



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

Volume XIII, No. 4 • July—August—September 1997
Communication Department • Cindy Kurtzhals, Director

What Is Most Important To The Florida Family?



PHOTOS: BEULAH PETERSON

Florida Conference President Gordon Retzer and Cheryl, his wife, met with constituents at the Miami Temple church during Town Hall Meetings across the state in April.

In Town Hall Meetings with church members and Ministers' Meetings with pastors in April, I've been listening to what we consider to be the most important priorities for the future in Florida Conference. Where should our energies be spent? What should we focus on? How can we best go about what God sees as our mission?

While there were many worthy sugges-



Miami Temple Head Elder Fernando Munilla, left, and Miami Springs Pastor Steve Adessa, discussed possible plans for Florida's future.

tions, a very clear picture emerged of what we consider most important, and

I'm glad to share the results of our discussions.

—continued on page 2

Triennial Session Approaches—Oct. 26

Members Can Participate Through Delegates

Every three years, a triennial session, commonly known as a Constituency Meeting, is held for the purpose of electing officers for the Florida Conference and members of the Executive Committee, and to make plans for the ensuing triennium. This triennium, the meeting is October 26 at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka.

"I look forward to this important meeting because it is an opportunity to dialogue about the most important priorities you see that should become the focus of the Florida Conference vision for the future," says Gordon Retzer, newly appointed president. Retzer joined Florida Conference April 1 upon the retirement of Obed Graham.

"This is your Church and the "Conference" is simply the joining together of all our churches for the purpose of implementing collectively the mission God has given us," stresses Retzer.

Wanting to see del-

egates and hear their views, Retzer adds, "This will be a spiritual experience. We are God's children, the body of Christ, coming together to make decisions that will ensure we are impacting the lives of people in a caring, Christ-like manner, as we touch lives through our various church activities and individual contacts."

The Delegates

Delegates chosen from each church will attend a Regional Orientation and Organization Meeting in their geographic area prior to the Constituency Meeting.

Individual members can share their goals and concerns with delegates to be taken to the Regional and Constituency Meetings. *See schedule at the end of this article.*

Visioning, plans, and strategy for implementation will stem from information gathered here and from the member-invited regional Town Hall Meetings and Ministers' Meetings held in April.

—continued on page 2

What's Important?—
from page 1

There were four themes which received the most votes, listed as follows, with some accompanying descriptions of the vision as shared from your perspective.

Spiritual Nurture—prayer, unity among members, unity among sister churches, assurance in Christ, Christ-like attitude, a daily born-again

experience which results in Godly living, caring spirit, and Holy Spirit unction in the church.

Youth—involved in local church, impacting the mission of the Church through local church activities, reach unchurched youth, salvation of youth.

Evangelism/Church Growth—innovative, creative, relevant, mass media, effective for retention, culturally sensi-

tive, planned-through master plan, laity involved, spiritual gifts, each person discovering his/her significance in Christ and the body.

Education—affordable, accessible, Adventist context, inspiring children and youth to be active in the mission of the Church.

So, these are the themes we see as vital for the future focus of our energies. I look forward to further refinement of these ideas, especially the opportunity to discuss these priorities in our Regional Orientation and Organization Meetings with appointed delegates to the Constituency Meeting. In addition, these will be on the agenda for the Constituency Meeting, October 26, 1997, in order to officially vote the direction for our Conference, assuring continued growth and health with the blessing of God and through His Spirit.

—Gordon Retzer



BEULAH PETERSON

Conference President Gordon Retzer places a high value on worshipping with music. He often leads out in self-accompanied song services wherever he travels. Those who attended the Town Hall Meetings got a glimpse of his musical gift.

