President's Report

“When God’s people gather together, we have a mission that is bigger than business meetings,” stated Florida Conference President Mike Cauley after 768 delegates—including 608 church elected representatives—were seated for the Florida Conference 69th Regular Constituency Meeting, September 27, at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka. “This business meeting is to bring honor and glory to God and, then, by His grace to empower and inspire us to go forward with His message.”

The session’s theme, Creating a Culture For the Commission, provided a backdrop for the Conference’s commitment to elevate nearly 60,000 members from simply followers of Jesus to disciples. “It means being missionaries where we live and work, seeking to reproduce our experience in the lives of others,” Cauley continued. “It means taking church to where people are; not just settling for inviting them to our church facilities.”

Interviews followed as representatives from Northwest Miami Spanish Church, Eliathah Church west of Pompano Beach, and St. Augustine Church told of soul-winning ministries in their churches.

Nominating Committee Report

Advised that delegates were to express their wishes with a voice vote, Nominating Committee Secretary Josie Oates read, “the first nomination, for president of the Florida Conference, is Michael Cauley. I so move that we accept this name as the nomination for the president.”

Acknowledging the motion, Gordon Retzer, Southern Union Conference President, asked the delegates to express their wishes. The response brought a resounding “Aye,” as did the nominations to return Carmen Rodriguez as Executive Secretary, and Duane Rollins as Treasurer.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report

Attorney John Brooks, an Ocala Church member, was introduced as having faithfully served as chair of the past triennium’s Constitution and Bylaws Committee. “Welcome to the fun part of the program!” he declared especially for those delegates who came with a preconceived notion that all agenda items were simply presented for a stamp of approval. Following passionate speeches and lengthy dialogue, three of the six packages presented by the Committee were voted (see page 3).

Treasurer’s Report

Following Anita James’ General Conference Auditor’s report, Duane Rollins, Conference Treasurer, reviewed Florida’s three-year financial report that General Conference Auditors termed, “an audit reaching benchmark qualities.” The triennium report included graphs of tithe income and operating gains, working capital increases that reached policy-guided levels, and new church building projects that initiated record high Southern Union Revolving Fund loans.

Challenges created by today’s economy were also addressed and strategies to get through the economic crunch were outlined.

Cover photos: Top, Florida Conference headquarters in Winter Park. PHOTO BY DALE CLARK
Left, Florida Conference officers re-elected for the 2009–2011 triennium, Mike Cauley, President; Carmen Rodriguez, Executive Secretary; Duane Rollins, Treasurer. PHOTO BY LEE BENNETT
Right, the Westchester Spanish Pathfinders served as the Color guard, opening the triennial session. PHOTO BY MARTIN BUTLER
Bottom, the main stage at the 2009 Courage To Stand International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin (see pages 6–7). PHOTO BY ALDEN HO

Florida Conference 69th Regular
Florida Conference 69th regular Constituency Meeting

Union President Responds
Following the treasurer’s review of finances, Gordon Retzer expressed points of praise he drew from the report. “It wasn’t that long ago this Conference had to borrow nine million dollars in operating money from the Southern Union Revolving Fund in addition to registering nearly zero of the recommended percentage of working capital. “Today, we praise the Lord that the nine million dollars has been paid off, and working capital stands at more than 100%. So, I thank the Lord for the treasurer’s report, for the leadership of this Conference, for the Executive Committee, and for the faithfulness of God’s people.”

President Cauley’s Closing Challenge
“We stand on the threshold of God doing great things in our lives. We want to see the work of God expand and grow. We must be in tune with His presence as we go from this place, watching for movement of the Spirit and listening to how God is guiding us. If we follow, we’re promised that He will take care of this Church and, by God’s grace, we hope that Jesus will come even before the next triennial meeting.”

Voted Churches
Churches accepted into Florida Conference Sisterhood of Churches
- Emmanuel
- Cape Coral
- Celebration

Churches disbanded
Key West (Although disbanded, a vibrant group of Adventist members continue evangelizing in Key West and have baptized 10 people since March 2009.)
- Lake Worth/Lantana

Constitution/Bylaws Votes
Voted to approve the Constitution as a whole with changes to the Bylaws as voted in the following three Packages:

Package One
Voted in favor of Package One which noted clarifications and corrections to the bylaws as proposed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Package Two
Voted in favor of Package Two which incorporates breakout sessions into the 2012 Constituency Meeting in order for delegates to dialogue with departmental directors, ask questions, discuss ideas, and make recommendations. The recommendations resulting from the breakout sessions will be brought to the first Executive Committee meeting after the 70th Regular Constituency Meeting.

