

FLORIDA FOCUS

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Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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Coming
SOON

HONORING ALL OUR VETERANS—THANK YOU!

CINDY KURTZHAIS



Young Women's Retreat, ages 14-18, grades 9-12. July 26-28. Camp Kulaqua. See page 6.

JIM PALUNGAIS



Lighting Your World for God, a free, practical, soul-winning workshop by It Is Written Television's Mark and Ernestine Finley, July 25-28, Forest Lake Academy, Apopka. Materials fee: \$20. See page 8.

CINDY KURTZHAIS



Conference for Young Adult Women, ages 19-40. September 13-15. Fort Pierce. See page 6.



The spirit that makes Americans brave and America great was evident in the tears that traced their way down the cheeks of the Camp Meeting audience on Memorial Day, May 27.

Two U.S. Marines raised a 15'x21' American flag while Noel Shanko, assistant to the president, shared the stories of three Adventist heroes.

Air Force Captain **Charles Ferguson**, *top left*, Gainesville member, was the first pilot shot down over North Vietnam who evaded capture and was able to get back to American lines. Friendly Laotian tribesmen found him and took him from village to vil-

lage towards safety. Finally able to send up a red flare, he was picked up by an American

helicopter. Ferguson's F-100 was one of 3,339 fixed wing aircraft lost during the Vietnam Conflict.

George Janssen, *center*, Forest Lake member, was part of General George Patton's Third Army. He speaks with deep emotion at seeing the bodies of young American soldiers piled up under trees. Because there were no body bags, they were put in mattress covers, loaded on trucks, carried to the rear,

and hastily buried in shallow graves. Janssen holds four Overseas Service decorations and five Battle Stars from the Normandy Invasion, Northern France, the Rhineland, a major central European battle, and Battle of the Bulge.

Don Hann, *top right*, Forest Lake member, was a Marine paratrooper and flame thrower. He helped invade the most costly piece of real estate

—continued on page 2



PHOTOS: WALTER MAIER

THE SUCCESS OF PATHFINDERS—LONG-TIME LAY LEADERS



PHOTOS: WALTER MAIER

Linda Haines, left, receives a Pathfinder leadership service award from Conference Secretary Evan Valencia at Camp Meeting. Haines is West Area co-ordinator, Leadership Convention chairperson, the force behind modern-day Pathfinder Conventions, a leader in forming the structure of Pathfinding in west Florida, and a Bradenton church member.

Seventeen Pathfinder leaders were recognized at Camp Meeting 2002 for their significant contributions to Path-

finding and years of devotion in leading children to Jesus.

“The backbone of Pathfinder ministry in Florida is our lay lead-

ership,” says Cheeko Cotta, Conference Pathfinder director.

“Those honored represent the thousands of volunteers who, since 1952, have faithfully served while giving their time and talents to our Pathfinders.”

Conference President Lewis Hendershot introduced the recipients. —Cheeko Cotta



1. Marylyn Chung, Ocala. Instrumental in starting the Pathfinder work in south Florida.

2. Calvin and Myrlyn Brooks, Maranatha. South Area administrators, implemented modern-day Pathfinder organization in South Florida, and started Florida's Pathfinder Bible Bowl. Calvin is also director of Reveille South.

3. Chris Drechsler, Jacksonville South-point. Director for 26 years, key in starting work in north Florida.

4. Raymond and Grace Holloway, Apopka Highland. Started Counselors in Training (CIT).

5. Carol Koch, New Port Richey. Wrote sev-

eral Pathfinder manuals with Grace Norris, her mother, and served as director at New Port Richey for 25 years.

6. Jim and Gloria Minks, Miami Temple. Served 20 years and led in organizing clubs in south Florida.

7. Jack and Joanne NeSmith, Tampa First. Joanne was a member of Florida's first Pathfinder club—Tampa—and served many years on the Conference Pathfinder Advisory Committee. Jack was

first West Area coordinator and helped organize many new clubs.

8. José and Anna Rivera, Forest Lake. José started the Hispanic Pathfinder work in Florida, is director of Reveille North and the Master Guide program, and serves on the Pathfinder Advisory Committee. Anna has served as a Pathfinder counselor and assisted José with the Hispanic Pathfinder work.

9. Bennie and Emma Lee Tillman, Apopka

Highland. Bennie was on the first Pathfinder mission trip to Central America. He served on the Pathfinder Advisory Committee since its inception in 1973, was an area Pathfinder coordinator, and has authored many Pathfinder manuals. Emma Lee began Florida's Adventurer and Little Lamb programs.

10. Jeanne Wolfe, Forest Lake. Instrumental in starting Pathfinding in the Central Area, helped

start the Island Navigator program, and was a long-time secretary in the Conference Pathfinder department.

—Cheeko Cotta

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VETERANS —from p. 1

in terms of human life—the 5-mile-long island of Iwo Jima. Marine lives lost: 6,821.

