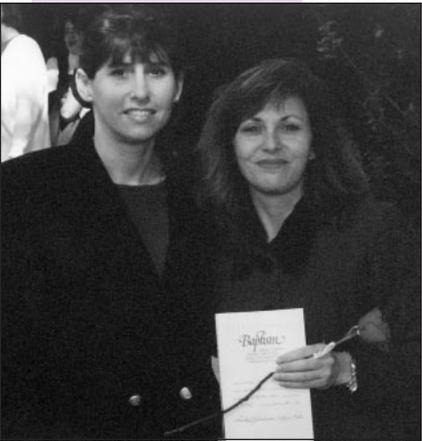


KATHY CONNATSER

**Jim and Susan Duncan, with son Zachary, met with Noel Shanko, Florida Conference ministerial director, to finalize plans for Duncan to become an associate pastor assigned to the Winter Springs church.**

# Tallahassee

## TESTIMONIES



FRANK CASTRO

**Rachel Conley, right, with Kathy Pierce. Kathy is the Discover Bible School director/instructor.**

**Rachel Conley. Baptized November 23, 1996.**

Rachel Conley was about to give up. Her husband left her with two children, with no savings in the bank. She was living in one room of her sister's home and her car was to be repossessed.

Coming out of Wal-Mart one day, she was ap-

proached by a young man who asked if she would like to receive a free Bible course called *Discover*. "If I ever needed God's help, it is now," she thought.

*Discover* Bible School Director/Instructor Kathy Pierce wrote Rachel little notes of encouragement as she returned the Bible lessons. The church began to pray for Rachel.

She became the first to graduate from Tallahassee's *Discover Bible Course* and the first to be baptized from the *Discoveries in Prophecy—2000 & Beyond (Net '96)*. Now, she is an instructor in the *Discover* Bible School.

## Tallahassee's Faith Budget †

The Tallahassee church wanted to grow. Many things take money. Having worked at the *Voice of Prophecy* for many years, Tallahassee/Crawfordville District Pastor Gordon Henderson knows the value of a faith factor.

The church developed a faith budget—10% above their regular budget. Growth projects are funded when members give enough to meet the faith budget.

The faith budget was about \$4,100 monthly—more than what members were used to. Because 21% of the members gave to the budget, the church asked more people to give, rather than ask people to give more.

At the end of 1996, the congregation averaged \$5,100 monthly. They went way over their faith budget: 80% of the members now contribute, there is a 27% increase in local giving, and an 8% increase in tithe—above the Conference average of nearly 6%.

Now, the church has voted to expand the school from grades 1-8 to kindergarten-9 for the 1997-98 school year, and the money is already available.

*When we put our foot in the water, God opens the path and helps us to see our way through.*

**NOTE: The Crawfordville church has followed suit. They voted a faith budget and have met their goal.**



FRANK CASTRO

**Bernie Schroeder, Tallahassee technical engineer during Discoveries In Prophecy (Net '96).**

**Bernie Schroeder. Baptized December 14, 1996.** No one had volunteered to run the video

equipment for *Net '96*. "Call Bernie" came into Tallahassee Pastor Gordon Henderson's mind.

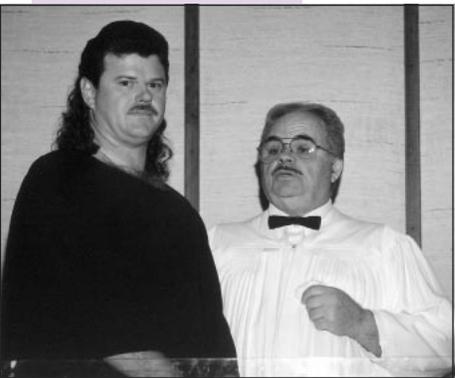
Bernie Schroeder attended church with Margot, his wife. He agreed to oversee the project and never missed a night. Near the end of the meetings, he asked for one of the white Bibles which were being given away. When Henderson handed him a Bible he said, "By the way, pastor, I've decided

to be baptized and join the Church." The two men were so excited that people outside the sound booth could hear them.

"The thrilling thing was," explained Henderson, "that the very first time I came to the church grounds, Bernie asked, 'Are you the new pastor?' I said 'yes,' and asked if he was one of my members. 'No. My wife's a member and I attend here.' I joshed that maybe the Lord sent me to en-

courage him to join."

Bernie now reminds Henderson of that conversation and adds, "Do you know why I'm being baptized? In the nine years I've been coming to this church, no one has ever asked me to do anything, be responsible for anything, or to feel a part of this church. You came along and asked me to do something. Now, I feel a part of this church and I've got to become a member."



FRANK CASTRO

**Jim Herndon, left, and Tallahassee Pastor Gordon Henderson.**

**Jim Herndon. Baptized January 4, 1997.**

Tallahassee member Julia Herndon called Pastor Gordon Henderson to say that

her husband had a heart attack. This was unusual, thought Henderson. This young man was just in his

30's. Not having met Jim before, Henderson introduced himself at the hospital. "He came right over to me," said Henderson, "and threw his arms around me, buried his head in my shoulder and started to cry. This is not the usual greeting I get."

"Pastor, you don't know all that's gone on in my life," said Herndon, "but I want you to know that this is God's wake-up call to me. I had just prayed that if God really

wanted to help me and if I'm going to get through this, that He would send somebody to let me know. You've come here now and I believe this is a sign from God."

