

FLORIDA FOCUS

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FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES HELPS REDUCE NURSING WORKFORCE SHORTAGE



PHOTOS: SPENCER FREEMAN

Chemistry instructor Sebastian Farrell, Ph.D., makes learning come alive. The FHCHS faculty includes 11 full-time and seven part-time individuals with doctoral degrees.

Hospitals are facing a nursing shortage that most leaders in the health care industry consider a national crisis. There are an estimated 3,000 nursing vacancies in Florida alone (*Florida Hospital Association Survey, 2001*). One can only imagine a Providential hand at work more than a decade ago when Florida Hospital had the foresight to recognize the potential crisis on the horizon.

As a result, Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) opened in August 1992. The school's nursing program is ranked second

—continued on page 2



Far left: Students check the vital signs of STAN (Standard Man), in the nursing skills laboratory. The \$200,000 human patient simulator has attracted worldwide attention and served as a model for other nursing programs. Left: Anatomy and Physiology instructor Paul Viar discusses muscular structure with a student.

**FHCHS HELPS
NURSING SHORTAGE**
—continued from page 1

in Florida according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing 2001 Report.

The College educates individuals to be competent and caring professionals. Graduates know the Florida Hospital system, understand the Hospital culture, and have maintained a steady record of passing rates above the national average on the National Council Licensure Examination

for RNs (NCLEX-RN). A recent study by the Florida Hospital Association reveals that, despite the shortage, nursing has the largest workforce of all health care professions with more than 2.5 million licensed RNs in the United States. However, even though Florida had an estimated 169,526 licensed RNs registered in 2001, this is nearly 10 percent less than in 1995 (*FHA Study on Nurse Health Staffing Issues in Florida: November 2001*).

The same study re-

veals that out of 260 different occupations in this country, employment opportunities in health care will increase at above-average rates. Several areas where this growth will take place are professional programs taught at FHCHS. *See right.*

The bottom line in health care is that hospitals throughout the country simply don't have enough nurses to care for an aging population. Florida has the highest percentage of elderly in the nation, yet, it ranks 31st in the

**FLORIDA HOSPITAL COLLEGE OFFERS
THESE PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS:**

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pre-Professional Studies
- Radiologic Sciences

number of registered nurses per 100,000 population. The average age of a working registered nurse ranges between 48 and 50.

“The nursing shortage provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to enter a

profession where a job is waiting, the pay is good, and the personal reward of helping others is immediate,” says David Greenlaw, college president.

—Dawn McLendon, Yvette Saliba, Martin Butler

▣ **Related Story—p. 13**

COLLEGE MARKS 10 YEARS AND ENROLLMENT MILESTONE



SPENCER FREEMAN

Florida Hospital College is located on a peninsula between Lake Estelle and Lake Winyah in a setting ideal for students to study and build friendships. Faced with rapid growth, plans are underway to expand facilities on campus.

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary during the 2002–2003 school year. In August, the College also reached a milestone when, for the first time, student enrollment surpassed the 1,000 mark.

Historically, the school dates back to 1913 when Florida Hospital established a registered nursing program. It operated as a hospital-based training program for 70 years.

Florida Hospital College opened its doors in 1992 with 243 students. Enrollment has steadily climbed

until this year's registration reached 1,053. Nearly 40% of these students list Seventh-day Adventist as their religious preference.

FHCHS has positioned itself on the cutting edge of health education. Instructors utilize technological advances and innovations—such as STAN,

the human patient simulator—in the school's professional programs. *See p. 1, 13.*

The College also offers an online baccalaureate completion program in radiologic sciences which hosts students nationwide. The school recently launched *echelon*, a subsidiary that offers customized online interactive continuing education for the health care professional.

The first decade of this century is expected to offer an almost limitless market for health care workers. Florida Hospital College already has a reputation for excellent job placement of its graduates.

In keeping with the mission of the Church, faculty and staff members seek to incorporate Christian thought and example in the classroom.

“God has richly blessed our school and

the future looks exceptionally bright,” says David Greenlaw, college president. “With His help, we are moving into the next 10 years with confidence as we bring Seventh-day Adventist quality health care education to central Florida and beyond.”