Triennial Session—
from page 1

Purpose of Regional/Orientation Meetings

- review officers and department/services directors reports of Conference activities during the triennium
- inform delegates of matters expected to be discussed or acted upon at the Constituency Meeting
- elect each region's allocated delegates to the Nominating Committee
- elect two members from each region to

the Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- recommend to the Nominating Committee a list of individuals from the region as potential members for the Conference Executive Committee

Churches Added

New churches organized during the triennium will be admitted into the Conference sisterhood of churches with the official seating of the delegates. Nine churches and 20 companies were organized.

—Cindy Kurtzhals

Regional Orientation and Organization Meetings for 1997 Constituency Meeting

| <u>Region</u> | <u>Time/Date</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| North Florida | September 7 Sunday, 1-4 p.m. | Camp Kulaqua King Chapel |
| Lower Gold | September 8 Monday, 6-9 p.m. | Miami Temple Church |
| Upper Gold | September 9 Tuesday, 6-9 p.m. | Boynton Beach Church |
| Ridge | September 21 Sunday, 1-4 p.m. | Port Charlotte Church |
| East Central | September 23 Tuesday, 6-9 p.m. | Kress Memorial Church |
| West Central | September 24 Wednesday, 6-9 p.m. | Forest City Spanish Church |
| Gulf | September 25 Thursday, 6-9 p.m. | Tampa First Church |

Glad To Be Back At Camp Meeting



PHOTOS: WALTER MAIER

Members participated in Camp Meeting this year on the Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, campus; at their home churches; or at home via satellite—with members from across the country. The Sierra Vista Spanish Company in Sierra Vista, Arizona tuned in. So did one member of Surrey, British Columbia

Canada as he taped it for his congregation. Mark your calendars—next year's Camp Meeting is May 22-30, 1998. The speakers include Wintley Phipps, Sharon Cress, Gordon Bietz, Dwight Nelson, Gordon Retzer, Francisco Ottati, Nick Satelmajer, and Ralph Watts.

—Cindy Kurtzhals

Churches Prepare For Soul-Winning Satellite Programs

It seems as if *Discoveries in Prophecy—2,000 and Beyond* (*Net '96*) just ended and plans are already underway for several satellite series this fall and next.

Ralph Ringer, Florida Conference evangelism

coordinator, says about 140 churches participated in *Net '96*. Most will also participate in the following satellite programs, either as a downlink site for the programs or by videotaping the seminars to loan out through church

libraries for use in Bible study groups.

Satellite Seminar

Amazing Facts, Three Angels Broadcasting (3ABN), and Seminars Unlimited have joined hands to present an international satellite evangelistic seminar this fall in English and Spanish.

From October 3-November 1, Evangelist Doug Bachelor, speaker and director of *Amazing Facts* and senior pastor of the Sacramento Central, California church, will present the series.

Five nights a week, this life-changing series will be beamed to homes and churches across North America and Europe. Anyone who receives 3ABN or has a satellite dish can participate and invite friends.

Hope Beyond 2000

Immediately following *Satellite Seminar*, *The Voice of Prophecy* will present *Hope Beyond 2000: A Satellite Trek through the Bible*. *Voice of Prophecy* Evangelist Kenneth Cox is featured in this series, November 1-December 6. Programs will air nightly, except on Mondays and Thursdays. Broadcasting starts at 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, tentatively scheduled to air on Galaxy 9, Channel 2.

La RED '97

A satellite presentation for Spanish and Portuguese churches is planned for November 8-15 and November 16-22, respectively.

