

# FLORIDA FOCUS

A Quarterly Publication of the  
Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
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## TEENAGERS TAKE SENIORS UNDER THEIR WINGS

STUDENTS FROM EAST PASCO ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL CENTER SPEND QUALITY TIME EACH WEEK WITH THEIR ADOPTED GRANDPARENTS



ST. PETERSBURG TIMES PHOTO, TONI L. SANDYS

**Stephanie Larkin, 14, a freshman at East Pasco Adventist Educational Center, gets a goodbye hug from her adopted grandmother Gwen Burns, 75, who lives at SunPointe Senior Living Edwinola in Dade City.**

You hear it all the time—what's wrong with today's kids? But some Pasco teenagers reach out and show what's right.

At first glance, the porch of SunPointe Senior Living Edwinola in Dade City seems to be filled with rocking seniors. Look closer and you see that every

other rocker is occupied by a teen.

Ninth- and 10th-graders from East Pasco Adventist Educational Center are here for the adopt-a-grandparent program. The program is part of the school's curriculum and each week since August [1998], students visit their adopted grandparents

for a game of Scrabble, a walk through a nearby park, and more often just to talk.

Dee Reed, enrichment director at SunPointe, says each week 20 of their residents eagerly look forward to visits from the 20 students who each adopted a senior as a grandparent.

"They stand around

and wait for them to come," Reed said.

"When their hair appointments were scheduled at the same time the kids were coming, they all changed their appointments."

Before joining the adopt-a-grandparent program, each student is asked to write a personal mission state-

ment on their commitment to the project.

Hesitant at first, ninth-grader Stephanie Larkin, 14, was unsure about getting involved and did not think she would have this good of a relationship with her adopted grandparent. Now she says she and Michigan native Mrs. Gwen Burns, 75,

—continued, page 2

**"They stand around and wait for them to come. When their hair appointments were scheduled at the same time the kids were coming, they all changed their appointments."**

Dee Reed, SunPointe  
Enrichment Director

## TEENAGERS TAKE SENIORS UNDER THEIR WINGS

—from page 1

are best friends.

“She is so sweet,” Larkin said. “She is partially blind but we still do arts and crafts together. She also enjoys walking outside and looking for the cats that live in the park.”

On Tuesday’s visit, 15-year-old Autumn Yanchunis brought Gladys Jones a stuffed animal. Jones is a former fashion model and moved to the facility after her husband of 50 years passed away. Jones says her adopted granddaughter has a big heart.

“I enjoy having her here. She has a lot of common sense and she is easy to talk with. You don’t find this in too many young people,” Jones said.

Four young men rocking at the other end of the porch talk about their adopted grandparents.

Matthew Higgins, 15, proudly says that his adopted grandmother, Bea Thompson, 97, is a Scrabble queen. Jeffrey Haugen, 14, says he introduced Jean Bohn, 92, to the game of Monopoly.

Rusty Ealy, 15, says he and 88-year-old John Knops often talk about a 1910 Model T Ford once owned by Knops.

Jesse Knight, 16, says he and 90-year-old Harold Stauff talk about the good old days when Stauff used to ride a horse to school. Knight says that his adopted grandfather is 6 foot 5 and that Stauff always wishes they had more time together.

Craig Ziesmer, principal at East Pasco Adventist Educational Center since 1982, says the adopt-a-grandparent program is part of the school’s goal of providing service to the community.

“How do you teach a kid about social conditions without them helping someone else?” Ziesmer asks. “Kids are pretty self-centered, and we try to reverse that by having them doing something for someone else. Being a Christian school, we also want to reach people because that is what Christ would do. He was involved in the social Gospel of helping others.”

Ninth- and 10th-grade students participate in the adopt-a-grandparent program. Seventh- and eighth-grade students are assigned acts of service to the school staff and to fellow students through tutoring and other activities. Last week the group landscaped and laid sod at Dade City’s newest Habitat for Humanity house.

Adventist instructor Rusty Litten echoes Ziesmer’s sentiments on the importance of serving others. Litten teaches classes in religion, physical education, and social studies.

“I feel that this is one of the most important parts of education, that young people learn that service is so important. If they learn how to serve, they will make it anywhere,” Litten said.

