

FLORIDA FOCUS

A Bi-monthly Publication of the
Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Volume 16, Number 2 • March–April 2000

JUST DO SOMETHING



CINDY KURTZHALS

“Pull!” “Move it this way!” “Watch your leg!” Seven hundred Adventist academy and public high school students from Pt. Charlotte, St. Petersburg, Ocala, Miami, Orange City, Tampa, Jacksonville, and across Florida Conference planted 100 oak and drake elm trees and 7,000 plants as part of the service component of the annual *Just Do Something* Youth Congress. It was held at Forest Lake Academy, February 17-19, 2000.

“We are custodians of God’s earth. He created it for us and you are doing God’s work today. Every one of the 100,000 cars that go past here is going to see a better world because of you. ... It’s the best day of the year for me with the kids here.”

John Sorensen
Green-Up Orlando
Coordinator

Crews for the City of Orlando brought in 19 semi-tractor trailer loads of soil, four semi-

tractor trailer loads of mulch, and \$40,000 worth of plants. This was in preparation for Adventist youth to dig

and re-plant the 2,000 square feet of flower beds at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.

This *Green-Up Orlando* project on State Road 50 was designed to give people “a bit of beauty to look at on their way to work and to help create a better place to live. It also provided a meaningful service project for kids,” said John Sorensen.

“Young people are an incredible resource for the Church,” says

Sergio Torres, associate youth/young adult ministries director.

The *Just Do Something* Youth Congress rotates between Forest Lake and Greater Miami Academies and “is an initiative that has prompted young people to become involved in their communities,” says Torres. “They have a burning desire to make a difference in our churches, in our communities, and they’re doing it.”

Students went out on Sabbath in “Spirit Vans” to help citizens in various ways, plus there were 20 *Just Do Something* Training Workshops. These included, “Getting to Know God is Really Cool,” and “How to Share Your Faith and Make A Difference in Your High School.”

Guest speakers included Tony Campolo, Gordon Retzer, and Claude Harris.

—Cindy Kurtzhal



WENDY FINLAY

Students painted five houses for Seniors First, Inc. and passed out hundreds of pieces of literature during the prayer walk on Sabbath afternoon.

A SEARCH FOR MEMBERS WITH THE GIFT OF SOUL WINNING

A search effort is underway throughout Florida Conference to identify, train, support, and provide networking opportunities for members whose gift is soul winning.

“While many of our 45,102 members are effective soul winners, we are intentionally attempting to network with those who have the gift of visiting in homes and studying Scripture with people, to become local church lay Bible instructors,” says Gordon Retzer, Florida Conference president.

“I’m thrilled with the idea of members volunteering for this specific soul-winning ministry,” he adds. “Though it’s not a new idea, it’s now on the front burner of our thinking, praying, and planning. Through this lay Bible instructor program, we are fulfilling in part, one of the voted priorities for Florida Conference: ‘Local church leaders empowered and trained for effective



MARTIN BUTLER

The MagaBook program at Forest Lake Academy provides Bible study prospects for trained lay members and students. MagaBook student leader Sarah Phillips, third from left, met Latoya Tillman, second from left, and her brother, Marcus, right, while canvassing with students. Latoya and Marcus requested Bible studies and now study weekly with Phillips; Cassi Philogene, left, a student at Forest Lake Academy; and Dixie Sandefur, second from right, a member of the Forest Lake church.

participation in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

“The strategy for the lay Bible instructors includes networking with the Southern Outreach Leadership School (SOULS), the MagaBook program, literature evangelists, and church-based Bible correspondence

schools, as well as synchronizing efforts in preparation for planned public evangelistic meetings,” says Richard O’Ffill, Florida Conference adult ministries director.

Ethan Bird, director of



JESUS URIARTE

Nearly 375 Florida Conference lay members met in Ft. Pierce, Florida, January 28-30, for the Southern Union Conference Hispanic Festival of the Laity (Primer Festival de Evangelismo Laico) where participants were trained in giving Bible studies. Guest speaker was Sergio Moctezuma, secretary of the Inter-American Division in Miami.

SOULS, located at Pine Lake Retreat in Groveland, is excited to be a part of this plan. He believes it’s a perfect match with the stated goals of the leadership school. “Our purpose is to train young people in door-to-door distribution of truth-filled literature. This will provide interests who

will be led to baptism through local church involvement in finding, preparing, and reaping,” says Bird.

As a part of their curriculum, SOULS students accompany church members in giving Bible studies—teaching them to share their personal testimonies and to invite the

Bible students to give their lives to Jesus.