Package Three
Voted in favor of Package Three which moves the ending of pre-constituency regional meetings from 20 days before the Nominating Committee convenes to 42 prior to the Nominating Committee.

New Business
Voted to approve the addition of a new business item to the agenda from the floor, and voted the Executive Committee give serious study for the allocation of $150,000 for the 2010 fiscal year to ministry on secular college campuses.

Voted Executive Committee Members
Ex-Officio
- Mike Cauley, chairman
- Carmen Rodriguez
- Duane Rollins
- Arne Nielsen
- Abel Paulin
- Andrew Elliott
- Kathy Fairchild
- Lars Houmann, Florida Hospital
- Richard Guerrero, state lay advisory

West Central
- Howard Fish
- Brian Gillis
- Hecner Hiram Hernandez
- Shawn Lathrom
- George Schlinsog
- Jeffery Thompson

East Central
- Leanne Andino
- Wanda Forbes
- Jose Isaac

Gulf
- Naomi Olsen
- Roddie Ortiz
- Ernie Sylvester

North
- Olney McLarty
- Juan Rodriguez

Ridge
- Debbie Hilton
- Newton Hoilette

Upper Gold
- Keith Harding
- Dalton Lewis
- Jack Rieder
- Dawn Robert

Lower Gold
- David Anderson
- Daniela Jean
- Allan Machado
- David Rivera
- Harold Sookie

Executive Committee Invitees
- Gloria Becker
- Ken Burrill
- Luis Cortes
- Conrad Duncan
- Jim Epperson
- Gordon Retzer
- Randy Robinson
- Ron Smith
- John Trimarchi

Association Board
- José LeGrand
- Frank McMillan
- Ronald Pasos
- Antonio Habaradas

Association Board Ex-Officio
- Mike Cauley
- Andrew Elliott
- Kathy Fairchild
- Carmen Rodriguez
- Duane Rollins

AUTUMN 2009 • FLORIDA FOCUS • PAGE 5
I was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist home; however, as a young adult I made some decisions that led me away from God. I lived my life doing what I wanted, and I tried to forget the values my parents had taught me.

One day, I met a young lady at Antillean Adventist University in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Shortly afterward, Omayra and I married and moved to Florida where, a few years later, our son, Justin, was born. I promised God I’d raise him the “right way,” even though I was not really planning to live this way, “even though I was not even planning to live this way myself. When he was a baby, we had him dedicated in the Lake City Church where my parents attended.

Soon, we settled in New Port Richey where we found the Adventist church and a children’s Sabbath School for Justin. The members made me feel right at home; however, as a young adult I made some decisions that led me away from God. I lived my life doing what I wanted, and I tried to forget the values my parents had taught me.

One Sunday, while attending a school picnic for students and parents, I looked across the street and saw the Adventist Bookmobile in the church parking lot. Being raised Adventist, I had heard about bookmobiles, but I’d never been inside one.

Curiosity got the best of me as a little voice in my head said, “Why don’t you just go inside and see what it’s like?” I figured all I was going to encounter was a truck full of Bibles. Yes, it did have Bibles; but, to my surprise, there was also a large variety of Christian books, food, music, DVDs, and other items for sale.

Looking through the DVDs, one stood out that was called, Final Events of Bible Prophecy hosted by Doug Batchelor. As I stared at the cover and the words “Final Events” and “Prophecy,” I finally said, “Okay.

I’ll get it, but this is probably the first and last thing I’ll ever buy in a bookmobile.” I returned to the picnic and couldn’t wait to go home to see my new DVD.

As I watched Doug’s presentation, I was intrigued by the message. Soon, I was questioning my entire life. I had worked so hard on building a wall around my heart and, now, this program was penetrating that wall. I desperately wanted to believe its message and have the assurance of salvation that Doug spoke about.

I must have watched the DVD five times and, within a few short hours, the wall I had built seemed to be crumbling. A fire was lit in my heart, and I told Omayra that I wanted to study more material from this pastor.