The East Pasco Adventist Educational Center offers classes kindergarten through 10th grade. For information about the school, call (352) 567-3646.

—Suzanne Hayes, Times Staff Writer. Reprinted by permission, St. Petersburg Times, ©November, 1998

# FLORIDA ACADEMY NETWORK SYSTEM BRINGS 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION



**Instructor Jack Carey meets with Algebra II students from Tampa and Plantation. He uses videoconferencing technology located at the distance learning headquarters in Winter Park. Thirteen disciplines are taught this year in the new Florida Academy Network System (FANS) which offers 11th grade courses.**

Florida Conference continues to partner with the North American Division Office of Education in a three-year distance learning pilot, Adventist Education for the 21st Century (AE21). Designed to bring master teachers and curriculum resources into one-teacher and isolated schools across the country, the program began in 1997 with grades 5-8. Grade 9 was added in 1998 and grade 10 in 1999.

This school year, Florida Conference also initiated the Florida Academy Network System (FANS), which offers 11th grade courses to 11 full-time students. Ten are Florida students taking their junior year at Port Charlotte Adventist School, Tampa Adventist Academy, and Broward Adventist Bilingual School (South-eastern Conference) in Plantation; one is a homeschooler from Michigan.

Teaching studios are at the Florida Conference headquarters. Elaine Plemons, director of distance learning, coordinates FANS in which 13 disciplines are taught. The venture has been a learning process—which teaching methods work best, how students interact through distance technologies, two-way video and audio as important components for students to connect with each other, the number of students one teacher can effectively handle, and the amount of technical support needed to implement new technologies.

FANS teachers meet with their students twice each semester for several days at Forest Lake Academy (FLA) in Apopka to provide extended labwork and participation in field experiences. This partnership with FLA also provides social opportunities for FANS students.

A major technology

change was made this year. Instead of using video delivery support of Lucent land line technologies, videoconferencing via internet protocol is now used. Long distance charges associated with Lucent technology have also been eliminated. This allows students to network without additional telephone charges.

A complete distance learning education curriculum through grade 12 is planned for next year.

—Eugene Brewer

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# AUTO DONATIONS PROGRAMS BENEFIT FLORIDA ACADEMIES

Central Florida commuters who get their morning drive-time news and traffic updates on 580 WDBO-AM Talk Radio were among the first to know they could donate cars, trucks, boats, and real estate to the new Forest Lake Academy (FLA) Auto Donations Program. The 60-second radio spots promote that the gifts will “benefit students attending one of the area’s finest schools.”

Radio, newspaper, and word-of-mouth advertising account for 85 donations already received. At press time, these cars, trucks, vans, and boats with trailers will be sold at an auto dealer auction set for November 8.

“We’re really excited about this program,”

says Principal John Wheaton. “This donation center gives people an opportunity to benefit from a tax-deductible contribution and at the same time provide additional funds for the Academy.” Revenue from sales will go into the school’s General Operating Fund and be allocated as needed.

John Shadwick, the Academy’s program coordinator, recently moved from the Takoma Park, Maryland, area where he built the Takoma Academy (TA) Auto Donations Program into an annual, quarter-of-a-million-dollar, profit-making industry.

“Our Worthy Student Fund is completely covered by auto donation sales and the remainder goes into



PHOTOS: MARTIN BUTLER

**John Shadwick, director of Forest Lake Academy’s Auto Donations Program, reports that even the sign on his truck has led to vehicle donations.**

the General Operations Budget,” says Karen Baldwin, Takoma Academy vice principal for finance. “With Shadwick’s proven track record, we’re expecting Forest Lake Academy’s program to do as well,” says Wheaton.

FLA has applied for a wholesale dealer’s license from the State of Florida which will authorize them to sell the donated cars to other registered dealers. “One hundred percent of the money received from sales will go directly to the school,” says Shadwick.

Meanwhile, down the Florida Turnpike, Greater Miami Academy (GMA) started a similar program. “We heard about

Takoma Academy’s Auto Donations Program earlier this year,” explains Don Watson, GMA principal. “A few people went there to talk with Shadwick and they came back very excited.” Among them was Timothy Downs, GMA development director and project coordinator, who prepared advertise-

ments and a brochure to let the community know about the school’s new fundraising program.