U.S. demolition

squads were to blow up massive Japanese tunnels and caves. During one mission, he packed a charge about the size of a football, pressed in the detonation cap, lit

the fuse, and threw it into a large cave.

The 252-man company didn't know they were on top of an enemy ammunition supply dump. “It was like being

on top of a volcano,” he said. All but 19 were killed or wounded. Hann was later decorated with two purple hearts.

—Noel Shanko

90 JUNIORS MAKE DECISIONS FOR JESUS AND BAPTISM



WALTER MAIER

Frank Hernandez, center, a musically talented Disney employee and Forest Lake member, led song service in the Junior division each day with a select group of children who were accompanied by bass guitar, mandolin, piano, and harmonica.

A highlight in the Junior division at Camp Meeting came on the final weekend when 90 children made decisions for baptism.

“What a year! It was the best ever,” says Jamie Litchfield, Lakeland pastor, who with Carol, his wife, completed their 11th year in the Junior department. “This was the first year a layperson lead out. Jan Sherer and her assistant, Jasmine Samuels, worked with such enthusiasm they inspired our pastoral staff assigned to help.”

Sherer and Samuels, both volunteers and members of the Forest Lake church, began making plans in January. Before and during Camp Meeting, they took a week-and-a-half off from their jobs to fully dedicate their time

to the Junior division.

“Our room was decorated like an Army boot camp, including camouflaged tents, and we named it *Camp Victory*,” says Sherer. “How appropriate that name sounded when, by week’s end, the revival preaching of Tony

“WE PRAY THESE PROGRAMS WILL HELP PREPARE CHILDREN FOR JESUS’ SOON COMING.”

Mavrokos impressed 90 children to enlist as soldiers of Christ through baptism.”

Mavrokos, a Vietnam Air Force veteran and evangelist for the Chesapeake Conference, spent the week instructing the young recruits how to prepare themselves, and help others prepare, for Jesus’ soon coming.

Division leaders planned to have 60-75 Juniors during the week, yet an average of 95-100 came each evening and 150 packed *Camp Victory* on Sabbaths.

Myrna Wright, Florida Conference assistant director of children’s ministries, recognized something unique this year in the Junior division that she believes had a direct spiritual impact on the leaders and the children.

“Each evening, supper was served in the Junior room for the staff,” she says. “This brought them together for fellowship, prayer, and planning before the program began.”

Wright also saw the dedication of the volunteer leaders and their assistants in all the Sabbath school divisions as they worked tirelessly the five days prior to Camp Meeting.

“The number of hours spent in preparation was unbelievable! Their efforts really showed in the thrilling programs and creative props in each of the children’s divisions.”

—Myrna Wright, Martin Butler

NEW CREDIT UNION UNDERWAY

The Conference Executive Committee has approved the filing of an application for a new credit union for Florida Conference members. This will be an exciting, low-cost financial service for members offering higher-than-market rates on deposits and lower-than-market rates on loans; free ATM/debit cards; free checking accounts; and free bank-by-mail, direct deposit, and payroll deduction. Deposits will be federally insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration—the credit union equivalent of FDIC.

Membership will be available initially to members and employees who reside in Seminole and Orange Counties. This narrow geo-

graphic base is determined by State of Florida guidelines and parameters. “Once the charter is granted, the credit union is established and up and running, then we’ll petition the State to expand the charter to include every member in Florida,” said

Randee Reynolds, Conference treasurer.

Soon, you may receive an important questionnaire from Florida Conference. Please complete the form and return it to the Treasurer as soon as possible—this is a part of the charter application process.

To aid in the success of this credit union, also indicate what services you will want *your own* credit union to offer.

—Randee Reynolds

FLORIDA ADVENTIST CREDIT UNION

NEWS NOTE

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH—

Three students have graduated from the Bible Correspondence School. Seven new students have signed up for Bible lessons after reading an ad in the St. Augustine Record.

—Eleanor Hill

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MARRIAGE COMMITMENT RETREAT—MAY 17-19



Relating how they got acquainted



Sharing love letters

PHOTOS: GLADYS NEIGEL



“With this rose...”

Thirty-nine couples with marriages from four days to 52 years attended the English-language Marriage Retreat at Camp Kulaqua.

Ken and Helen Bryant, Conference family life directors, introduced the weekend with the following quotation: “Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts

and lives.” —*Ministry of Healing, page 352.*

Each participant took the 16 PF Personality Inventory that scored how personality traits affect a marriage. One additional benefit of this test was the charting of stress levels in the body that act as warning signs for heart attacks and strokes.

- “I know I haven’t said this for a long time, but I want you to know that I love you,” affirmed one husband to his wife



have told everyone about the program.

- Sammy and Amanda

Rodriguez from the Gainesville church were baptized in the spring on Sabbath afternoon and then recommit-
ted themselves to each other in the re-
newal of their wed-
ding vows on
Saturday evening.

Not only were wed-
ding vows renewed for
each couple, but a re-
commitment to Christ
was made during the
communion service.