Dr. Alejandro Bullon, ministerial director of the South American Division

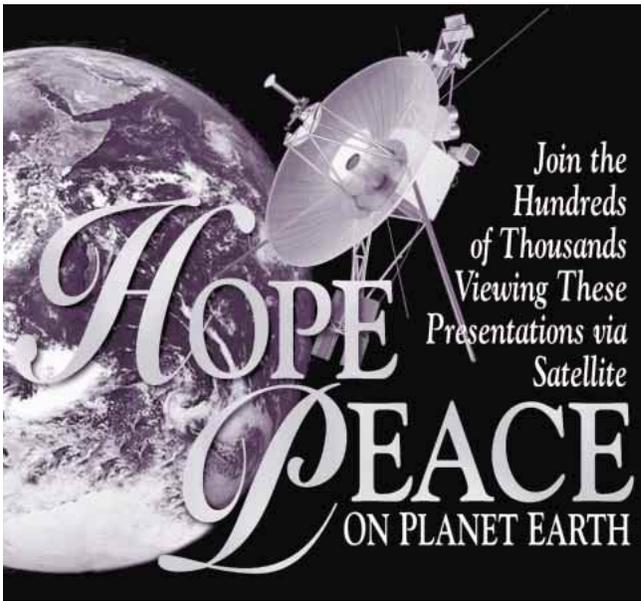
is the guest speaker.

Net '98

Pastor Dwight Nelson of the Pioneer Memorial church on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, will be the speaker for *Net '98*, October 9-November 14, 1998.

This soul-winning project has the potential of being the most extensive evangelistic series that is "Generation X"-friendly. Efforts are also in progress to link other Adventist colleges and university campuses which will create a wide network of participation.

All divisions of the world have expressed interest in being downlink sites, therefore the series will be age and culturally acceptable while making the gospel message clear.



Bible Study Continues For Tampa First Discover Students

Many Join West Coast-area Churches after Summer Field School

More than 1,100 people are enrolled in Tampa First church's *Discover Bible School* series. This resulted from a mass distribution of more than 100,000 *Discover Bible Guides* and enrollment cards to area residents during April and May.

The evangelism initiative received 100 percent support from its church board members, pledges that met almost half of the project's \$11,000 budget, and commitments of time and prayer. Groups of 50 to 70 area

church members meet weekly to process and grade the mass of mailed-in Bible lessons.

"We're very busy," reports Tampa First Pastor Ken Burrill. After participants finish lesson 16, they are visited by a pastor or lay member who studies with them week-to-week until the 26-lesson course is completed.

Participants in the *Discover Bible School* series were also invited to attend the *It Is Written Prophecy Seminar*, an evangelistic initiative led by *It Is Written* Evangelist John Fowler and the-

ology students from Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, Tennessee. The June 7-July 12 series was part of a summer field school of evangelism.

"One man rode his bike more than seven miles every night to come to our meetings," reports Homer Trecartin, a senior SAU theology student who participated in the field school. "Participating in the field school allowed me to see how an evangelism series works behind the scenes." Other SAU students who par-

ticipated included Jeff Arthur, Jeff Berquist, Jason Brooks, Daniel LaFlair, Brent Miller, Jain Moon, Robbie Valentine, and Alvin Payne and Orlando Lopez, Jr., new associate/youth pastors at the North Miami and Apopka Highland churches, respectively.

"Our belief is that individuals who are actively studying the Bible will be more receptive to coming to an evangelistic meeting," says Burrill. Between 150-300 people attended the nightly meetings and many were baptized by July 19.

New members joined the Carrollwood, Tampa Korean, Tampa Spanish, Brandon Spanish, and Tampa First churches. —Art Berard, Lisa Ziegele



Grading *Discover* lessons, are Fred Engelman, left, Stephanie Whitler, Rudolph Britton, David House, Tom Sullivan, and Gwen and Art Howell.

TransLife Staff, NASA Astronauts Celebrate Celestial Signing Of Organ Donor Cards

The crew of the STS-80 shuttle Columbia recently brought national attention to the issue of organ donation as they signed their organ donor cards while in orbit on-board the space shuttle.

Astronauts Tammy Jernigan of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Story Musgrave of Lexington, Kentucky, and Tom Jones of Baltimore, Maryland, signed the donor cards to underscore the continuing shortage of organs and tissue in the United

States. More than 49,000 people are on the national waiting list to receive organs. Ten people die every day because suitable organs are unavailable.

Anne Conforti, a clinical transplant coordinator for TransLife, Florida Hospital's organ, tissue, and transplant services program, came up with the idea which later won the "Grand Image Award" from the Orlando chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association for this original public relations campaign.