Sarah Phillips and Rick Christman are MagaBook leaders at Forest Lake Academy who instruct students in sales and soul winning. The MagaBook program, coordinated by the Conference publishing department, is designed to give students an opportunity to witness in the community and earn funds for school tuition.

“It’s exciting to know that teenagers are involved in giving Bible studies and helping people to know Jesus and His way, by studying Scripture,” says Retzer. When interests are found, MagaBook

students are joined by area lay members in giving the studies.

As part of this major emphasis on soul winning, the Florida Conference Executive Committee voted December 14, 1999, to authorize hiring three retired

Church employees as lay trainers in South Florida on a stipend basis. They will work with pastors and church members in discipling lay Bible workers. It is envisioned that as funds become available, other areas of the Conference will follow with lay trainers.

—Martin Butler



JESUS URIARTE

Thirty-three Florida Hispanic pastors and 21 spouses attended the Festival of the Laity including, from left, Felix Cruz, Kendall Spanish; Demetrio Hernandez, Ebenezer Spanish; and Juan Labrador, West Palm Beach and Lake Worth Spanish churches.

DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOLS TO NETWORK WITH LAY BIBLE WORKERS



MERRY WALKER

The Discover Bible School-hosted meetings in Crystal River resulted in nine baptisms. Pictured is Pastor Paul Campoli, left, and Conference Lay Evangelist Marc Swearingen, right. Back row from left, Ken Rasmussen, Becky Howington, Don Richardson, and Lance Emerson. Front row, from left, Chris Sparks, Christina Nordell, Kenneth Blaser, Robert Berkhiser, and Rollin Eddinger.

Ninety Florida Conference churches operate Discover Bible Schools as extensions of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School in Simi Valley, California. These local schools are operated by volunteers and are generating hundreds of Bible study interests. Bible workers in training and members al-

ready involved in direct soul winning will be an integral part of the networking plan to bring these Bible School interests to a decision to unite with Christ and the Church.

The Hernando/Homosassa district, pastored by Paul Campoli, has a combined membership of only 220, yet it is a showcase networking example.

The Discover Bible Schools from both churches hosted a Prophecy Seminar last fall in the Crystal River Middle School. It was conducted by Florida Conference Lay Evangelist Marc Swearingen.

Nine people were baptized September 11, 1999. These new

members are being assimilated into church ministry by assisting in their Bible schools, taking part in Sabbath school, and serving as junior deacons.

Several of the 75 nonmembers who attended the Prophecy Seminar continue studies in advanced Bible courses and more than 200 people in the surrounding communities are enrolled in the Discover course. Lay members from both churches are a part of the visitation and Bible study teams following up interests.

When the Hernando and Homosassa churches hold another series of meetings with Swearingen this fall, the personal touch of the members will have helped prepare these interests for the evangelistic series.

—Martin Butler, Merry Walker, Herbert Browning



HERBERT BROWNING

William Bowen, left, the first graduate of the Hernando church Discover Bible School, received his graduation certificate and was baptized by Pastor Paul Campoli. Today, Bowen serves as a deacon.

AUTO DONATIONS INCREASE AT FOREST LAKE ACADEMY

The Auto Donation Program at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka recently sold 83 cars and trucks in one auction. This is the highest number of vehicles sold at the same time, according to John Shadwick, director of the eight-month-old program. The vehicles were given to benefit the Conference's boarding academy. Revenue from sales will go into the school's General Operating Fund and be allocated as needed.

"A total of 495 vehicles have been donated since the program began last August," says Shadwick. "There's been a consistent increase in donations from corporations, businesses, and the



A. LEE BENNETT, JR.

John Shadwick is the auctioneer every other Monday when Central Florida auto dealers come to Forest Lake Academy to purchase vehicles given to the Auto Donation Program.

private sector. Items recently sold include a 1990 Lincoln Town Car, a restored 1960 Ford Falcon, a fishing boat, and a sail boat."

Radio advertisements on Orlando's WDBO-AM, 580 news/talk radio and WSHE-FM, 100.3 "cool oldies" radio stations continue to reach a baby boomer audience. "We target baby boomers because this group of listeners respond to our ads and contribute to the Auto Donation Program," says Shadwick.

In addition to radio spots, advertisements in the Orlando Sentinel and neighborhood newspapers continue to bring donations.

Donation details: (407) 772-3737.