Since Greater Miami Academy is not zoned to sell the cars, Downs is working with Shadwick and the FLA program to help sell GMA’s 40 vehicles. As soon as the vehicles are sold, proceeds will benefit GMA’s Worthy Student Fund.

Auto donation calls are being received daily at

GMA in response to new radio spots on Miami-area stations, WLYF-FM, Light Adult Contemporary Music; WIOD-AM, News; and WINZ-AM, Supertalk.

Details: FLA, (407) 772-3737; GMA toll-free, (877) GIVECAR; Web site, [www.gma.edu](http://www.gma.edu)  
—Tamara Michalenko  
Terry, Martin Butler,  
Cindy Kurtzhals



**A Lincoln Town Car, two BMWs, and a 1967 Ford Thunderbird are among the vehicles waiting to be sold by the Auto Donations Program.**

WHAT'S HOT—WHAT'S NOT FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM?

# INGATHERING IS OUT—ADRA ANNUAL APPEAL IS IN

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Annual Appeal is a new-millennium approach to raising funds for humanitarian causes just as Harvest Ingathering was on the cutting edge when Jasper Wayne asked friends and neighbors for donations 100 years ago. Ingathering, through the years, has resulted in tens of millions of dollars for special church projects worldwide.

“ADRA is respected worldwide for humanitarian work, so I don’t know of a better way to invite the public to join us in helping people,” says Richard O’Ffill, Florida Conference community services director. A full-page advertisement in *USA Today* about the ADRA Annual Appeal is part of a November nation-

al media campaign. The objectives of the new ADRA Annual Appeal seek to enhance the impact which the Ingathering campaign began. This approach will provide higher visibility for the Church by involving members not only in fundraising, but in community humanitarian causes. These programs will then open doors of opportunity for spiritual ministry.

“Fifty percent of all that is raised and donated in Florida for this Appeal will go toward the caring of people in Florida,” adds Gordon Retzer, Florida Conference president. “This includes services such as day camps, tutoring, disaster response, drug education, and other community develop-

ment initiatives.”

A number of Florida Conference churches began their campaigns

in early October with others scheduled to run at different times between now and the

end of December. Members will participate in the campaign by actively soliciting funds or by giving personal donations.

“I’m truly excited about this new approach,” says Retzer. “Many of our members are touched and respond to the needs of

other organizations that advertise nationally. Through the national advertising efforts of the North American Division, we will be much more visible in the community this fall.

“Let’s give others the opportunity to give to the ADRA Annual Appeal—and let’s be intentional about providing for the needs of people in our communities, and the needy in other parts of the world.”

—Martin Butler



Attractive brochures and promotional materials will help raise funds for humanitarian work in Florida and overseas. Learn more at <http://www.adraannualappeal.org/>

## DELTONA STUDENTS RAISE \$8,003; CONSIDER INGATHERING A PRIVILEGE

If Harvest Ingathering had a fan club, membership was definitely on the decline in recent years. One exception is an unlikely group of new fans—students from the Deltona Adventist Church School. Twelve students from grades 4-8 raised \$5,364 in 1997. Last year, 17 students raised \$8,003 in nine days.

Now, with the new ADRA Annual Appeal



DARLENE MEYER

materials in hand, they are outside again at nine area Winn Dixie locations and the Wal-Mart store in Orange City where they will solicit up to four hours a

day, four days a week.

It’s hard to imagine a school where misbehavior or unfinished homework can result in a loss of the privilege to go Ingathering.

Yet, that’s the case at Deltona. Students don’t want to miss out.

“There are many factors involved in their enthusiasm,” says Principal Darlene Meyer. “It’s fun for them to be together, eat together, and to meet people while they raise money to help those in need. They realize they represent Christ and the Church. Before we head out each day, a prayer is offered to ask for God’s blessing and a chance to talk to someone about the One we represent.” The children are instructed to be cheerful

and polite even when their appeals are met with rejection. Often when someone responds with a “no,” the pleasant “thanks anyway, have a nice day” results in a change of mind and a donation.

Though students handle the solicitation responsibilities, Meyer says that without the team effort of adult members, the project wouldn’t happen. More than 50 volunteers help with organization, transportation, food preparation, and security for the children.