As a result, I purchased Doug’s Millennium of Prophecy series. The more I watched, the more I knew I would never be the same again; my life simply had to be dedicated to God!

While thinking about where my new walk would take me, our church announced plans for a mission trip with Florida Conference members to hold meetings in Chiclayo, Peru. Pastor Bill Webb encouraged me to help with the audio/visual equipment. Omayra and I wanted to go so badly; yet, we knew only God could find a way to get us there.

Soon afterward, we received a call informing us that a group of anonymous church members wanted to sponsor our trip. The next morning, my wife was in tears as she joyfully told me the donation would cover all expenses, the deposit we had made, the cost of our passports, and $20 to spare!

When we arrived in Peru, to our surprise, we were asked to be translators for one of the speakers. The meetings were a great success, and we witnessed God’s power on the Peruvian people and on us, as well.

Reflecting on my life’s journey, I can see the hand of God. Even when I walked away from Him, the Holy Spirit did not give up on me.

God was definitely present the day I was drawn into the Bookmobile. Even today, I thank Him for this ministry as I pray for the drivers like Fred Neigel who came to New Port Richey that Sunday morning where my life was changed forever.
PUBLISHING
DEPARTMENT
INTRODUCES
A NEW OPPORTUNITY

BY GLADYS NIEGL

GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) is a new program of the Florida Conference Publishing Department to help complete its mission to “spread the word of God to all the world in this generation.” GLOW has attracted an influx of enthusiastic new and returning workers. A year ago, there were only 14 literature evangelists working in Florida Conference. Because of the GLOW program, there are now more than 70.

Publishing Director Joe Holloway says, “The mission is not new but still thrilling and exciting, because it has not been finished yet.”

Holloway, who has worked in Publishing more than 35 years (19 of those in Florida), began seeking a new way “to provide every willing-hearted church member with the training and materials necessary to become a literature evangelist.” His vision has resulted in a cash program from the publishing house to the customer. The books are purchased wholesale by the Conference and resold to literature evangelists who work as independent contractors.

Part of the plan’s implementation prompted the establishment of three distribution centers in Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. A fourth will open soon in Jacksonville. Books are sent directly to the literature evangelist, or they can be mailed to customers on a cash basis. Because the Conference is involved directly with the publishing houses, there is a substantial savings of approximately 40% to each individual worker.

In Colporteur Ministry, page 84, Ellen White writes, “There is only one [literature evangelist] where there should be a hundred.” This quotation is not taken lightly by the Publishing Department’s leadership: Joe Holloway, Alfredo Gonzalez, Les McCoy, and Tim Merryman. By the end of 2009, their goal is to have 100 literature evangelists working in the Conference.

“Canvassing has brought me closer to my best friend, Jesus, by seeing prayers answered, miracles performed, and divine appointments met,” says literature evangelist Anca Chirvasuta.

If you would like to become a member of the literature ministry team, contact Joe Holloway: GLOW@floridaconference.com or (407) 644-5000 x150

PARENTS AND CHILDREN CANVASS TOGETHER

BY PETRA BETAT

Since my 13-year-old daughter, Olivia, is just a little too young to join a full summer canvassing program to earn money for her school tuition, I was impressed to locally pilot an evening program. I am a part-time literature evangelist working in Bradenton and the surrounding area.

Shortly into the program, we were joined by my daughter’s 11-year-old friend, William, and his father. Talk about young evangelists! We are typically out for 2–2½ hours, two or three times a week, offering books such as: More Choices, Kids in the Kitchen, Great Controversy, Desire of Ages, Cat in the Cage, Secret Keys, and My Friend Jesus. More Choices is clearly the best seller, and 95% of the people are very responsive and friendly. If individuals are not interested in the books, Olivia and William talk to them about Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ) and often receive donations for it.

Every opportunity to leave spiritual food at people’s homes warms the heart and generates a heavenly joy that is incomparable. Canvassing matures our children like no other job could do. The questions they are asked and the conversations in which they engage are the best fine-tuning and polishing agents for Christian character building. Working together also generates quantity and quality parent-child time that builds lasting memories.

I want to encourage parents to give canvassing with your child a try. Homeschoolers could incorporate it into their curriculum and have an ongoing witnessing fundraiser year round.

The Lord has truly blessed our endeavor in a spiritual and financial way. It’s been an all around win-win situation. Olivia and William average between $15 and $50 an hour. I praise God and give Him all the glory for this wonderful opportunity!