PHOTO COURTESY: NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

STS-80 space shuttle Columbia astronauts sign organ donor cards in space. The photo's blurriness is caused by the method used to transmit the image from space. Pictured left to right is Tammy Jernigan, Story Musgrave, and Tom Jones.

This spring, TransLife coordinated an organ donor card-signing drive at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and

sent the cards to all Florida Hospital employees.

The next time you go to renew your driver's license, consider becoming

an organ donor. Your decision could save someone's life.

—Kathy Driscoll,
Lisa Ziegele

Spiritual Nurture Program At Florida Hospital Changes Lives

An employee came to us saying that she felt a strong impression to learn more about the Sabbath," recounts Marti Jones, coordinator of the Spiritual Nurture Program at Florida Hospital Orlando, pictured far right. "Another employee who learned about the Spiritual Nurture Program was on the verge of committing suicide. If it weren't for work of the Holy Spirit, she wouldn't be here today," says Jones.



The Spiritual Nurture Program is provided by the pastoral care department at Florida Hospital and is available for patients, visitors, and em-

ployees at the Orlando and Altamonte campuses.

"It is about creating an environment where the Holy Spirit can touch and transform a person's life," explains Jones.

"Many people have a spiritual awakening after being in a hospital because of an accident, poor health condition, or after a loved one becomes ill. Spiritual Nurture follows up with those who have expressed a desire to learn more about the Bible or have special prayer requests."

Eleven people were baptized in 1996 and nine have been baptized this year after completing the *Discover* and *Good News* Bible studies through fol-

low-up from the Spiritual Nurture Program. More than 50 others continue to participate in the series of correspondence Bible lessons.

In addition to the Spiritual Nurture Program, two special prayer groups also meet regularly to pray for patients and the ministry of healing at Florida Hospital: "Partners in Prayer" at Florida Hospital Orlando and "Mothers of Intercessory Prayer" at Florida Hospital Altamonte.



MICHELLE EDWARDS

Ten members of the Florida Hospital Altamonte Spiritual Enrichment Program received diplomas for completing the Program's beginners' Bible studies. Five have completed the advanced studies and four have since been baptized. The Spiritual Enrichment Program, led by Chaplain Paul Bernet, second from right, began eight years ago at Florida Hospital Altamonte and later expanded to Florida Hospital Orlando.

The pastoral care department aims to establish a prayer ministry at all other Florida Hospital satellite locations this year.

"The Holy Spirit is

definitely at work at Florida Hospital and is blessing us all," concludes Jones.

—Lisa Ziegele,
Paul Bernet

Florida Hospital College Of Health Sciences

Quality Education, Close to Home



SPENCER FREEMAN

Dr. Len Archer instructs Christy Prater in an anatomy and physiology course.

Registration for the 1997-98 school year at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) in Orlando will be held August 25 and 26.

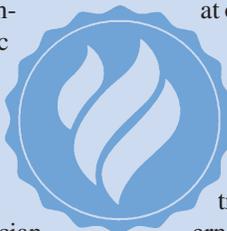
Fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the College offers two-year associate of science degrees in: nursing, radiation therapy, radiography, and diagnostic medical sonography. Students can also enroll in diagnostic medical sonography, practical nursing, radiation therapy, and patient care technician certificate programs. For those interested in physical therapy or occupational therapy, a two-year, pre-professional curriculum is available. Master of science programs in health care administration and adult nurse practitioner are also offered on the campus of FHCHS through an affiliation

with Andrews University of Berrien Springs, Michigan. Tuition for a full class load runs \$1,700 per semester.

“As students are finding out what a great value FHCHS is, our phones have been ringing off the hook,” says Eddie Braga, FHCHS vice president for recruitment and marketing. “Students who were previously considering community college have taken a serious look at our general education and pre-professional program. Some students may eventually transfer to Southern Adventist University or another Seventh-day Adventist college or university, but we’re happy that many have chosen to begin their college education closer to home.”