—Martin Butler

FLORIDA FOCUS

VOL. 16, No. 2
MARCH-APRIL 2000

Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
655 North Wymore Road
Winter Park, FL 32789-1715
Phone: (407) 644-5000
Fax: (407) 644-7550
<http://www.adventist-fl.com/>

PRESIDENT
Gordon Retzer

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR
Cindy Kurtzhals, Editor
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Martin Butler, Writer
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Lee Bennett, Typeset/Layout



SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP KULAQUA

HEY KIDS!—SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

May 21-26	Lifeguard Camp
May 26-29	Hispanic Youth Retreat
June 4-11	Junior I—ages 10-12
June 4-11	Horsemanship I—ages 13-16
June 11-18	Junior II—ages 10-12
June 18-25	Cub—ages 8-10
June 18-25	Horsemanship II—ages 11-15
June 18-25	Golf—ages 11-16
June 18-25	Basketball—ages 11-16
June 25-July 2	Tween—ages 12-14
July 2-9	Teen—ages 14-16
July 2-9	Horsemanship III—ages 10-13
July 16-23	Extreme Adventure, white-water rafting or waterskiing—ages 14-17

DEAR PARENTS—

"Young people today are making decisions for Christ at an early age. A recent study produced by a Christian Camping International survey discovered that more than 75% of people who first committed their lives to Christ, did so at a summer camp or retreat center," says Phil Younts, camp ministries administrative director.

"Summer Camp provides a week-long evangelistic meeting that is full of outdoor fun, making new friends, and finding a better relationship with Jesus Christ. Your kids won't want to miss the fun and excitement of Summer Camp 2000!"



SUMMER DAY CAMPS IN MIAMI

7 SUMMER DAY CAMPS

KIDS, K-6TH GRADE

JUNE 14-JULY 28

MONDAY-FRIDAY,
8 A.M.-5 P.M.

SPONSORED BY:
ADVENTIST
URBAN
MINISTRIES
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

GENERAL INFO:
305-225-0528

~ WEEKLY "FUN DAY" AT GREATER MIAMI ACADEMY WITH KIDS FROM ALL SEVEN SUMMER DAY CAMPS

~ RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES USING THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

~ ART & CRAFT CLASSES

~ GROUP RECREATION ~ WEEKLY FIELD TRIP

~ SWIMMING ~ LUNCH & SNACKS

TRAINED CAMP STAFF

~ DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, COUNSELORS, MEDICAL, SAFETY MANAGEMENT

~ STAFF ARE ADVENTIST COLLEGE/ACADEMY/PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

SOUTH WEST AREA
Miami Temple Church
9175 SW 44th Street
Miami • 305-223-2102

**MIAMI SPRINGS/
HIALEAH AREA**
Hialeah Spanish
102 East 15th Street
Hialeah
305-885-9007

NORTH MIAMI
North Miami Church
12800 N. Miami Ave.
North Miami
305-681-6431

LITTLE HAITI AREA
Eden French Church
7777 N. Miami Avenue
Little Haiti, Miami
305-758-6505

**LITTLE HAVANA/
DOWNTOWN
MIAMI AREA**
Miami Central Spanish
862 SW 4th Street
Little Havana, Miami
305-545-0300

**NORTH MIAMI-
DADE/OPA LOCKA**
Norland Church
1175 NW 189th Street
North Miami-Dade
305-651-7722

**SUMMER SCHOOL
SESSION JOINS IN
FIELD TRIPS**
William A. Kirlew
Junior Academy
18900 NW 32nd Ave.
Opa Locka
305-620-9523

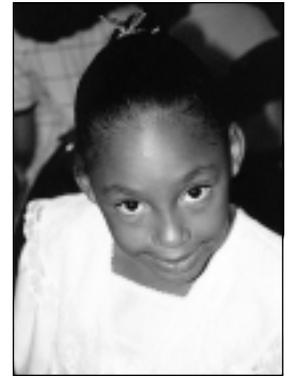


"We wanted the Church to make its presence felt in the community in which it's located. One way we do this is by providing a much-needed service to parents during the summer days," says Sergio Torres, director of Miami Adventist Urban Ministries. "Many lives are touched. We have estimated that more than 50% of the kids who attend the camps are not Seventh-day Adventists. The Camps then become their first contact with Adventism."

WE'RE GETTING CAMP MEETINGS READY FOR YOU!