—Dawn McLendon, Yvette Saliba, Martin Butler

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WORLD-CLASS CHEF JOINS HEALTH STAFF AS VOLUNTEER

Chef Julio Barillas learned his trade at the Culinary Institute of America in New York City and joined Hilton International where, for years, he helped launch successful eating establishments in hotels in many parts of the world, trained restaurant personnel, and created appealing and tasty menus.

Today, this Orlando Spanish church member is a restaurant consultant, a regular guest on radio and television shows, and a volunteer in the Florida Conference health ministries department where he is nutrition and cooking class instructor.

“Very few people in my profession are interested in making people healthier,” he says. “They learn to make food that tastes good and looks good. I believe this is very important, however, my first responsibility



SANDRA BARILLAS

Members of Margate Spanish church in North Lauderdale, Florida, move in close to watch Chef Julio Barillas at work during a cooking class on August 25.

is to protect the health of individuals.”

Even while working for Hilton, Barillas volunteered for the American Cancer Society and taught *Taking Control* seminars. Here, he incorporated his vegetarian cooking specialty—instructing people how to take control of their lives by eating properly.

He left the hotel in-

dustry in 1990 to join Chamberlain’s Natural Food store and restaurant in Winter Park, Florida. Here, Barillas worked for six years and received specialized training in nutrition. He also became health director for his church, yet wanted to do more.

“I was always looking for ways to work for the Lord,” he says.

That’s when he met Richard O’Ffill, Florida Conference health ministries director. “I’m so grateful Pastor O’Ffill found a way to use me as a volunteer. I’m having the time of my life.”

Weekends find Barillas and Sandra, his wife, in churches where on Friday evening he talks to the youth about their health; on Sabbath he preaches; and in the afternoon he talks about practical nutrition. Instruction ends on Sunday with a cooking class.

“I’m so pleased I’ve found a useful way to serve the Church,” Barillas says. “My only regret is that more young people don’t attend the seminars. They would learn that, more often than not, the first half of life is spent destroying ourselves physically; then, we try to fix the problems during the second half. Most sickness could be prevented if

we simply practiced healthy eating habits in the first half.”

As Barillas began to share nutrition tips, he stopped and smiled. “If I reveal too much now, people won’t need to attend a seminar.”

With excitement, he’s anticipating the eighth annual Health Fair weekend, November 2-3, at the Ft. Lauderdale church.

The “Healthy Lifestyle—Longer Life” event is expected to attract more than 1,000 guests. As a first-time participant, he will help prepare free vegetarian food samples, share health information, and answer questions relating to food and health.

To schedule the Chef, (407) 340-1396 or jbari50@hotmail.com

—Martin Butler

TAMPA TRIBUNE FEATURES TAMPA FIRST CHURCH’S VEGGIE CLASSES

The Adventist Diet was featured by *The Tampa Tribune* as their feature article in the Saturday, August 3, 2002, Faith & Values section.

The positive, 90-column-inch, nearly full-page story by religion writer Michelle Bearden circulated in 44,380 newspapers and was read by a potential audience of 115,300 who see the northwest edition in the Bay area.



As Barillas began to share nutrition tips, he stopped and smiled. “If I reveal too much now, people won’t need to attend a seminar!”

☐ Related Health Ministry Story—p. 12

MUSIC ENSEMBLE ENCOURAGES GREATER ATTENDANCE

A heightened sense of church pride and ownership, as well as greater attendance by members and visitors, are the result of the Florida Living Church Sabbath School Music Ensemble. Formed in 1999, the six-member mini-orchestra is made

up of Florida Living, Apopka, Florida, church members who accompany the church's Sabbath school song service and provide special music for the main worship hour each week.

Sharon Swofford, ensemble leader, began the group as a way to keep members in-

involved in worship services. "Most attending Florida Living church are retirement age and above," says Swofford, "yet I believe you're never too old to make music, especially if you've been doing it your entire life. Our eldest member, 94-year-old Rosie Smith, continues to play saxo-

phone for us. She is an inspiration to all who hear her."