For more information: (800) 500-7747, ext. 9798 or (407) 893-9798 or visit the web site at <http://www.fhchs.org>.

—Lisa Ziegele



Prisons Request Adventist Literature And Volunteers

The doors seemed closed when Frank Barton started Florida prison ministries several years ago, yet today he can barely fill requests for literature and volunteers.

“Our religious department is desperately seeking materials such as Bibles, study helps, books, tracts, magazines and devotional guides,” writes Chaplain David Seuis of Corrections Corporation of America.

Chaplain Wismael Sanchez in Okeechobee, writes, “It is always wonderful to hear from... Seventh-day Adventists. Your pamphlets and literature [are] always

greatly embraced by the inmates.” From Jefferson, Florida, Chaplain Carolyn Brooks wants “to obtain as much literature, books, tapes and videos as possible for the inmates of all faiths and have this material readily available to them.”

After reading *The Ministry of Healing*, one prison psychiatrist decided all her patients need to read it!

Such requests, plus hundreds of completed Bible courses and nearly 30 baptisms, testify to the

success of the Conference-sponsored prison ministry program, now operating in some form in 57 correctional facilities with approximately 300 volunteers. Additionally,

“We push the inmates to ask, ‘What does the Bible say?’”

several Seventh-day Adventists are serving as prison chaplains in Florida.

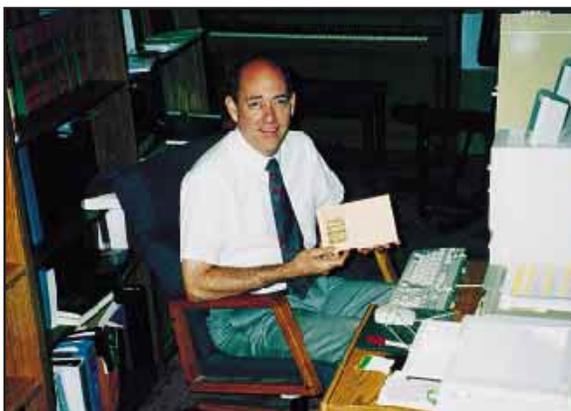
“Our purpose is to uplift Jesus,” explains Barton, who retired in 1989 to direct the all-volunteer ministry in Florida. “We push [the inmates] to ask, ‘What does the Bible say?’”

Services by Florida prison ministries emphasize personal study. Each week, inmates recite a challenge/commitment, part of which says, “If the Bible says it, I believe it. If God commands it, I will do it. If it’s good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for me. Study, study, study God’s Word daily.”

Barton says the ministry needs literature and volunteers. He invites interested members to study *Matthew 25:36*.

Training for prison ministries is available through the Conference.

—Jane Allen



FRANK BARTON

Dennis McKeever, a Lady Lake church member, is editor of *Regeneration Fellowship Newsletter* for inmates and volunteers in Florida prison ministries. In addition, the ministry offers an audio/video library and is placing several books in prison libraries, including some *Spirit of Prophecy* volumes such as the *Conflict of the Ages* series.



The Teacher From Outer Space

Adventist Education for the 21st Century

Watch for an upcoming issue of *Southern Tidings* with more details

Vietnamese Church Celebrates Ordination With Firecrackers

Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventist pastors from across the country came to witness and celebrate the ordination ceremony of Nghia Xuan Pham on November 16, 1996.

What made this ordination so unique? Firecrackers were set off at this one. "Firecrackers show the happiness of the occasion—like our New Year's, weddings, and promotions," said Pastor Thien Pham, se-

nior pastor of the 85-member Orlando Vietnamese church. "It's like when a Buddhist priest is ordained [in Vietnam]. It's a very big celebration."

"People came from Oregon, California, New York, and all the way from Vietnam to observe this very happy event," says Pham. "Even Vietnamese ministers from other denominations in Orlando attended, including the Orlando Vietnamese Baptist Church, a Vietnamese Catholic Church, and the



Nghia Xuan Pham, center, and Kim Dung, his wife, during his ordination at the Orlando Vietnamese church.