Not long after this, Herndon lost his cousin in a fatal traffic accident. Sensing a second wake-up call, he scheduled Bible studies with Henderson. He was baptized January 4—a spiritual birthday near his biological birthday, January 5.

—Cindy Kurtzhals



FRANK CASTRO

**Every time Tallahassee members leave the church and pass the sign posted at the end of their church's driveway, they are reminded to touch people's lives for Jesus.**

# Conference Committee Highlights

# Calendar of Events

**Florida Conference Office**  
**Winter Park, Florida**  
**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**March 9, 1997**

## SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE REPORT

Malcolm Gordon, Southern Union Conference president, reported the total baptisms and professions of faith for the Southern Union Conference for the year 1996 was 9,266. This is 1,266 over the original goal of 8,000 for the Union. 1996 was a fantastic year across the Southern Union.

## EVANGELISM REPORT

Ralph Ringer, Florida Conference evangelism coordinator, reported the Florida Conference 1996 baptism and profession of faith total is 2,622. During 1997, there will be a Field School of Evangelism in the Conference, plus, Dennis Ross, the Southern Union Conference evangelist, will hold a crusade in the North Miami area.

## ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER

The January 31, 1997 Year-End Financial Statement for the Adventist Book Center was distributed to Committee members. It was noted there was a gain of approximately \$125,000.00 for the year.

## TRENDS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Treasurer Stephan Wilson presented the Trends and Statistical Data for 1996.

**VOTED to ACCEPT** the 1996 Year-End Financial Report for the Florida Conference and Florida Conference Association, subject to audit, as presented by Stephan Wilson.

**VOTED to APPROVE** the request of the Eliathah Company in Tamarac, Florida, for a Southern Union Revolving Fund loan to purchase a church facility.

**VOTED to ACCEPT** the Florida Conference Employee Audit for 1996 as presented by Malcolm Gordon.

**VOTED to APPROVE** the 1997 Conference Operating Budget as presented by Stephan Wilson.

**VOTED to ORGANIZE** the Plant City Spanish group into a company, with district arrangements with the Brandon Spanish/Wimauma Spanish church district.

**VOTED to APPROVE** the following recommendations from the Personnel Committee:

1. Publishing Associate, Reginald Simons
2. South Orlando pastor, John VanSickle
3. Boynton Beach pastor, Garnet Spence

—Gloria Becker

## Florida Focus Wins Press Club & Angel Awards

Central Florida Press Club President/WESH-TV Channel 2 News Reporter Greg Fox, left, presents the 1996 Best Newsletter Award to Conference Communication Director Cindy Kurtzhals and Production Assistant Lee Bennett. *Florida Focus* also earned its third Silver Angel in the 20th Annual International Angel Awards in Hollywood, California.



KEN BROWN

## **SUMMER—(A Partial Listing)**

- Camp Kulaqua Summer Camp.** Details: (904) 454-1351.
- June 1-8 Pathfinder Honor Camp, Ages 10-15.
  - June 8-15 Junior Camp I, Ages 10-12.
  - June 15-22 Cub Camp, Ages 8-9.
  - June 22-29 Junior Camp II, Ages 10-12.
  - June 29-July 6 Teen Camp, Ages 13-16.
  - July 6-11 Extreme Adventure Waterskiing, Ages 13-16.
  - July 13-20 Extreme Adventure White Water Rafting, Ages 13-16.
  - June 2-Aug. 1 **GOAL Summer Leagues & Day Camp.** Central Florida. Details: Youth/Young Adult Ministries. (407) 644-5000 x129.
  - June 4-8 **Campestre Hispano 1997.** Forest Lake Academy, Apopka. (407) 644-5000 x153.
  - June 6, 13, 27, July 4, 18, 25 **North Florida Youth Vespers.** Ocala church. 6:30 p.m. (352) 625-4752.
  - June 7 **Family Enrichment Sabbath.** *Men From Mars & Women From Venus?* 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sanford Meadows church. Ken and Helen Bryant, Florida Conference family life directors. (407) 788-3436.
  - June 8 **The Heart of Youth Ministry.** Seminar for local church youth leaders. Greater Miami Academy. 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Details: Sergio Torres (305) 225-0528.
  - June 8-Aug. 3 **Summer Day Camps.** Miami Temple and Hialeah, Miami Central, Northwest Miami, and Bradmore Spanish churches. Details: Sergio Torres (305) 225-0528.
  - June 9-July 18 **Cool Camp.** Day camp. Ages 6-13. Winter Springs church. (407) 327-1190.
  - June 13-14 **Hispanic Marriage Commitment Seminar.** Marriage enriching weekend for Spanish-speaking couples. Florida Conference Meeting Room. Pre-registration required: \$45/couple. (407) 644-5000.
- Estate Services Clinics—June 14-22.**
- June 14 Emmanuel Company, 8:30 p.m.
  - June 15 Sunshine State, 10:00 a.m.
  - June 21 Melbourne Spanish, 8:30 p.m.
  - June 22 Daytona Beach, 10:00 a.m.
  - June 30-July 5 **Korean Camp Meeting.** Stetson University, DeLand. Details: (813) 886-0909.
- Adventist Book Center Bookmobile Schedule.**
- July 12 Naples.
  - July 13 Ft. Myers Junior Academy, Port Charlotte, Arcadia, Walker Memorial, Winter Haven.
  - July 19 North Miami.
  - July 20 Ft. Lauderdale, Plantation, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach.
  - August 22-24 **Pathfinder Leadership Convention.** Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 644-5000 x127.

—Kathy Connaiser



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