—Martin Butler

# Estate Services Department

Since the last Constituency Meeting of October 26, 1997, Florida Focus has contained departmental reports of how the gospel is being furthered in Florida. Updated statistics for the estate services department are included in this report. Also, please refer to the practical, estate planning brochure inserted here, to your left. —The next Constituency Meeting is September 24, 2000.



**Floyd Powell, director**

The ministry of the estate services department is to assist Florida Conference members in their extended stewardship on behalf of their family and their Church. This is done by providing various documents and assisting members in obtaining competent legal counsel.

## STAFF CHANGES

Since the last triennium, two staff members retired, Don Aldridge and Doris May. Two new staff members joined the department to replace

them: Robert Seal, Florida Conference Association secretary and probate attorney, who works with the probating of estates; and Eugene Torres, estate services representative.

The entire estate services staff is certified by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the department continues to retain its "A" rating accreditation.

## ESTATE SERVICES CLINICS

Estate Services clinics continue to be conducted in churches throughout Florida

Conference. During the triennium, 109 clinics were held and the department assisted in the preparation of approximately 1,600 documents. These constituent-based services exceed all services from any prior triennium.

## ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

From the estates which have been administered, the following distributions have been made:

- Florida Conference Association,



**Robert Seal, probate attorney**



**José LeGrand, field representative**



**Eugene Torres, field representative**

- \$1,961,265.
- Florida Conference local churches, \$976,778.
- Other Seventh-day Adventist entities, \$438,723.
- Family members, etc., \$1,277,346.
- Total, \$4,654,112.

## SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE REVOLVING FUND

The Southern Union Conference Revolving Fund has proved to be a genuine source of help to constituents. Florida Conference churches and schools have saved thousands of dollars in building and renovation projects because of 1) the ability to bor-

row funds at lower interest rates than could be obtained from commercial lending institutions, and 2) the ability to be assessed much lower loan fees.

The fund also serves as an investment vehicle which is secure, liquid, and yields a fair return of 5%. Deposits have averaged \$6,027 per day for a total of \$6,605,180 in deposits so far, this triennium.

It is a privilege for us to work in the estate services department to serve you in obtaining help for your estate planning needs, managing one's estate during life, and managing one's estate after life.

## UPDATED STATISTICS 1997-AUGUST, 1999

The following distributions have been made during the current triennium:

- Florida Conference Association, \$1,494,355.
- Florida Conference local churches, \$478,784.
- Other Seventh-

day Adventist entities, \$288,120.

- Family members, etc., \$1,345,422.
- Total, \$3,606,680.

Currently, Southern Union Conference Revolving Fund deposits have averaged \$7,292 per day—a total of \$6,992,678.

**Thank you, Florida members, for your deposits into the Southern Union Conference Revolving Fund since the last Florida Focus. President Gordon Retzer shared how members can receive 5% on deposits. These funds are then loaned to churches and schools for building and renovation projects. Tens of thousands of dollars in interest and bank fees can be saved over the life of a loan. The Double Duty brochure, left, was also enclosed in the last Florida Focus. Need another copy? Call (407) 644-5000 x186, e-mail your request to [102555.1016@compuserve.com](mailto:102555.1016@compuserve.com), or visit the estate services web site, <http://www.adventist-fl.com/estateservices/>**

—Cindy Kurtzhals, Editor

How your money can do

## Double duty

Helping you build a nest egg, while helping your Church build the future.

The Southern Union Conference Revolving Fund

# EVANGELISM ACROSS THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE

## MEMBERS ACCEPT \$5 EVANGELISM CHALLENGE—GIFTS UP 61%

Members have accepted the challenge to donate \$5 a month for Florida Evangelism. Conference Treasurer Randee Reynolds shared his vision in the last issue of *Florida Focus* and at Camp Meeting on the last Sabbath morning. As a result, giving has increased 61% over last year.

Reynolds believes that if an even greater number of church members accept the \$5 a month challenge for Florida Evangelism through next Camp Meeting, 1999–2000 will be unforgettable years for soulwinning.