Olivia Betat canvasses with her mother, Petra in a Bradenton neighborhood.

Pictured from left: Petra Betat, William Wolter, Olivia Betat, and Jens Wolter.
Every five years since 1994, young people from around the world have arrived at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, via car, bus, RV, or airplane to celebrate Pathfindering together.

“Camporees—whether conference, union, division, or international—are anchor points in the spiritual lives of our children,” says Cheeko Cotta, Florida Pathfinder Director.

This year, 2,000 Florida Pathfinders had the opportunity to bond with more than 36,000 Pathfinders from across the United States and from countries including Canada, France, Japan, and Australia at the Courage To Stand International Camporee.

“The directors, staff, and Pathfinders worked hard to raise funds to make it to Oshkosh,” says Rachel Figueroa, Florida Pathfinders’ volunteer Drill and Drum Program Director. “This is the experience of a lifetime for some of these kids.”

**Camporee activities**

Pathfinders who attended the International Camporee had the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities. Honors could be earned that covered an array of subjects such as animals and plants, fitness and health, rocks and minerals, and even how to preach to other young people.

“I had a lot of fun doing honors like soap crafting, soccer, drawing, and painting! I learned a lot,” said Emily McMillan, a member of the Companion class at the Altamonte Springs Pathfinder Club.

Pathfinders could also participate in community service projects in the surrounding area and some that were available on site. Pathfinders from Mandarin Church in Jacksonville, along with thousands of other Pathfinder clubs, joined the efforts of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) by packing boxes with school supplies going to children in Colombia, South America.

While helping ADRA, Pathfinders had the opportunity to learn about several heartrending situations the agency works with such as refugee camps and disaster relief.

“When I went into the ADRA area, I was surprised by what I saw and heard,” said Shelbie Vildor from the Explorer class at Mandarin. “I didn’t think it was so bad in other parts of the world. I felt really grateful for the things I have.”

At Oshkosh, club members also participated in other fun activities such as rock climbing and watching BMX bikers.

Trading pins, a popular tradition at Pathfinder camporees, was a great way for Pathfinders to commemorate their experience while making connections with club members from across the nation and around the world.

**Drill and Drum Competitions**

Pathfinders representing Florida Conference at the drill and drum corps competitions during the International Camporee performed basic, advanced, and fancy routines in front of an international audience. The drum competition consisted of eight-minute routines by each team. Clubs were scored on a point scale that allowed more than one club in each category to win.

**Basic Drill**

- Miami Central Spanish—1st place with perfect score
- Coral Springs—1st place with perfect score
- Hialeah Springs Spanish—1st place with perfect score
- Pompano Beach—1st place
- Westchester Spanish—1st place

**Advanced Drill**

- Coral Springs—1st place with perfect score
- Hialeah Springs Spanish—1st place with perfect score
- Pompano Beach—1st place
- Westchester Spanish—1st place

**Fancy Drill**

- Miami Central Spanish—2nd place
- All Nations—3rd place
- Tampa Spanish—3rd place

**Drum Corps**

- All Nations—1st place
- Tampa Spanish—3rd place
- Westchester—3rd place
team to win first place in each category.

“We are very proud of all our Pathfinders, especially of the teams that performed,” says Director Figueroa. “Pathfinders involved in the drill or drum ministry work very hard to do their best. They know they not only represent the Florida teams, they also know they represent God!”

Florida Pathfinder club rankings for the competitions are listed in the box to the left.

More than 36,000 Pathfinders—2,000 from Florida Conference—traveled from around the world to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the 2009 Courage To Stand International Camporee. The main stage and assembly area is pictured in the foreground with the expanse of the campground shown beyond.

Spirituality at Oshkosh

Each evening, more than 36,000 Pathfinders and their leaders made their way to the nightly programs featuring youth from different clubs playing music, singing, and praying. The programs also featured a musical play telling the story of Queen Esther and teaching Pathfinders about the week’s theme, Courage To Stand.

On Sabbath, the Camporee hosted a baptism in which 57 of the 516 Pathfinders baptized were from the Southern Union.

“Getting baptized at Oshkosh made me feel special,” said Justin Brautigam, an Explorer class Pathfinder from Miami Central Spanish. “My pastor was there, my friends, the staff, my parents, and a whole bunch of Pathfinders!”