PHOTOS: WALTER MAIER



"Camp Meetings are little bits of heaven as we draw nearer to our precious Lord and worship Him together. Details of the English Camp Meeting are in the insert to the left and below for the Spanish language Camp Meeting." —Gordon Retzer, president

CAMPESTRE HISPANO— JUNIO 7 AL 11 DEL 2000

Bienvenidos al camp-pestre hispano del 2000. Estoy seguro que, a través de los mensajes espirituales, los testimonios inspiradores, la música elevadora, la programación especial para niños, jovencitos y jóvenes así como también la fiesta espiritual para los adultos, seremos renovados espiritualmente.

El pastor Bohr, amplio conocedor y

sobresaliente presentador de las profecías inspirará a los adultos a vivir más cerca de Jesús de manera que pronto podamos presenciar el día más glorioso de la historia humana, cuando el Maestro de los maestros recoja a sus fieles para iniciar el viaje espacial más espectacular alguna vez imaginado.

—Jorge Mayer, coordinador de los ministerios en español

LEMA

Más cerca del hogar

TEMA

Características del remanente profético de hoy

LUGAR

Fair Expo Center de Miami-Dade County, 10901 Coral Way (SW 24th St.), Miami

FECHA

7 al 11 de junio del 2000

PROGRAMACIÓN

- ~ Miércoles a viernes: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- ~ Sábado: 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
- ~ Domingo: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

FIESTA DE LA HISPANIDAD

- Domingo 11 de junio
- ~ Desfile de banderas
 - ~ Trajes típicos
 - ~ Música folklórica de los países
 - ~ Kioscos con comida típica de cada país

ORADORES INVITADOS



Adultos: Stephen Bohr, pastor de la iglesia

Central de Fresno en California.



Jóvenes: José Cortés, pastor de la iglesia

de Hyattsville en Md.



GOAL SUMMER DAY CAMP IN ORLANDO

KIDS KINDERGARTEN-AGE 13
JUNE 5-AUGUST 4, 2000

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

SPONSORED BY: FLORIDA
CONFERENCE YOUTH/YOUNG
ADULT MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

LOCATIONS/REGISTRATION:
407-644-5000 X129

"Greater Orlando Athletic League (GOAL) is a summer boredom fighter," says Bill Crofton, Conference youth/young adult ministries director.

"Through athletics, crafts, stories, and field trips, we strive to keep your children active and give them the best experience possible."

FOREST LAKE ACADEMY MASTER PLAN: PROGRESS REPORT

Editor's Note: The Florida Conference Executive Committee voted to accept the Forest Lake Academy Master Planning Committee's recommendation which includes principles of education and a rationale for Forest Lake Academy. (Please see page 8.) In this Master Plan Progress Report, an update from the planning consultants is also included.

PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Principle #1: The educational program must be inclusive of all aspects of students' development: the physical... mental... emotional... and spiritual.

"True education has to do with the whole being. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers."—Education, p. 13

Principle #2: Service learning must be throughout the curriculum.

"The true teacher desires them, above all else, to learn life's greatest lesson of unselfish service."—Education, p. 30

Principle #3: Students must learn to know God... Not just learn about God.

"We need to know of an Almighty arm that will hold us up, of an infinite Friend that pities us. We need to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. And even so God has in His word revealed Himself."—Education, p. 133

Principle #4: Students must be taught and then permitted to think.

"It is the work of true education to develop this power—the power to think and do, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thoughts."—Education, p. 17

Principle #5: The curriculum must be organized for the individual, not the whole school.

"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children... before the student there is opened a path of continual progress... he [she] will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge."—Education, p. 18

Principle #6: Students are to be taught the value of work.

"The youth need to be taught that life means earnest work, responsibility, care-taking... they should be taught that the discipline of systematic, well-regulated labor is essential... to all-round development."—Education, p. 215

Principle #7: The rule of choice and consequences must be a guiding principle of the school.

"No truth does the Bible more clearly teach than that what we do is the result of what we are. To a great degree the experiences of life are the fruition of our own thoughts and deeds... every deed reacts upon the doer."—Education, p. 146

Principle #8: Nature and the environment are important tools of education.

"The constant contact with the mystery of life and the loveliness of nature, as well as the tenderness called forth in ministering to these beautiful objects of God's creation, tends to quicken the mind and elevate the character."—Education, p. 112

Principle #9: Students must be expected to perform to their level of capability.

"The true teacher is not satisfied with

second-rate work. He [she] is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain."—Education, p. 29

Principle #10: The teacher is to model for the students that which is taught.

"What He taught, He lived... what He taught, He was."—Education, p. 78

Principle #11: Celebrations with accompanying symbolisms are important!