Vietnamese Christian & Missionary Alliance Church.

"Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventists consider ordination very, very important," explains Pham.

"They all came to support this happy occasion and many who couldn't come sent beautiful flowers."

Former president of the Vietnam Mission, Sonvan Nguyen, also at-

tended the festivities.

Nghia Xuan Pham has served as assistant lay pastor of the church since 1991.

—Cindy Kurtzhals,
Lisa Ziegele

1996-97 ORDINATIONS

Watch for 1996 ordination photos in an upcoming *Southern Tidings* issue.

1996

Ed Santana: June 8—Vero Beach
Brian Pleasants: June 22—Camp Kulaqua
David Barnett: July 27—Kissimmee
Juan Sorto & Idalberto Torres: August 17—James L. Knight Convention Center, Miami
Nghia Xuam Pham: November 16—Orlando Vietnamese

1997

Joseph Manuel Rivera: January 17—Forest Lake Academy
James Rodriguez: April 12—Titusville
John VanSickle: April 26—Homestead
Dean Elias: May 3—Windermere
Edemilson Cardoso: June 21—Ft. Lauderdale Brazilian Temple
Oswaldo Olivencia: July 5—Faith Outreach Center, Tampa
Wismael Sanchez: July 5—Faith Outreach Center, Tampa

Denominational Retirees Meet



RICHARD SHEPARD

More than 135 retired denominational workers attended Florida Conference's 3rd Annual Retired Workers' Retreat at Pine Lake Retreat Center in Groveland, February 14-16.

Don Platt, vice president for Adventist Risk Management, Inc. in Silver Spring, Maryland, was a featured speaker.

He updated retirees on the latest news in health care insurance and claim-reporting procedures.

The next retirees' retreat will be held at Pine Lake Retreat Center, March 13-15, 1998. The guest speaker will be Robert Spangler, field representative for *It Is Written Television*, Simi Valley, California.

—Richard Shepard

Florida Focus On Sound

Florida Focus On Sound is an audiocassette version of the printed *Florida Focus*. It's intended for people with eyesight trouble, those too busy to read, or even those who just enjoy listening to tapes.

The authors and communication department staff read, comment, and expound on the stories in a relaxed, minimally-edited style.

The first *Florida Focus On Sound* was recorded for the February-March, 1997, issue. The April-June issue is also available, and this issue will be



KEN BRYANT

Conference Communication Director Cindy Kurtzhals, left, records a *Florida Focus On Sound* story with Publishing Director Joe Holloway, right. Production Assistant Lee Bennett, center, makes the recordings and edits them to cassette.

available in August.

Tapes are \$3 each and available from the com-

munication department.

—Cindy Kurtzhals,
A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

“The House That Love Built”

Eight months ago, the Ronald McDonald House of Orlando opened its doors to families of hospitalized children—two years after Florida Hospital donated the land for the facility.

Although the home is located near Florida Hospital Orlando, the Ronald McDonald House is a community house—the first of its kind in Central Florida open to families of all seriously ill children regardless of their hospital affiliation.

The Walt Disney Memorial Cancer Institute at Florida Hospital is expected to generate thousands of patient visits. House Manager Phil Manahan estimates that the House will serve approximately 500 to 700 families annually. To date, more than 380 families from the Ukraine, Belgium, Canada, and more than 20 states have been guests. The average daily occupancy rate is 80 percent.

When a child is hospitalized or must receive ongoing medical treatment, it is difficult for a family. In order to be close to their child, parents will often spend the night in hospital waiting rooms, while others bear the expense and imper-

sonal atmosphere of a hotel room. Many even sleep in their cars in hospital parking lots. The Ronald McDonald House provides a solution.