Five years from now, the 2014 International Camporee is scheduled to return to Oshkosh, Wisconsin with the theme, Forever Faithful. Information is online at www.camporee.org.

Cheeko Cotta, Florida Pathfinder Director, baptizes Melonie Sherry from the Jupiter Club’s Companion class. She was one of 12 Florida Pathfinders among a total of 516 baptized at the Camporee.

The All Nations Conquerers Pathfinder Club, St. Petersburg, earned a first place ranking during the Camporee’s Drum Corps Competition. Pictured from left: Oshane Elliott, Pioneer class; Tristan Foster, Guide class; Annisha Parks, Navigator class; and Leo Sawyers, Guide class.
“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” —Zechariah 4:6

“I tried to trick the Lord,” admits Frank Barton as he recalls starting his quest to find a way to reach the downtrodden and the hurting with the message of a loving God. “I got on my knees and prayed, ‘If You Lead I will follow.’

“Even while praying, I knew I was not going to invite myself anywhere. ‘If the phone rings and I know the Holy Spirit is calling, then I’ll go.’ Yet, I didn’t expect any calls. ‘Who knows Frank Barton?’”

Someone suggested that Frank get involved in prison ministry. At first, Frank didn’t feel the burden since he was never incarcerated. However, after he and Maxine, his wife, visited a prison, and then went to Alabama to meet with Richard Bland and the United Prison Ministries International (UPMI) team, they felt led to work with prison ministry. “As we were praying and fasting,” says Frank, “the Lord told me to quit my job and go to work full time for Him.”

When God called, Frank left his 30-year job in the aerospace industry where he supervised hundreds of employees and budgeted millions of dollars. He thought he would go into the prisons and, perhaps, do a little something with Bible studies; however, the Lord knew Frank’s background and his abilities. It soon became apparent the Lord wanted him to use his talents in the creation of a program to train others in prison ministry.

Twenty years later, Frank and Maxine can hardly remember waiting for an invitation. Their dedication to training others for prison work has resulted in invitations that have taken them back and forth across North America.

“God has given Frank an unusual gift for prison ministry which is his training program,” says Richard Bland, Founder/President of UPMI. Under this organization’s umbrella, Frank began an independent ministry in Florida. Malcolm Gordon, then Conference President, and Hazel, his wife, made arrangements in 1989 for Frank and Maxine to kick off the prison ministries program in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami.

Two and a half years later, Obed Graham, the next Florida Conference President, suggested “anything this good ought to be blessed by the Conference,” and prison ministries was officially adopted as a volunteer-run outreach. Frank agreed to be the Chaplain of Prison Ministries for Florida Conference, as long as he could also work with the Southeastern Conference. This relationship continues today with prison ministries volunteers coming from both conferences.

In the early days of the ministry, Frank was impressed to invite other entities on board that would benefit the program including:

- Adventist Book Center (ABC) — The ABC packs and ships all of the Bible lessons.
- American Bible Society — This organization subsidizes the Bibles given to inmates.
- Florida Living Retirement Community — Residents correct the Bible lessons.

Members of the original Prison Ministries Advisory Board, from left: Frank Barton, Chaplain and Board Chairman; Richard Shepard, Conference Adult Ministries Director; Bill Bower, lay representative; Richard O’Fill, Conference Personal Ministries Director; Relious Walden, Conference Treasurer; Eugene Torres, Clermont Pastor; Betty Bower, lay representative.
“I just had my nose to the grindstone,” explains Frank. “Then, I woke up and realized this ministry God placed in our hands was bigger than I imagined. Maxine and I couldn’t handle the hundreds of letters coming in by ourselves, so we recruited volunteers to help.”

**Pen Pal Program**

Frank was impressed to start the Regeneration Fellowship pen pal program that provides inmates with spiritual correspondence friends. Pen pal counselors first study the program manual before completing prison ministries training. These anonymous volunteers use a spiritual approach in determining how to best help the inmate.

**Regeneration Fellowship News**

The Regeneration Fellowship newsletter is sent to more than 2,500 people in the State of Florida every month. Edited by Laura Leach, this newsletter can go into places where prison ministries workers cannot, such as solitary confinement and death row. The 20-page booklet includes spiritual topics, an editorial, Bible trivia, a Bible reading schedule, and a Your Turn page where prisoners can submit items of a spiritual nature for print consideration. The inmates may also send in prayer requests, ask for Bible lessons, ask Bible questions, and/or request subscriptions for other inmates. The response to the newsletter has been overwhelming.