"In the home and the sanctuary, through the things of nature and of art, in labor and in festivity, in sacred building and memorial stone, by methods and rites and symbols unnumbered, God gave lessons illustrating His principles."

—Education, p. 41

Principle #12: Schools must be ready and willing to change how they "do business."

"The true teacher is not content with dull thoughts, an indolent mind, or a loose memory. He [she] constantly seeks higher attainments and better methods. His [her] life is one of continual growth."

—Education, p. 279

Principle #13: Discipline is to be constructive, not punitive in design and application.

"The object of discipline is the training of the child for self-government... Let all dealing with him [her] be such as to show obedience to be just and reasonable."

—Education, p. 287

—Compiled by John Wheaton

A RATIONALE FOR FOREST LAKE ACADEMY

To be a 21st century innovative leader in the Seventh-day Adventist system of



MILLIE CHEN



TERRIE KINSLEY

Calendar of Events

APRIL

Filipino-American Church Concert. Apr. 29. 8 p.m. Performances by the Angklung Ensemble, Choir Chimes for Christ, Bells of Faith, Allan de la Cruz, the Faith Singers, and the Filipino-American youth folk dancers. Details: (407) 291-8670. E-mail: of_the_cross1@juno.com

MAY

First Annual Orlando Junior Academy (OJA) Alumni Meeting. May 6. 7 p.m. OJA gymnasium. Details: (407) 898-1251.

Florida Adventist Bookmobile—Book Center orders accepted by e-mail: emontero@southernunion.com

May 6. Jacksonville Southpoint.

May 7. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach.

May 27. Port Charlotte.

May 28. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Palmetto, Brandon, Tampa First.

June 3. Naples.

June 4. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Walker Memorial in Avon Park, Winter Haven.

June 11. North Miami, Maranatha in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale.

June 12. Plantation, Lauderhill.

June 13. Pompano Beach, Boynton Beach.

June 17. St. Petersburg.

June 18. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco, Plant City, Lakeland.

June 24. Jacksonville Southpoint.

June 25. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach.

June 28. Tallahassee.

June 29. Ocala, Silver Springs Shores. (Pre-ordered deliveries only to Perry, Lake City, Camp Kulaqua, Gainesville.)

July 8. West Palm Beach.

July 9. Jupiter-Tequesta, Jensen Beach, Fort Pierce, Melbourne, Cocoa, Titusville.

Singles' Ministries.

Fellowship Dinners.

May 13. Forest Lake.

July 8. Forest Lake.

May 27. Kress Memorial.

July 22. Kress Memorial.

June 10. Forest Lake.

July 29. Deltona First.

June 24. Kress Memorial.

Aug. 9. Forest Lake.

Seminars & Activities During Camp Meeting.

May 26-June 3. Details: (407) 644-5000 x123 or

<http://www.adventist-fl.com/campmeeting/>

Forest Lake Academy Graduation. May 19-20.

Greater Miami Academy Graduation. May 19-20.

Summer Camps—Camp Kulaqua, Miami Day Camps, and

Orlando Day Camp (GOAL). Begins May 21. See pages 4-5.

106th Annual Florida Conference Camp Meeting. May 26-June 3. Details: see *Mini Brochure* inserted between pages 4-5.

JUNE

Spanish Language Camp Meeting. June 7-11. Fair Expo Center, 10901 Coral Way (SW 24th St.), Miami. Guest speaker: Pastor Stephen Bohr, Fresno Central church, California. Youth speaker: Pastor José Cortéz, Jr., Hyattsville church, Maryland. See page 5.

JULY

Evangelistic Series.

July 7-Aug. 5. Homestead. Ric and Dawn Swaningson.

July 14-Aug. 19. Jacksonville First. Lester Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley.

July 15-Aug. 26. Jacksonville Orange Cove. Bill and Cora Waters.

—A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

education, as well as a model for other systems, Forest Lake Academy (FLA), partnering with Greater Miami Academy, will consider the needs of all secondary students in Florida Conference, providing Adventist secondary education that is “accessible and affordable” through its innovative programs and enriched curriculum.

Through its distributed education program, FLA will establish satellite magnet centers, making it possible for students to reside at home throughout their academy years. The facilities of FLA make it possible for students at the satellite magnet centers to spend blocks of time on campus, participating in assigned intensives and expanded social activities.

While boarding facilities are essential to the vision of FLA's distributed education program, there will be opportunity to observe the downward trend for “primarily boarding” schools which, in the past, have played a vital role in the Seventh-day Adventist system of education. We may be in a transition time where the need for boarding facilities is limited to a small percentage of students and to the accommodation of distributed education intensives and social functions for an increasing population of satellite magnet centers.