Swofford says attendance, especially for Sabbath school services, has increased because of the group's music ministry. Visitors have been touched as well. Dorothy Hillier from Visalia, California is an example. "Visits to

Florida Living have always left a fine impression on me," says Hillier, "and now, [because of the ensemble,] Sabbath school song services no longer have even a hint of lethargy as the spirit of the musicians and singers join in holy praise. Praise the Lord!"

—Terry Hall



PHOTOS: CINDY KURTZHALS

FLORIDA HOSPITAL CHURCH FAMILY BURNS MORTGAGE AND SHARES TESTIMONIES

Florida Hospital church members in Orlando, Florida, gave testimonies of thankfulness as they dedicated their church debt-free at mortgage burning ceremonies, January 5, 2002. "Many members stood to share what the

church had meant to them over the years," says Herb Klischies, Florida Hospital church historian. "It was a time to reminisce, count our blessings, and rededicate ourselves to God."

The church, which was founded in 1926 on the shores of Lake

Estelle, has had two mortgage burnings in its 76-year history. The first, in 1950, was for the art deco style building which now houses the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences library. The second, in 2002, was for the current church building constructed in

1992 at 2800 N. Orange Avenue. "Church growth and Florida Hospital's rapid expansion necessitated the move," says Klischies. "Our members rose to the challenge and we look to the future, again, debt-free."

—Terry Hall

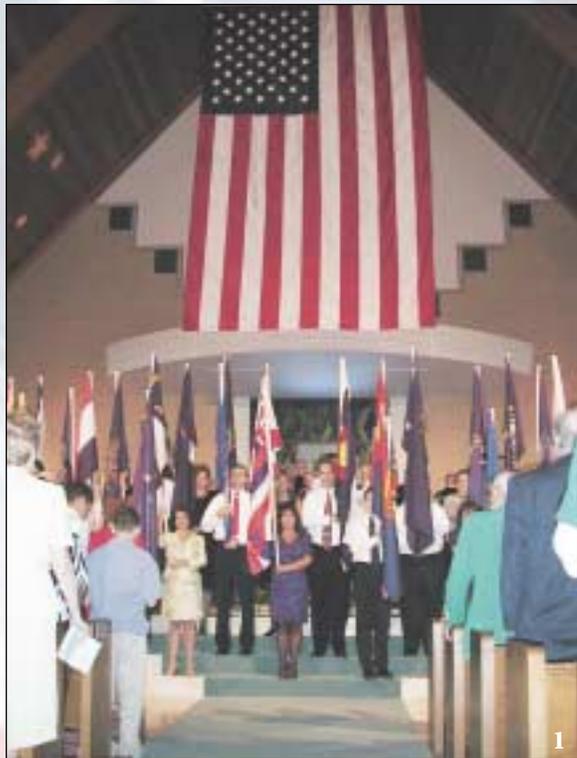


HERB KLISCHIES

What a flame! Conference Treasurer Randee Reynolds helps burn the Florida Hospital church mortgage.

We Remember

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



1
CINDY KURTZHAAS



7
MYRLIN BROOKS



8
MARTIN BUTLER



2
CINDY KURTZHAAS



3
CINDY KURTZHAAS



4
MARTIN BUTLER



5
MARTIN BUTLER



6
WALTER MAIER

ONE NATION: AMERICA REMEMBERS

1. & 3. **Forest Lake church.** Readings. Memory wreath. Memory candle. Excerpts from powerful speeches, the Bible; liturgical dancers; flag processional. Jenny, Erica, & Patricia LaBerge say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Quilt block by Holly Hanson, **Orlando Junior Academy.** The 4th-graders' class quilt was displayed September 9-18 at the College Park Post Office. 6th-graders took hand painted tiles to Fire Station #1 to honor firefighters.
4. A banner was displayed on the top of the **Florida Conference** office.
5. The September 11, 2002, *New York Times* was exhibited at the **Conference.** Red tags marked photos of Seventh-day Adventists who died in the World Trade Center. See their stories, *Adventist Review*, Sept. 5, 2002, pp. 25-27.
6. **Winter Haven church.** Flag presentation. "Colors of the Heart" read by a disabled firefighter. "Fret not thyself because of evildoers..." Ps. 37:1. Focus on Christ's Second Coming. "Pastor, I want to be ready for Jesus' coming."
7. The Miami Beach Police Department invited Andrew Wan and Clayton Henry of the **Maranatha** Pathfinder Club and the Maranatha church orchestra to perform taps at a ceremony to honor fallen officers (May 9).
8. **Forest Lake Education Center** Handbell Chorus. "Building on Faith" 9/11 Prayer Service and House Construction for Habitat for Humanity.