The heart-shaped
communion bread was
broken in half by the
husband to share with
his wife as the wife
shared her goblet of
grape juice with her
husband.

As two candle flames
became one, couples
joined in a tender
embrace as they recon-
secrated their marriage
and their lives to Christ.

—Gladys Neigel

at the banquet.

This couple had
been separated for
six months. Now,
through the encour-
agement of a fellow
church member to
attend the retreat,
they were starting
to rebuild their
marriage.

- Ademil and Danielle
Castrillo are a non-
Adventist couple
who thoroughly en-
joyed the retreat and

**NEXT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MARRIAGE RETREAT
OCTOBER 18-20, 2002**

**NEXT SPANISH-LANGUAGE MARRIAGE RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2002**

COUPLES HAVE QUALITY TIME AT SPANISH-LANGUAGE MARRIAGE RETREAT

Twenty-six couples spent May 17-20 at Pine Lake Retreat for the third Spanish-language Marriage Retreat conducted this year by Luis Moreno, pastor of Kissimmee Spanish church, and Luisa, his wife.

“The retreat helped couples strengthen their marriages by re-
viewing the Biblical

foundation of the Christian family, rediscovering the joys of intimacy, and improving communication,” said Moreno.

Couples attended presentations, spent time alone, and re-
newed their marriage
vows at a banquet. Per-
sonal counseling ses-
sions were available.

“What I liked was the opportunity for

couples to spend qual-
ity time with each
other,” said Robert
Travieso, from
Kissimmee Spanish
church, who attended
with Ladilia, his wife.

This was the second
retreat for Reuben and
Paola Contreras of
Gainesville Spanish
church. “Every couple
should attend every
year,” said Reuben.

Emilio de Leon, pas-

tor of the
Brandon
Spanish
church,
knows how
marriage
retreats can
strengthen
the Church.
Nine couples
from Bran-
don attended.

The Morenos will
conduct another re-
treat at Pine Lake in



Instructors Luisa and Luis Moreno

September and one
in the Miami area in
November.

—Lynn Sauls

YOUNG AT HEART PLAY AT CAMP KULAQUA



Playing croquet...



...enjoying a garden trip in Gainesville...



...eating delicious food

PHOTOS: COURTESY CAMP KULAQUA

Florida's Young at Heart take their motto seriously: "We don't stop playing because we grow old—we grow old because we stop playing."

Each year, Camp Kulaqua hosts spring and fall Young at Heart Retreats (formerly Senior Citizen Camps) for members age 50+ where camp staff places

the emphasis on fun.

Vince and Alvina Cinquemani, Forest Lake church members from Apopka, have attended for the past nine years. "In my estimation, this retreat is a real deal and an experience I wouldn't miss," says Alvina. "The package price includes everything: meals, lodging, and all the fun stuff like mini-golf, go-carts,

shuffleboard, horseback riding, and canoeing. We have a great time!"

Other popular activities during the Sunday-Thursday gathering include guided morning walks, aerobic classes, massage therapy, inspiring devotionals and music, antique excursions, a banquet and variety show, day trips, puzzles, and table games.

"I enjoy breaking my isolation barrier to have fellowship with old friends and make new ones," says Berniece Litchfield, Florida Living member. "The camp staff plans all the activities and we are truly their guests."

This personal touch is the aim of camp staff with every group that visits Kulaqua. Their reward comes from visi-

tors, such as Young at Heart members, who say "this is one of the best camps Kulaqua offers" and "this is the best kept secret in Florida."

NEXT RETREAT

Oct. 13-17. Registration: (386) 454-1351; fax—(386) 454-7971; registrar@campkulaqua.com; or www.campkulaqua.com —Carol Eldridge Filomena

OUTDOOR CLUB ENJOYS BREAK IN ROUTINE

Florida Outdoor Club members anticipate the opening weekend of their next camping season, September 13-15, 2002.

They'll hook up their travel trailers, climb into their motor homes, load fresh fruit and vegetables on board, and head for the Baptist Youth Camp near Groveland, 45 minutes east of Orlando. Fifteen to 23 recreational vehicles arrive from a 100-mile radius for each gathering.

"My husband, George, and I really

look forward to this break in our routine from home and church responsibilities," says Marge Woodruff, Deltona church member. "We enjoy that big circle of chairs around the campfire under the shady oak trees where we visit, sing, pray, and discuss the Sabbath school lesson."

One of the first to arrive at camp each time is Bernita Wedel, Apopka Highland member, who received the "perfect attendance award" in 2001 for not

missing a single weekend. The 85-year-old camping enthusiast, pictured top right, pulls in with her 12-foot Scamp travel trailer on Thursday to settle in before the others arrive. Her friend, Minnie Belle Servoss, 89, Howie-in-the-Hills member, sold her conversion van a few years ago yet still drives her car over on Sabbath to enjoy the music, mission reports, nature features, food, and fellowship.