“Many families say that their first night’s stay at the Ronald McDonald House is often their ‘best night of sleep’ since their child has been hospitalized,” says Manahan. “They feel safe and comfortable at our House.”

The fully handicapped-accessible home is designed in a traditional Cracker style with

a wide, wraparound porch for families’ relaxation. The home has nine bedrooms with private baths and a large family-style kitchen and dining area where families are encouraged to interact.

Designed and decorated by local interior designers, rooms in the House each have their own special theme, including butterflies, the jungle, the circus, and the sea. More than 30 individual designers or design firms donated their efforts to this project, thanks to the American

Society of Interior Designers.

Four special day-rooms—efficiency-style suites—are also a vital part of the Ronald McDonald House. They are designed for children who are undergoing chemotherapy or other long-term care. These rooms provide children a few hours of rest with their loved ones, surrounded by the warm, friendly, home-like environment before traveling home.

Physicians frequently issue day furloughs allowing children to spend the day at the House “away from it all.”

Volunteers are needed to help with the reception desk, meal preparation,

“Florida Hospital is delighted to have the Ronald McDonald House as its neighbor. We contributed the land that it is built on because we believe that the missions of our two organizations are very complimentary. The Ronald McDonald House will make it possible for us to better serve the needs of children and their families.”

—Tom Werner, president, Florida Hospital

holidays, and the Share-a-Night program.

—Phil Manahan, Lisa Ziegele

Ronald McDonald House



The Ronald McDonald House of Orlando is a “home away from home” for families of critically ill children who are receiving treatment in area hospitals. The House features themed rooms which include “The Orlando Magic Room” and “The Noah’s Ark Room.”



BILL BAHM

Kids Against Drugs

Adventists in Vero Beach went to the Tabernacle Baptist Church in the city for a gymnastic show and choir concert by Tampa Adventist Academy.

The Vero Beach Adventist church invited the school to present public programs geared to teens which stressed a strong anti-drug message. Both groups also per-

formed the day before at the Sebastian River Middle School.

Spectators appreciated how young talent can be developed by sound, caring training and take a focused, relevant message to their peers.

—Bill Bahm

Conference Committee Highlights

Calendar of Events

Executive Committee Meeting May 18, 1997

VOTED to APPROVE the request of the Englewood Company to disband and to transfer membership of the members to the Venice church which is part of the district.

The Executive Committee members **DISCUSSED** its role as it relates to the Conference administration, its expectations of the Conference president, and what it believes God has in store for Florida Conference in the future.

VOTED to BEGIN the visioning process for Florida Conference using the priorities, listed below, which came from the Town Hall and the Ministers' Meetings.

- A. Revival
- B. Youth
- C. Evangelism/Church Growth
- D. Adventist Education
- E. Equipping/Training

One of the Conference Executive Committee/ Association Board of Trustees members, Nilza Machado, who was a lay member of the Committee/Board, has been employed as a teacher by the Conference, thus changing her status from layperson to employee. The Committee accepted her resignation, and invited her to serve as an invitee.

The resignation created an opening for a lay member from the West Central region.

VOTED to INVITE Grace Holloway, lay person from the West Central region, to serve on the Executive Committee and the Association Board of Trustees, replacing Nilza Machado.

VOTED to SET the Conference and Association Constituency Meeting date for October 26, 1997, at the Forest Lake Academy gymnasium.

VOTED to SET the Regional Orientation and Organization Meeting dates and locations.

See schedule on page 2.

VOTED to ADOPT "The Rest of the Way..." as the theme for the Constituency Meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting June 22, 1997

VOTED to ACCEPT the Conference and Association financial report for April, 1997, as presented by Stephan Wilson, Conference treasurer. The Conference has experienced a tithe gain of 11.5% to date.