RESPONSIVE READING

**Psalm 91 from *The Message* and *To Begin Again*
by Eugene H. Peterson and Naomi Levy**

Pastor Tim Goff, Leader, Forest Lake Church

LEADER

When the storms of life come crashing with their fierce winds and waves, God says, "I am your refuge. Trust in Me and you will be safe."

CONGREGATION

Lord, we've seen a lot of "storms" this year: the terrorist attacks and anthrax scare; floods and fires in the West; sex scandals, the abduction and murder of young children, stranded coal miners, falling stock market, collapse of large corporations and massive layoffs. We've asked, "When will it ever end?"

LEADER

I shield you from deadly hazards. My huge outstretched arms protect you—under them, you are perfectly safe.

CONGREGATION

We've been afraid, angry, discouraged and helpless. We've felt alone and have wondered how to make it through another day.

LEADER

Call Me and I'll be at your side.

CONGREGATION

The loss has been so great. Not just treasured possessions, but also a sense of security, of rootedness, of belonging.

LEADER

I order My angels to guard you wherever you go. Their job is to keep you from falling.

CONGREGATION

Thank You, Lord. When we've needed help, the heroes have come in, reaching out with loving hands.

LEADER

I'll give you the best care if you'll only get to know and trust Me.

CONGREGATION

It's time to pick up the pieces, to rebuild, recover and heal. Thank You for giving us a second chance.

LEADER

Hold on to Me for dear life. I will rescue you, and honor you. I will throw you a party.

ALL

Let the celebration begin. We praise You, God, for Your goodness endures forever. Alleluia.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS UP 332—EXCELLENT START TO NEW YEAR

The 2002–2003 school year is off to an excellent start with 332 students ahead of last year at this time,” says Richard Smith, administrative superintendent, Florida Conference of education. “Our 38 elementary and two secondary schools have enrolled 3,604 young people who will receive a quality education in a Christian environment.”



Smith attributes part of the increase in enrollment to *Florida Child*, an independent scholarship program funded by private business. For example, 32 new students enrolled at Greater Miami Academy are now benefitting from this program.

He also believes the August special edition of *Florida Focus* on Adventist education may have provided the needed nudge to get people off the fence to enroll their children in church schools. “We’re passing out the magazines everywhere we go,” says Smith. “It’s a great tool to promote the value of Christian education.”

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS AROUND FLORIDA

- Twenty-six new teachers
- Six new principal assignments: Sari Dawson, Bright Horizons School, Clermont; Ken Fuller, Tallahassee; Elise Toombs, Jacksonville Adventist Academy; Vicki Turner, Mt. Dora Christian School; Eugenia Vega, Miami Springs Adventist School; and Beverly Zirkian, Clearwater Junior Academy
- 108 students enrolled at 15 AE21 sites—Adventist Education for the 21st Century
- 202 students enrolled at Greater Miami Academy
- 292 students enrolled



SARI DAWSON

Bright Horizons Seventh-day Adventist School in Clermont is the only new church school to open this year in Florida Conference. The five students are taught by principal/teacher Sari Dawson, left. Frank Barton is the school board chairman.



FRANK BARTON

- 481 students enrolled at Forest Lake Education Center
- 479 students enrolled at Forest Lake Academy

—Martin Butler

GMA INTRODUCES NEW MUSIC ACADEMY

Music teacher David Nino had a few dilapidated pianos in his department when the 2001–2002 school year began at Greater Miami Academy (GMA).