**L.A.M.B.**

Love A Mother’s Baby is a program developed for babies born behind prison walls. Twenty-four hours after birth, a baby is placed with a caretaker who is given a layette for the baby from L.A.M.B. Because mothers often barter in prison for tubes of toothpaste to send to their child on a birthday or for a Christmas gift, the L.A.M.B. program provides a present given in the mother’s name. The mother and child also receive *Our Little Friend* magazine.

More than 8,000 children have benefited from L.A.M.B. under the direction of Betty Goines. One young woman touched by this program more than ten years ago still attends the church where she was befriended as a child.

**Shelter From the Storm**

Shelter From the Storm is a half-way house located in Ocala. This ministry is a haven that provides temporary housing and services while helping former inmates find employment upon their release from prison. This program is directed by Jeffrey Cobb whose life was changed through the prison ministry program when he was incarcerated.

Inmates such as Ray Shine, who was incarcerated for more than 25 years, have been transformed by this program. Ray is now a deacon in training and a baptized member of the Adventist Church. “God has blessed me tremendously since I was baptized in that water,” says Ray. “I came out a different person, and I’m not afraid of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The battle belongs to Him.”

**20 Years of Growth**

In Florida, the ministry that started in eight institutions is now present in more than 100. In addition, the Bartons have traveled throughout North America training prison ministries workers.

Humble servants of the God they serve, Frank and Maxine give Him all the glory for directing their 24/7 volunteer retirement job. They make it clear their work wouldn’t be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who enter the prisons once or twice a week, 52 weeks a year.

Circa 1996

Women from Lowell Correctional Institution, a reception center north of Ocala for female offenders, attend a Prison Ministries revival.

Circa 2000

Betty Goines directs the Love A Mother’s Baby (L.A.M.B.) program.

Circa 1992

Florida Living Retirement Community residents Edna Buerger, left, Olan Layton, and Emma Seeberger correct prisoners’ Bible lessons.

Frank and Maxine Barton, left, pictured with Prison Ministry volunteers from Ft. Pierce Church, back row, Brooksville Pastor Don Johnson, right, and newly baptized inmates at Okeechobee Correctional Institution.

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Go Fish
Convention for Kids

By Kassandra and Brianna Fernandez

Kassandra: I don’t know what I was expecting—perhaps another Vacation Bible School (VBS) setting or Children's Convention. The reality was exciting: A convention for young disciples with creative evangelism tools.

Brianna: It was held August 22 in the gymnasium at Camp Kulaqua. The gym was decorated with the usual VBS getup. The theme was nautical because, after all, we were there to fish. Nets, canoes, a wooden dock with backdrop, and other fishing gear helped us all feel as if we were actually by the sea.

Kassandra: The staff was a perfect blend of fun-filled story tellers and message-sharing gospel workers. One never knew when, out of the laughter of a clown act, an inspirational message would follow.

Brianna: Even the music class turned out to be a fun, praise-the-Lord-with-all-you’ve-got experience. The theme song told it all:

“Go Fish! Souls are the catch of the day. Go Fish! Jesus is the truth and the way. Go Fish! There is no time for delay. Cast out your nets. Get ready. Get set. Go Fish!”

Kassandra: Among balloon animal classes, magic tricks, puppetry, health tips, nature walks, and meeting new friends, the main purpose was not lost. We are a new generation of disciples. Jesus is depending on us to spread the gospel word to other young people.

Brianna: To reach others, sometimes we need to get creative. The purpose of the Go Fish Convention was to train us, young people, to be fishers of men.

When the Fernandez sisters were asked, “If you could send a message to the kids of the Florida Conference, what would you say?”

Kassandra and Brianna: So, what are you waiting for? Go Fish!

If you would like your child to get involved in outreach, encourage them to attend a Go Fish for Kids Conference to be held in Orlando or Miami in the near future. For more information, e-mail rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com or call (407) 644-5000 x136.