Servoss served as co-president of the club after Bernita's husband, Fred, passed away. Fred was president for five years. Les and Pat Randall, Kress Memorial members, became leaders 11 years ago.

Club members have given thousands of dollars to purchase Bibles

for India and inmates reached by Florida Prison Ministries. They've also sent special donations to Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

To join the club, call Les and Pat Randall, (407) 774-8945.

—Murra Wager, Marge Woodruff, Martin Butler



ERNIE SPEAKMAN



PAT RANDALL



PAT RANDALL



DAVID RICKER

GIRLS GATHER TO KNOW GOD

Last year, young women ages 14 to 18 attended the first annual Gathering of Girls Retreat and learned they were “Free 2 B Me.” This year, those who take part in the event will have a chance to “Get Away with God.”

“Girls in this age group are often drifting around in this hectic world with no real anchor and lots of things to distract them from what’s really important in life,” said Sheryal Vandenberghe, Conference director, department of women’s ministries.

“We want to teach the girls how to develop a personal relationship with God and instill a desire in them to have daily personal devotions. The retreat will help them walk away with a newly developed, or closer, relationship with God—and bonds to their “sister” that will last throughout their lives.”

Vandenberghe said the spiritual gathering was designed to get high school girls interested in women’s ministries “and develop the passion for it.” In its first year, the Gathering of Girls Retreat attracted 50 young women. “This year, the goal is to reach twice that number, hopefully even more,” she said.

The retreat is July 26-28 at Camp Kulaqua, located in High Springs in north Florida on 600 beautiful acres



PHOTOS: CINDY KURTZHALS



of pine forest, majestic oaks, and pristine springs.

“We want to nurture them—and help them realize the joy of nurturing others,” she said of the young women who attend the retreat.

—Donna Gable-Hatch

HOPE FOR THE HURTING HEART

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES AIMS TO END PAIN OF ABUSE



BYRON VOORHEIS

Stillwaters Lodge—a place to find hope and peace.

It can spiral through a family and trash lives like a Category 5 hurricane ripping through a trailer park. And, for some women, there seems to be no escape from the memories of a volatile and sexually abusive childhood.

But there is hope—in the warm embrace of a loving God and those who care and share at the Hope for the Hurting Hearts Retreat, a weekend seminar for survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

“This is an educational seminar that helps participants gain a vision of the healing process, empowers them in the recovery process, and gives them hope in that process,” says Sheryal Vandenberghe, director, Conference department of women’s ministries.

“The goal is to give the attendees hope that they can go forward and live a happy, active, vital life in spite of the trauma of their childhood—and to provide

resources for them to utilize when they return home.”

The event is August 2-4 at Camp Kulaqua’s Stillwaters Lodge, High Springs. The weekend will be led by Florida Hospital Chaplains Juanita Mayer Bartel and Roberta Fish.

Fish, a registered nurse, completed her master’s degree in social work and worked for 11 years as a psy-

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE ‘CLEANSING OUR WOUNDS’ TIME ELEMENTS OF HEALING

chotherapist. This includes six years in private practice. Bartel has been a chaplain for 17 years and uses her theology and master’s degree in counseling for oncology and addiction recovery.

Space is limited to 15-20. Additional retreats may be scheduled based on the response. Reservations are required, (407) 644-5000 x118 or 134.

—Donna Gable-Hatch

PROFESSIONAL YOUNG ADULTS



Second Annual Conference for Young Adult Women: “Joyful Journeys”—ages 19-40. Sept. 13-15. Radisson Inn—Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce. Details: (407) 644-5000 x188.

PHOTOS: CINDY KURTZHALS

Congratulations Graduates!

FOREST LAKE ACADEMY MAKES HISTORY



CINDY KURTZHALS

Seniors celebrate: Getlyne Cherelus, left, Ashley Caudill, and Erik Castleberg.

“This year’s graduating class was one of the best I’ve ever seen,” says John Wheaton, principal. “In terms of leader-

ship, they were amazing. In terms of academics, they excelled.”

Forest Lake Academy graduated 166 seniors, the largest class in

school history, during its 83rd annual commencement exercises, May 17-18, 2002. This exceeded last year’s previous record of 146.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Nearly \$1 million total in student scholarships was awarded by Southern Adventist University, Oakwood College, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, AT&T Communication Workers of America, Amway Corporation, and University of Florida.

- ❖ President’s Award for Educational Excellence from George W. Bush to 32 graduates with a 3.5 or above GPA and at least an 85 percentile score on SAT or ACT tests.

- ❖ Academic Honors Achievements: 15 seniors maintained a 4.0 GPA all four years of high school.

- ❖ Valedictorian: Karen Ong. Salutatorians: Chris Armstrong, Luyi Kao, David Miller, and

Robert Quigley.

- ❖ 2002 National Merit Scholarship Program: Karen Ong, finalist, and \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship recipient; Christopher Armstrong, finalist; Darin Rampton, commended scholar.