To be studied:

- Ways to make the boarding facilities more “family” oriented.
- Possible expansion of the Florida Hospital College dual enrollment program into the FLA distributed education program.
- Ways to create a seamless ap-

proach to all phases of the FLA program—day, boarding, distributed, and dual enrollment.

- How to create a rural setting for the academy on the present campus with a protective natural buffer from the world around us.
- Create opportunities for students to learn how to be “in the world but not of the world.” Enhance decision-making processes for academy students to allow for less of a fortress mentality and more of a reasoned process that makes for firm best choices in spite of a potentially negative environment.

—Eugene Brewer

UPDATE: PLANNING CONSULTANTS' FOCUS

The planning consultants are focusing on four main design criteria for the proposed Forest Lake Academy Master Plan to:

- Create a superior school—an educational sanctuary—with special considerations for quality of site, entry, and relationship to other uses.
- Create a Master Plan that will generate sufficient money to build and endow the school.
- Create a development plan to raise the money in a timely manner.
- Provide for a quality community image that maintains the beauty of the site, respects our adjacent neighbors, and builds value over time.

We are using these goals and the collective input from our various meetings and workshops to study options for the site.

—Pete Sechler

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 30, 2000

It was reported that more than 250 evangelistic meetings are planned in Florida Conference this year.

A report was given concerning the renewed focus on local church lay Bible instructors being trained and involved in visitation and Bible studies.

At the Hispanic *Festival of the Laity*, January 28-30 in Ft. Pierce, about 375 lay delegates from Florida Conference churches received training in giving Bible studies.

APPROVED the 2000 Conference Operating Budget. One Executive Committee member commented that approximately one-third of the total budget is allocated to our children and youth when totaling all expenses for education, Pathfinders, youth activities, summer camps, children's ministries, etc. The Committee agreed this is very positive and that it shows our commitment in Florida Conference to the younger generation.

MARCH 12, 2000

1999 YEAR-END REPORT. Each year at this particular meeting, the Executive Committee takes an in-depth look at the Church growth and financial trends for the Conference as well as for each church.

We praise the Lord that 1999 was a record year for growth:

- 2,785 joined the Church through baptism and profession of faith.
- 1999 year-end membership was 45,102, up from

30,476 in 1990.

- 1999 tithe totaled \$31,943,477, up from \$18,267,867 in 1990.
- Tithe per capita has also increased from \$599 in 1990 to \$708 in 1999.
- There were 154 churches and companies in 1990 and 192 in 1999.

INVITED Sheryal Vandenberghe to be women's ministries director. She has been serving as interim director.

INVITED Uberto Diez, accountant at Greater Miami Academy, to become one of the Conference auditors. He replaces John Gilbert who retired. Diez will live in Miami and primarily work in South Florida.

APPROVED the organization of seven new churches:

- Ambassador
- Communities West
- New Community
- Palmetto-Tampa Spanish
- Pine Hills Spanish
- Poinciana Spanish
- Sunrise

APPROVED the organization of the Shekinah French mission group into a company.

APPROVED the 1999 Financial Audit for the Adventist Book Center. The Book Center is operating a very successful program and the service is greatly appreciated by the members of Florida Conference.

ACCEPTED the recommendation of the Forest Lake Academy (FLA) Master Planning Committee to approve 13 Principles of Education from the book *Education* by Ellen G. White and that these principles will instruct the planning process for secondary education in the Florida Conference. *See page 6.*

ACCEPTED the recommendation from the FLA Planning Committee to approve the vision statement for a rationale for Forest Lake Academy. It calls for FLA to be an innovative leader in Adventist education by establishing satellite magnet schools in various centers in the Conference which would, through distributed education, give more opportunity for secondary students to have an Adventist education. *See page 6-7.*

ACROAMERICA PERFORMS AT NBA GAME



The Greater Miami Academy (GMA) Acroamerica Gymnastics Team performed for about 10,000 sports fans during halftime of the Miami Heat vs. Philadelphia 76ers National Basketball Association game on December 1, 1999. "This was a tremendous opportunity for GMA to make a positive impression for our Church," said Juan León, physical education teacher and gymnastics coach.



FLORIDA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
P.O. BOX 2626
WINTER PARK, FL 32790-2626
(407) 644-5000
FAX: (407) 644-7550
WEB: <http://www.adventist-fl.com/>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #4190
ORLANDO, FL