“Already these additional funds have made



a big difference in our evangelism outreach,” states Ralph Ringer, evangelism coordinator. The basic Evangelism Budget in Florida comes from the tithe, yet the increase in this year’s giving has helped make a number of additional evangelistic efforts possible. *See the list at the right.*

Ringer was particularly encouraged by the youth involvement

during the Orlando area meetings (#5).

“I wish these meetings didn’t have to end,” said Julie Clark, a Forest Lake Academy sophomore, after serving as a greeter for four weeks at the David Asscherick meetings. Several other young people echoed the sentiment, “When can we do this again?”

—Ralph Ringer, Martin Butler

### BECAUSE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO FLORIDA EVANGELISM...

1. Twenty-two Florida church members were sponsored to attend *Boot Camp for Evangelism*. This training course for laymembers was held in March at Cohutta Springs Adventist Center in Georgia and led by Southern Union Conference Church Growth Director Ron Halvorsen. Nine lay evangelist seminars followed across Florida Conference. Each received a \$3,000 subsidy from Florida Evangelism funds.
2. The Miami Temple church hosted the *Amazing Discoveries Bible Prophecy* series in May with Dan Bentzinger, *It Is Written* Evangelistic Association director. A Field School of Evangelism for Southern Adventist University students was held in conjunction with the meetings. Forty people were baptized.
3. Miami-area Spanish and Portuguese churches hosted Alejandro Bullón in the *Miami Esperanza 2000* meetings in April—300 were baptized.
4. The *La Red '99* satellite series in Spanish was broadcast internationally from Orlando in September. Florida Conference helped finance *La Red '99* downlinks where, at press time, 329 people have been baptized.
5. Florida Conference and Adventist Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) co-sponsored young adult tent meetings in July with David Asscherick at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka and Richard Guerrero at the Tupperware Convention Center in Kissimmee—130 were baptized.



## REVIVAL BRINGS GROWTH AT CORAL SPRINGS



Eight people from the Coral Springs Haitian community were baptized during a week of revival meetings.

It may have been the first time the “good old Seventh-day Adventist message” was heard at Temple Beth Orr, the Jewish Synagogue in Coral Springs. That’s where an old-fashioned revival in July

boosted membership of the new Macedonia mission group. They meet under the leadership of Libny Dubreuze, pastor of the Shiloh church in North Miami and the Canaan company in Deerfield Beach.

Dubreuze presented the week-long series, *An Encounter With Christ Will Transform Your Life*, where at the conclusion, eight people were baptized and 20 were added by profession of faith. Three more souls joined in October through baptism.

Sergio Moctezuma, field secretary of the Inter-American Division, was guest speaker for the final meeting and he challenged the congregation to greater involvement in evangelism.

“The purpose of the

revival was to aid the Canaan company in church growth and to strengthen the new work in Coral Springs,” says Dubreuze. He prayed earlier this year that 100 souls be added to his district by way of baptism, profession of faith, and transfer of

membership before the year 2000.

Seventy-eight people became members prior to a three-week evangelistic series which began November 13 in Coral Springs.

—Libny Dubreuze, Martin Butler

## NORLAND BAPTIZES 125

“**M**iracle on NW 183rd Street” has become synonymous with the Norland church in Miami. Most recently, 125 souls were baptized as a result of the *Abundant Life Crusade* conducted by

Dennis Ross, Jr., evangelism coordinator for the Southern Union Conference in Decatur, Georgia.

The tent meetings, held on the grounds of the new Norland church complex, averaged 500 attendees

each night. Ross credits the results to the Holy Spirit and the “tremendous support” of Pastor Burnett Robinson and his congregation. “Talk about encouraging to an evangelist!” says Ross. “Norland is a model church where the pastor and members think evangelism.”

Since its birth in May, 1994, there have been three key ingredients to growth at Norland—evangelism, evangelism, and evangelism.

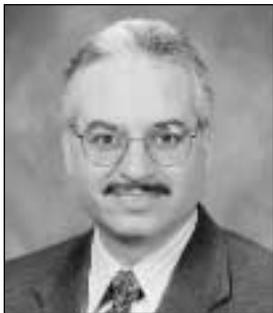
Charter membership at Norland was 57. Today it stands at more than 500.