- ❖ 2002 National Achievement Scholarship Program: Dwayne Gordon, semifinalist; Tiffany Forde, outstanding participant; Valerie Laroche, outstanding participant.

- ❖ 2002 Ventures Scholar Program: Ean Nugent.

- ❖ Class president and Senior of the Year: Natesha Manoucheri.

- ❖ Sixteen distance learning (AE21) students were among the 166 graduates. The seven four-year seniors marched with the class.

GREATER MIAMI ACADEMY GRADUATES 35 SENIORS

Thirty-five seniors at Greater Miami Academy (GMA) marched down an orchid-lined walkway in a milestone graduation, May 17 and 18. The class video, with pictures from GMA’s ground-breaking, November 13, 1988, and dedication ceremonies, July 30, 1989, reminded the Commencement audience that these seniors represent the first kindergarten class to pass through GMA at

its current location.

The most poignant moment of graduation came at the end of the video as the audience read the dedication to “God’s Greatest Miracle.” This was a tribute to the courage of senior Rainier Thompson who was diagnosed with cancer just as the school year began. The class, inspired by his battle throughout the year, rejoiced with him as he marched in, cancer-free, at graduation.



FOX-MAR STUDIO

GMA seniors with class sponsors Orest Roshak, left, and Martha Morton, right.

Eugene Brewer, Florida Conference vice president for education, brought congratulatory greetings to the graduates. Lewis Hendershot, Conference president, spoke briefly Saturday night and congratulated the seniors as Dr. Roland McKenzie, principal,

and Registrar Rita Ros presented the diplomas.

Orlando Lopez, Jr., Hialeah Spanish church pastor, was Consecration service speaker. Rupert Bushner, Jr., was Baccalaureate speaker. Bushner is a favored Week of Prayer speaker and Southeastern Conference pastor at Salem

church in Pompano Beach.

The Commencement speaker was Othniel Scott, principal of Greater Miami Adventist School, and former GMA vice principal and biology teacher. The senior class especially appre-

—continued on page 12

SOUTHPOINT BAPTISM COMES AS SURPRISE

George Jones was pastoring the Osceola Forest Church of Christ, Jacksonville, Florida, when Carolyn Jackson, a member of the Jacksonville Southpoint church, invited him to attend a *Revelation Seminar* in September 1999.



Tanya and George Jones



Tanya and George Jones with David Stunkard

PHOTOS: CHRIS DRECHSLER

As he listened to Southpoint Pastor David Stunkard, Jones knew in his heart what he had to do. He told his congregation that he was joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church and would not be coming back. He was baptized November 20, 1999, and, in December, he was named an elder at Southpoint.

One month later, Bill and Sunshine Wa-

ters, Florida Conference evangelism team, came to Southpoint to hold meetings. Valerie Dumas, a member of Jones' previous church, attended with him and was baptized. Now, she serves on the social committee and as a greeter at Southpoint.

Meanwhile, Tanya, Jones' daughter, attended services at

Southpoint just to see her father, and she noticed changes in him. He was at peace with himself, much calmer, and more enjoyable to be around. Her interest in Adventism grew and, without telling her father, she began Bible studies and decided to be baptized.

Stunkard came on the platform on Sab-

bath, August 11, 2001, to reveal the unannounced baptism. Tanya's dad was called to the podium and asked to tell the congregation about the person being baptized. He looked puzzled. Then came the surprise—his daughter was called forward. A tearful embrace brought many in the

congregation to tears as they witnessed someone they had come to love about to be joined by another family member in baptism.

As Jones read the Church beliefs, Tanya accepted with a raised hand. Stunkard presented Jones with a towel and robe, then asked him to perform the baptism. With a big smile on his face and tears in his eyes, he accepted the request his daughter initiated.

Today, Jones continues to serve as an elder at Southpoint. He is also a teacher in the youth department and leads a vesper service once a month. Tanya is a member of the church's young adult drama team, *Genesis*.

—Chris Drechsler

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Forest Lake Academy, 3909 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka.
Materials: \$20. Pastors: promo material, www.iiv.org

PASTOR BREAKS ELBOW: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IS EXTENDED

When David Stunkard, Jacksonville Southpoint pastor, fell and broke his elbow and ribs last year, he didn't anticipate anything positive coming from the painful experience.

Unable to baptize new members, Stunkard turned to Head Elder Larry Lindquist for help. Lindquist expressed concern about performing such a task, then received instruction on the mechanics of baptizing and practiced on his towering

nephew, Jimmy Button. "It certainly was different in practice than in theory," says Lindquist.