Discipleship Conference for Parents

During the Go Fish Conference, parents attended a Kids in Discipleship Convention to learn how to convey spiritual issues to their children through such avenues as conversation and family worship. “If you don’t reach kids when they are young, you won’t be able to reach them when they are older,” says Rhoda Burrill, Florida Children’s Ministries Director.

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A complete calendar is available online:
http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html

**ONGOING EVENTS**

Florida Pathfinder Events. [Website](http://www.floridapathfinders.com/) or call (407) 644-5000 x127.

Singles’ Ministries Events. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. [Website](http://www.asamcf.org/), djmiller4000@gmail.com, or (386) 789-3235.

Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups. Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups such as attention deficit disorder, bereavement, brain injury, celiac disease, diabetes, sleep disorders, and more. Details are available under the “Support Groups” link in the “Patients and Visitors” box at [Website](http://www.fhdeland.org/)

North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter. Membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: [Website](http://www.oakwoodalumninfl.org/), oakwoodalumninfl@gmail.com, (888) 719-7776, or (904) 616-1896.

Florida Adventist Book Center. Winter Park: national toll-free number, (877) 55-FLABC (877-553-2222). Miami: (305) 805-9900. High Springs: (386) 454-7956. Shop online: [Website](http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/) or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com.


**DECEMBER 2009**

Sunrise Church Evangelism Series. Dec. 11-16, Sunrise Church. Presented by Pastor Stephen Boehr from Amazing Facts College of Evangelism. Details: sunriseclerks@gmail.com or (954) 742-7515.


**JANUARY 2010**

Seeking His Glory: intergenerational prayer emphasis weekend. Jan. 1-2, Forest Lake Church. Forest Lake members and staff join Sligo Church Pastor Charles Tapp and WORSHIPProject’s music ministry in this time for special prayers of dedication and recommitment for the new year. Event will be streamed for online viewing at [Website](http://www.forestlakechurch.org/). Details: discipleship@forestlakechurch.org or (407) 869-0680.

**TOOLS FOR GIVING**

Florida Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Donor Advised Funds
- Gifts of Insurance
- Life Estate Reserved
- Living Trusts
- Last Will and Testament

For information about these methods of Planned Giving, call (407) 644-5000 and ask for Planned Giving and Trust Services, or write to Planned Giving and Trust Services, P.O. Box 2626, Winter Park, FL 32790–2626. One or more of these tools may be useful as you make plans for your estate. We even have special tools which provide you with income for life in addition to substantial tax benefits.

* The above is provided for information. No legal or tax advice is offered or intended. Please consult with your own professional advisors for such advice.
The annual High School Student Bible Retreat was a high-impact, high-energy event for teens in Florida, held October 8–11, 2009, at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. From general sessions starting early Friday morning, to the Amazing Race competition, and all the activities that Camp Kulaqua has to offer, this weekend was intense!

Special guests included Hands At Work For Christ who enhanced our worship experience through the art of sign language ministry. The Revolution band and drama team from Florida Hospital, Orlando, Church also participated. They were real and authentic. Willie “The Ghetto Preacher” Ramos served as the Retreat chaplain and connected with students on a more spiritual level during the weekend. Our guest speaker for the retreat was Bill Crofton, Florida Conference Youth/Young Adult Ministries Director. He spoke about our theme, Legacy, with passion and vulnerability. It was wonderful to see the “aha” moments on students’ faces. They learned that leaving a legacy is simply sharing how your story and God’s story unite. That’s powerful!

One story that stood out in our hearts and minds came from our worship leader, Azad Murtazin. He’s from Uzbekistan and was raised Muslim. A Florida Hospital Church member befriended him at school and invited him to come to church, but he never went inside. Both students would hang out in the stairwell, play guitar, and talk. Months later, Pastor David Achata started chatting with Azad.

One thing led to another, and they found themselves buying new instruments to start a praise band. Two years after that first “jam session” in the stairwell, Azad said, “I think I’m a believer.” On October 31, Azad was baptized. There’s power in what one young person can do for God’s Kingdom.

Every year, we have to thank God for the incomparable opportunity of serving Him and His children through the High School Student Bible Retreat. It’s a privilege and honor to work with our volunteer staff: the security crew, sponsors, youth pastors, youth leaders, lay youth pastors, and many more. In the Youth/Young Adult Ministries Department, we always say we’re the lucky ones who get to see the wondrous things God can do through His people. I think we can simply say, “We’re in good company!”