—David McDonald,  
Martin Butler



**Norland Pastor Burnett Robinson, left, and former Kendall Pastor Philip Hosten baptize candidates during tent meetings in the *Abundant Life Crusade*.**

## NEW SECRETARY AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR APPOINTED



### CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Evan Valencia was elected Conference Secretary by the Florida Conference Executive Committee in the spring and took office June 1. He replaces Gloria Becker who is now director of human resources at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka.

Valencia served as a pastor in Alabama and Florida in the Gulf States Conference before becoming Conference Secretary there in November, 1997.

He and Nancy, his wife, have two daughters; Candace, age 16, and Chelsea, age 13.



### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Sheryal Vandenberghe was invited by the Conference Executive Committee on September 19 to serve as women's ministries director on an interim basis. She replaces Patricia Shanko who retired October 31.

Vandenberghe, a registered nurse, was most recently employed at Florida Gulf Coast Apartments in Tampa as a receptionist. She also served three years as a volunteer on Shanko's Women's

Ministries Executive Committee and two years as an area coordinator.

She and Julian, her husband, live in Tampa.

## DECEMBER, 1999

**Florida Pathfinders.** For a complete schedule, call (407) 644-5000 x127. Dec. 3-5. South area Reveille Ranger. Jonathon Dickinson State Park, West Palm Beach.

Jan. 7-9, 2000. South area Reveille Voyager. Jonathon Dickinson State Park, West Palm Beach.

Jan. 14-16, 2000. Master Guide Training. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland.

Jan. 28-29, 2000. PAC Meeting. Florida Conference office, Winter Park.

**Florida Adventist Bookmobile**—Book Center orders accepted by e-mail: [emontero@southernunion.com](mailto:emontero@southernunion.com)

Dec. 4. Jacksonville Southpoint.

Dec. 5. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach.

Dec. 11. Port Charlotte.

Dec. 12. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Palmetto, Brandon, Tampa First.

Dec. 16. Walker Memorial in Avon Park.

Dec. 18. Tallahassee.

Dec. 19. Perry, Lake City, Gainesville, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores.

Jan. 15, 2000. Port Charlotte.

Jan. 16, 2000. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Palmetto, Brandon, Tampa First.

Jan. 22, 2000. Maranatha.

Jan. 23, 2000. Plantation, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach.

Jan. 29, 2000. Naples.

Jan. 30, 2000. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Walker Memorial, Winter Haven.

**Singled Out For Ministry** (new name for Adventist Singles Ministries). *Fellowship Dinners.*

Dec. 11. Forest Lake.

Jan. 22, 2000. Kress Memorial.

Dec. 25. Kress Memorial.

Jan. 29, 2000. Deltona.

Jan. 8, 2000. Forest Lake.

Feb. 12, 2000. Forest Lake.

**Christmas Banquet.** Dec. 11. Forest Lake Church Youth Center. Meal and entertainment. Cost: \$17. Pre-registration required. Details: Carol Pisarek, (407) 869-1264.

**National New Year's Retreat.** Dec. 30, 1999-Jan. 2, 2000. Camp Kulaqua. Guest speakers: Lt. Col. Jack Gibbons, M.S., A.R.N.P., C.S.E., retired U.S. Army psychiatric nurse, and Donna Kostrub, motivational speaker, working on her master's degree in counseling. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$35/day with two meals, no lodging. Weekend rates with lodging range from \$70-\$140 depending on lodging location and guest's age. Details/registration: (904) 454-1351.

## JANUARY, 2000

**Camp Kulaqua Events.** Details: (904) 454-1351 or <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>

Jan 5-9, 2000. Florida Conference Literature Evangelists' Retreat.

Jan. 7-9, 2000. Florida Conference Principals' Retreat.

Jan. 14-16, 2000. Florida Hispanic Youth Leadership Retreat.

Jan. 16-19, 2000. Florida Conference Ministers' Retreat.

Jan. 21-23, 2000. Statewide Youth Leadership Convention—REV 2000.

“**Baptism Of The Holy Spirit**” Weekend Seminar. Jan. 21-23, 2000. Lake City church. Guest speaker: Bill Liversidge, president of Creative Growth Ministries, Washington, D.C. Details: (904) 364-3210.