Stunkard can now see how the broken elbow turned into something good. "Lindquist, a spiritual pillar in the church, believed himself unworthy of baptizing anyone," said Stunkard. "After reflecting upon the Scriptures and realizing that even deacons were able to baptize, we noted that the *Church Manual* indicates that church elders, with permission, can be



CHRIS DRECHSLER

Head Elder Larry Lindquist is shown baptizing his fifth person, Mary Agyakoma.

authorized to baptize people." Now, the entire church sees that the biblical role of spiritual leadership goes beyond the pastor and extends to elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

—David Stunkard

LAKE CITY CHURCH CONTINUES TO GROW

A handful of believers built north Florida's Lake City church in 1950, literally one piece of lumber at a time.

Clarence and Melba Tice recall those early days, when two lots were purchased for \$800, and a third was given to them.

The owner of a sawmill in neighboring Fort White, who had been a patient at Florida Hospital, was so impressed with the care he received that he donated trusses to the church. A local lumber dealer contributed boards for the roof. The church members bought block from a store in town and the owner threw in some extra blocks at no additional charge.



Newly landscaped in March, the renovated and expanded Lake City church testifies of dedicated members and God's faithfulness.

While the church was under construction, the small band of members met at the Masonic Hall which they rented for \$3 a month. A local elder served as their pastor part of the time.

Roscoe and Minnie Blanton were among the original members and, reportedly, were the first Seventh-day Adventists in Columbia County. Their



The Lake City church's upgrade loans were paid and the mortgage was burned September 29, 2001. Pictured, left, Russell Wood, head deacon; Lewis Hendershot, Florida Conference president; then pastor Ron Patterson; and Glenn Markham, head elder.

daughter, Zola Rosier, is a current Lake City member who resides at the WillowBrook assisted living facility.

The congregation has continued to grow and, in 1996, they recognized the need to either sell or build additions to the present structure. When plans to sell didn't materialize, they felt the Lord's leading to stay there and add on.

A new sanctuary, mothers' room, sound room, and new carpet in the fellowship hall followed. Members donated their interior decorating, carpentry, painting, and landscaping skills to their new house of worship.

Since completion, members have purchased property in hopes they will again burst at the seams and need to undertake

"OUR CHURCH CONTINUES TO BE A TEACHING PLACE SO WE CAN LEARN AND THEN GO OUT TOGETHER AND BRING SOULS TO THE LORD."

yet another building project. With the continued desire to reach out in their community, this need may come soon. Last fall, they hosted meetings with Marc and Sarah Swearingen, a Conference evangelism team, during which 12 individuals were baptized on October 27.

"Our church continues to be a teaching place so we can learn and then go out together and bring souls to the Lord," says Linda Wood, church communication co-director. "Our hope is that we'll need more and more buildings to hold all the saints as we prepare for the move to that 'final gathering place' when we will be with the Lord at last." —Linda Wood

RENEW 2002—OUR SPIRIT OF RENEWAL

Renew MY COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

- Through prayer
- Through the study of God's Word

Renew A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME

- Through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Through the fruit of the Spirit

Renew MY SUPPORT FOR THE LORD'S WORK

- Through stewardship of tithes and offerings
- Through using my time, talents, and spiritual gifts

Renew MY PASSION TO PROCLAIM THE ADVENT MESSAGE

- Through meeting people's needs
- Through sharing my witness

FRANÇAIS—

Le Renouveau De mon support au travail du Seigneur par

- La fidélité dans les dîmes et les offrandes
- L'emploi judicieux de mon temps, mes talents, et les dons spirituels

PILIPINO—

Pagpapanibago Ng Aking Pagtangkilik sa Gawain ng Panginoon

- Sa pagiging katiwala ng ikapu at mga handog
- Sa pag-gamit ko ng aking panahon, mga talento, at mga kaloob ng espiritu

VIETNAMESE—

Làm môi lại Tinh thần hầu việc Chúa

- Bằng sự dâng hiến phần mười và các của dâng
- Bằng sự dâng hiến thì giờ, tài năng và sức lực

GUJOSLAVIAN—

Obnoviti Podršku Delu

- Dragovoljnim davanjem desetaka i prinosa
- Pravilnom upotrebom vremena, talenata i duhovnih darova

KOREAN—

주님의 사업에 대한 나의 협력을 새롭게 하소서

- 십일조와 헌금을 통한 청지기로서
- 나의 시간, 재능 그리고 영적 은사를 통하여

ESPAÑOL—

Renovando Mi apoyo a la obra del Señor

- A través de la mayordomía en los diezmos y ofrendas
- A través del uso del tiempo, talentos y dones espirituales

PORTUGUÊS—

Renovar Meu Apoio à Obra do Senhor

- Através da devolução de dízimos e ofertas
- Através do uso de meu tempo, talentos, e dons espirituais



Department of Communication

Ministry helps and resources are available to members from Conference departments. Most issues of Florida Focus will contain a departmental report or summary.

COMMUNICATING EVERYWHERE Internally and Externally—

- The department:
- communicates with constituents for the Administration
 - serves as a resource for pastors, Conference office departmental directors, and support staff
 - trains local church communication directors
 - communicates with

communities in Florida about the Church—directly or through local church communication directors.