In response to a felt need from the field for the nurturing of pastors' and evangelists' wives, it was **VOTED to ESTABLISH** a new, exempt, half-time position subject to an annual review. The position is field assistant for nurturing pastors'/evangelists' wives. The job description follows:

- A. Nurture pastors'/evangelists' wives as follows:
 1. Phone calls and encouraging notes
 2. Personal visits
 3. Giving small gifts on occasion
 4. In-touch during times of personal or family crisis
- B. Attend, with the president, pastors' area meetings, other pastors' functions such as ordinations, and ministers' meetings.
- C. Accompany the president to weekend church meetings and functions and other appointments.
- D. Assist Shepherdess ministry as counselor and one of its sponsors.

VOTED to INVITE Cheryl Retzer to serve as field assistant for nurturing pastors' and evangelists' wives, effective July 1, 1997.

VOTED to ASSIGN to the Personnel Committee the task of developing recommended policies/procedures for assisting pastors who are becoming ineffective in ministry. This would include appropriate steps which lead either to re-established competence in ministry or discontinuation of employment.

VOTED that John Appel and Glen Altermatt serve on this special Personnel Committee.

VOTED the following items with regard to the October 26, 1997 Constituency Meeting:

1. Tentative agenda for the Regional Orientation and Organization Meetings
2. Tentative agenda for the October 26, 1997 Constituency Meeting
3. Conference church delegates
4. Lewis Hendershot is to be the chairperson of each Regional Organizing Committee.
5. The first meeting of the Nominating Committee is Sunday, September 28, 1997, 3:00 p.m., Florida Conference office.

VOTED to APPROVE the request of the Lake Worth-Lantana group to be organized into a company, with district arrangements with Boynton Beach.

—Gloria Becker

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 12-14 **NAD Prayer Seminar Weekend.** Jacksonville Mandarin church. Speakers: Ruthie Jacobsen, Charles Bradford, Dick Duerksen. Details: (904) 268-7476.

Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 10, 17, 24, & 31 **North Florida Youth Vespers.** Ocala church. 6:30 p.m. Details: (352) 625-4752.

Adventist Book Center Bookmobile Schedule.

Sept. 20 Tallahassee.
Sept. 21 Perry, Lake City, Gainesville, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores.

Sept. 27 St. Petersburg.
Sept. 28-Oct. 1 Camp Kulaqua. Teacher's Convention.
Oct. 4 Naples.

Oct. 5 Ft. Myers Jr. Academy, Port Charlotte, Arcadia, Walker Memorial church, Winter Haven.

Oct. 11 West Palm Beach.
Oct. 12 Jupiter-Tequesta, Jensen Beach, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville.

Sept. 26-28. **Women's Ministries Workshop.** Pine Lake Retreat Center. Groveland. Details: (407) 644-5000 x188.

Adventist Singles Ministries Fellowship Dinners.

Sept. 27 Kress Memorial.
Oct. 11 Forest Lake and First Church of West Palm Beach.

Oct. 18 Apopka Highland.
Oct 3-5 **Filipino-American Association of Seventh-day Adventists (FAASDA) Annual Meeting.** Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 290-0641.

OCTOBER

Evangelistic Meetings.

Oct. 4-Nov. 1 Dennis Ross. North Miami.
Oct. 11-Nov. 22 Bill and Cora Waters. Titusville.
Oct. 17-Nov. 22 Lester and Zula Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley. DeLand.

Oct. 17-Nov. 22 Ric Swaningson. South Brevard.
Oct. 18-Nov. 22 Art and Margo Swaningson. Riverview.
Oct. 28-Nov. 22 Bob Goransson. Lady Lake.

Oct. 10-12 **Singles' Retreat.** Camp Kulaqua. Pre-registration/payment required. Reservation details: (904) 454-1351. Program details: Conference Family Life Director Ken Bryant, (407) 644-5000 x150.

Oct. 17-19 **Children's Ministries Convention.** Camp Kulaqua. (904) 454-2297.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 **Pathfinder CIT Retreat.** Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 644-5000 x127.

NOVEMBER

Estate Services Clinics.

Nov. 1 Ft. Lauderdale Spanish.
Nov. 2 Ft. Lauderdale.



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