## FEBRUARY, 2000

**Women's Ministries Retreats.** Camp Kulaqua. Details/registration: (407) 644-5000 x188.

Feb. 4-6, 2000. English. Guest speaker: Cynthia Prime, previous Lake Union Conference women's ministries director.

Feb. 11-13, 2000. English. Guest speaker: Janice Johnson Browne, Ph.D., psychology professor, Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tenn.

Feb. 18-20, 2000. English. Guest speaker: Janice Johnson Browne.

Feb. 25-27, 2000. Spanish. Guest speaker: Alma Orona, M.A., psychologist, Keene, Texas.

—A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

# CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

## SEPTEMBER 19, 1999

The devotional was given by Bryan del Valle, Sarah Phillips, and Rick Christman, leaders of the new Forest Lake Academy MagaBook program. They shared that more than 50 students signed up to sell books in the Orlando area. For this first year, 15-20 students will be selected.

Also shared was the final report of the summer MagaBook program conducted in Miami and West Florida: 235,000 homes visited; \$151,742 in sales; and 25,885 message books sold.

## EVANGELISM REPORT

Evangelism Coordinator Ralph Ringer reported on all the evangelistic events now taking place. These include the 99 Jewish people in New Port Richey who have asked for Bible studies as a result of a new messianic Jewish group meeting at the New Port Richey church. Also, Spanish Language Ministries Director Jorge Mayer gave a report of the *La Red '99* satellite evangelistic meeting which was conducted at For-

est Lake Academy by Alejandro Bullón. Opening night attendance was more than 2,300. One weekend, 79 people responded to a baptism call. The meetings aired in many countries throughout the Americas, Europe, and Africa. Ninety percent of the Hispanic churches in Florida Conference were involved with many lay members and Conference employees assisting as well.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Randee Reynolds reported a tithe gain of 5.68% through August and more than a \$22,000 gain in Florida Advance offerings.

**APPROVED** the recommendation of the Forest Lake Academy Master Plan Committee to contract with master planning and design groups Glatting, Jackson, Kercher, Anglin, Lopez, Rinehart, and Dix, Nance, to develop, with appropriate input, a Master Plan for the academy property and buildings. It was also **VOTED** that the expense for this planning

process come from a portion of the proceeds from a pending property sale located across the street from the Academy. The final proposed Master Plan is to be submitted by June 30, 2000. If the Committees continue to recommend the Master Plan results, these will be presented at the Constituency Meeting scheduled for September 24, 2000.

**INVITED** Sheryal Vandenberghe to serve as women's ministries director. She is a very active member of the Tampa First church and has been involved as a lay leader in the women's ministries program. Because she will be commuting from the east side of Tampa, it is agreed that this appointment will be on an interim basis to be reviewed in March, 2000.

**VOTED** a change in responsibilities for Carolyn Forrest, human resource services assistant director. She was invited to serve as director of human resource services. She will also continue to serve as assistant to the Conference secretary.

**APPROVED** the recommendation of the Pastoral Review Committee to adopt the Pastoral Review Process, including the approval of the forms to be used by the pastor and the Church Board.

This has had wide input and the Executive Committee has taken into consideration the various suggestions that were

made. The Executive Committee was given examples of pastors and local churches who have already used the process and have shared very positive feedback. This Pastoral Review Process will be presented at the January, 2000, Ministers' Meeting. It is our hope that this Process will affirm and enhance ministry.



ADVENTIST COMMUNICATION NETWORK

## Broadcast Schedule

### Adventist Worship Hour

Every Sabbath . . . . . 11 a.m.-Noon

### Adventist Worship Hour—Day of Prayer

January 1, 2000 . . . . . 11 a.m.-Noon

### First Wednesday

1st Wednesday each month . . . . 7:30-8:30 p.m.

### Genesis 2000 (G2K)

Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2000 . . . . . 10:45 p.m.-3:30 a.m.

A global New Year's Eve celebration. Interactivity from four sites in America and more from around the world. To volunteer to help with this event, e-mail [mabaerg@yahoo.com](mailto:mabaerg@yahoo.com). Get additional information online at <http://www.gen2k.org/> or call (800) SDA-PLUS.

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