PART OF THE SOUL-WINNING TEAM

“The name Seventh-day Adventist carries the true features of our faith in front and will convict the inquiring mind.” —*Testimonies, Vol. 1, p. 224.* Taking the name “Seventh-day



Cindy Kurtzhals,
director

Adventist” to the public is part of the evangelistic work of the department.

Through radio and television programs, the news media, and relationships of members in civic organizations—awareness, credibility, and trust is created—all a foundation for evangelism. If people don’t know us, how can they join us?

The name is also seen when churches have highway directional signs along the streets of their community pointing the way to their church.

FLORIDA FOCUS

Florida Focus is a newsletter prepared five times a year. It has

news of people and churches, schools and hospitals, Conference Executive Committee Highlights; and a state-wide calendar of events. Members get ideas for ministry and tithe returns increased when *Florida Focus* was implemented 17 years ago in April-May 1985.

Florida Focus helped raise \$86,750.56 evangelism dollars for Florida in 2001.

SOUTHERN TIDINGS

Southern Tidings has an entirely different collection of stories. It acquaints members with the work of the Church in the southeastern United States, serves an evangelistic function by helping to inspire members to Christian service in the community, gives a positive image of the Church to nonAdventist family members, and maintains a point of contact with inactive members.

ADVENTIST REVIEW

To broaden the knowledge of how Florida is helping to fulfill the gospel com-

mission, all *Florida Focus* and *Florida Conference Southern Tidings* articles are sent to the *Adventist Review*. All three publications are mailed to every Florida member household.

TRAINING

Annual training seminars are at Pine Lake Retreat in January for local church communication directors/teams. Training by correspondence includes news releases for communication directors to submit to the media about the opening day of school, family life programs, election of a new president, Camp Meeting, and disaster response.

Ink is a compilation of published newspaper clippings of articles sent in from communication directors.

PRODUCTS/SERVICES

- Writing, research, copy editing
- Event coverage
- Photography
- Graphic design
- Video production
- Audio/Visual
- Web site

SPREADING THE GOSPEL ACROSS FLORIDA WITH RADIO AND TELEVISION

La Voz de la Esperanza

- WAMA Radio—Tampa
- WONQ Radio—Casselberry

It Is Written Television

- WACX TV Channel 55—Orlando

The Evidence

- WACX TV Channel 55—Orlando

Divine Direction 1

- WTBN/WTWD Radio—Clearwater/Tampa

Cristo Viene 2 3

- WJAN TV Channel 41—Hialeah

Bible Answers Live 4 with Doug Batchelor

- WIOJ Radio—Jacksonville

The Voice of Hope 5

- WAVS Radio—Norland

Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN)

- TV Channel 65—Jacksonville



1

GARY BARFSCH
EDWIN RIVERA



2

MARINO YINRIO



3

EDWIN RIVERA



4

MEGAN VAN MEURS

Calendar of Events



Complete calendar online, including Singles' Ministries Events—<http://www.adventist-fl.com/calendar.html>

To receive Singles' Ministries calendar by mail—(386) 789-3235, or djm4000@n-jcenter.com

Florida Pathfinder Events—<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/>

JULY

2nd Annual Young Women's Retreat: "Gathering of Girls"—high school girls, grades 9-12, ages 14-18. July 26-28. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: (407) 644-5000 x188.

Florida Adventist Book Center. Shop online: <http://www.adventist-fl.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@southernunion.com

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule.

July 27. Maranatha; July 28. Plantation, Lauderhill. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Olivet.)

Aug. 3. Jacksonville Southpoint; Aug. 4. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville, Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Aug. 10. Naples; Aug. 11. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Walker Memorial in Avon Park, Lake View, Winter Haven.

Aug. 17. Tallahassee; Aug. 18. Perry, Cross City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Inverness.

Aug. 24. North Miami; Aug. 25. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach, Boyton-Delray. (Southeastern Conf.: Daughter of Zion.)

Sept. 7. St. Petersburg; Sept. 8. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Plant City.

Sept. 14. West Palm Beach; Sept. 15. Jensen Beach, Ft. Pierce, Melbourne, Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie.)

Evangelistic Series.

July 28-Aug. 31. Crawfordville. Ric and Dawn Swaningson.

Aug. 23-Sept. 28. DeLand. Lester Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley.

Aug. 24-Sept. 28. Homestead Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Rios.

AUGUST

"Hope for the Hurting Heart" Seminar. Aug. 2-4. Help for females who were sexually abused in childhood. Sponsored by Florida Conference department of women's ministries. Camp Kulaqua's Stillwaters Lodge, High Springs. Details: page 6 or (407) 644-5000 x188.

Filipino-American Church 20th Anniversary. Aug. 23-24.

1425 Davidson Street, Orlando, Florida. Guest speakers: Lewis Hendershot, Conference president, and Noel Shanko, assistant to the president. Details: Ely Magtanong, (407) 660-1670.

Heartache Hotel. Aug. 31-Sept. 1, South Florida. Nov. 16-17, Gulf area.

For women ages 20-40. Designed to give women support in dealing with a variety of issues from eating disorders to the inability to forgive. Hotel setting. Counselor available. Sponsored by the Conference department of women's ministries. (407) 644-5000 x188.

SEPTEMBER

Marriage Commitment Seminars.

Sept. 6-8. Spanish-language seminar at Pine Lake Retreat in Groveland. Presenters: Luis and Luisa Moreno. Cost: \$155 per couple or \$175 after Aug. 28. Registration: Naomi Perez, (407) 644-5000 x150.

Oct. 18-20. English-language seminar at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. Presenters: Ken and Helen Bryant. Cost: \$155 per couple or \$175 after Oct. 9. Registration: Naomi Perez, (407) 644-5000 x150.

2nd Annual Conference for Young Adult Women: "Joyful Journeys"—ages 19-40. Sept. 13-15. Radisson Inn—Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce. Details: (407) 644-5000 x188.

OCTOBER

Filipino-American Association (FAASDA). Oct. 4-6. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: Ely Magtanong, (407) 660-1670.

High School Bible Conference. Oct. 11-13. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: (407) 644-5000 x129.

—A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

Camp Meeting

- Bulletin inserts
- Adult and Youth Camp Meeting Brochures

- Camp News
- Co-produce Florida Family video vignettes

- Public media

Current and past projects include:

- Connected—new member brochure
- Double Duty—Southern Union Conference Revolving Fund brochure
- Planning—estate planning newsletter
- Yearbook Ads—college and academy
- Florida Advance—bulletin inserts

- For The Cause
- ¡Avancemos!
- Philanthropic Calendar
- Promote and distribute Adventist "Giving Is Caring" calendar—a daily desktop witness

Signs

- Highway signs
- Church lawn signs

AWARDS

International Angel Awards, Excellence in Media, Hollywood, California

- Four Silver Angels—Florida Focus.
- Awards of Excellence—Florida Focus.

Central Florida Press Club Awards

- Best Public Relations Campaign—101st Florida Conference Camp Meeting.

- Best Newsletter (twice)—For The Cause, youth/young adult ministries youth leadership newsletter.

- Best Newsletter—Florida Focus.

- Best Newsletter, merit award—Florida Focus.

North American Division Achievement Award

- Ministry of Communication—Cindy Kurtzhals.

AFFILIATIONS

Central Florida Press Club

- Membership and Board of Directors.

Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC)

- Members since 1989. Board of Directors, 1994-present.

—Cindy Kurtzhals



ROBERT GRAHAM



DONNA KOSTRIB



Lewis Hendershot, Conference president, and Orest Roshak, right, class sponsor, congratulate Daiany Rodrigues as she receives her diploma.

ciated his remarks about various challenges they had overcome through the years to reach this night. Student speakers included Senior Class President Evelyn Lopez and Class Valedictorian Aileen Falcon.

In the awards ceremony, Southern Adventist University presented \$27,000 in scholarships to graduates, and Bright Future Scholarships from the State of Florida went to six graduates.

—Martha Morton

STAFF CHANGES



ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Sandra Doran was voted as an associate superintendent by the Executive Committee, January 29.

Doran served as a field supervisor for the Southern New England Conference office of education, South Lancaster, Massachusetts; an adjunct faculty and student teacher supervisor at several universities and a college; interim principal, South Lancaster Academy and Browning Elementary School, South Lancaster; and principal at Cedar Brook School, Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

Doran has also been a columnist for the *Adventist Review* and *Signs of the Times*.

STUDENT LEs WELCOMED BACK TO MIAMI



Summer student literature evangelists and leaders share at Camp Meeting.

Two teams of college, university, and academy students are selling Adventist Christian MagaBooks in Miami and Jacksonville this summer—the purpose is evangelism and also to generate scholarship earnings towards their education. The teams of 23 and 18, respectively, are based at the Miami Temple and Jacksonville Mandarin churches.

“The students were a tremendous inspiration to the entire congregation, so much so that the congregation wanted them to come back this year,” said Robert Boggess, senior pastor of the Miami Temple church. “The kids’ spirit was so sweet and spiritual. They had a positive impact on the congregation and a positive influence in every single way.” —Cindy Kurtzhals

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor moves are published in *Southern Tidings* on Florida’s pages.

MARCH 26, 2002

ORGANIZED the Umatilla and First Ebenezer mission groups into company

status, sponsored by the Leesburg and Norland churches, respectively.

MAY 21, 2002

ORGANIZED the Emmanuel group into company status.

HONORING OUR RETIREES FOR THEIR YEARS OF DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

Retired in 2001

- November: **Elizabeth Stephens**
- December: **Hugo Santillana**

Retired in 2002

- April: **Frank Nieves, Mary Rogers**
- June: **Dorothy Musselwhite**

Thank you for your dedicated service. Best wishes as you begin a new chapter of your life.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE

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