SIMONE DEMIAR

Music teacher David Nino gives Nicholas San a lesson on the new Kohler & Campbell baby grand piano.

ment in music reaps benefits which include:

- an outlet for self-expression
- an avenue for positive self-esteem
- giving back to the community
- higher aspirations to learn
- improved attitudes
- increased creativity and individuality

One month later, Simone Demiar, GMA director of development and alumni rela-

tions received a telephone call from Versacare with news that \$15,000 was awarded. Under direction from Nino, a baby grand piano, a studio piano, a portable digital piano, and choral risers were purchased.

As more students take lessons and funds become available, GMA plans to add another teacher, part-time, to the music staff.

—Simone Demiar

GREATER MIAMI ACADEMY GETS NEW COMPUTERS—RECYCLES OLD ONES

Greater Miami Academy (GMA) recently installed 32 new Gateway computers in the computer lab and 30 new ones in classrooms.

A dozen old lab computers were recycled by science teacher Angel Toledo who installed simulated lab experiment programs on them. Students can now do their science procedures on the computer. Recycling proved to be cost effective as it is no longer necessary to purchase costly supplies and equipment.

—Simone Demiar



SIMONE DEMIAR

Thank You!

EVANGELISM FUNDS INCREASE—SO DO BAPTISMS!

A new line—*Florida Evangelism*—appeared on Florida Conference tithe/offering envelopes three years ago. A story in *Florida Focus* (May-August 1999) encouraged church members to donate \$5 every

significant role in soulwinning efforts throughout Florida.”

IMPACT OF EXTRA FUNDS WAS FELT

- Financial support from members helped make possible the area-wide evangelistic series in Miami last year. These meetings resulted in more than 800 baptisms and, for the first time, lifted the one-year Conference new



Lay members at Boot Camp learn evangelism techniques from Ron Halvorsen.

LEE BENNETT

MORE FUNDS NEEDED TO MEET REQUESTS

“Last year, we received requests for church evangelism subsidies that totaled 50 percent more than was available,” says Randee Reynolds, Conference treasurer. “In order to give every church some evangelism money, we had to trim all requests.”

“We’re grateful for every member who has given their support to Florida evangelism,” says Ringer. “We ask for their continued support and invite those who haven’t given support to consider the \$5 a month plan, or more, if able.”

Ringer believes that if more members would follow the \$5 a month contribution plan, Florida Conference would soon baptize 4,000 new members in one year. “It’s not about numbers,” reminds Ringer, “yet, behind every number is a person that Jesus loves and wants to save.”

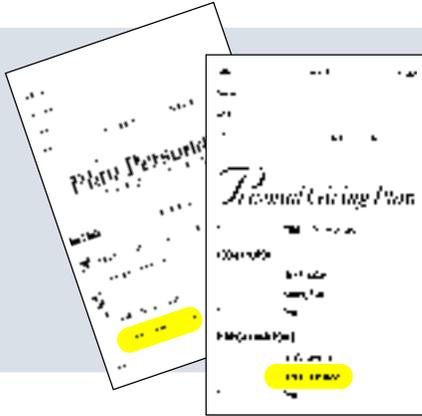
While the tithe of faithful members helps support the ministry of 11 regular evangelism teams in Florida Conference, the additional funds support *extra* opportunities.

One such opportunity is scheduled for May 2003 in a field

school of evangelism/area-wide series led by Ron Halvorsen, Southern Union Conference church growth director. Twenty students from Southern Adventist University will join Halvorsen in Port Charlotte and train under him each morning.

Of these students, six to eight will team up with him at his series four nights a week, beginning May 16, in the Charlotte County Cultural Center. The others will put instruction into practice and hold meetings of their own in 12 or 13 surrounding churches.

—Martin Butler



month to this fund. As a result, contributions for evangelism increased from \$21,000 to \$110,000 a year.

“In addition to monthly gifts, the offerings received at Camp Meeting each year now go entirely toward Conference evangelism,” says Ralph Ringer, Conference evangelism coordinator. “These gifts play a

member baptism mark above 3,000.

- The Boot Camp for Evangelism has trained 120 laymembers. These graduates receive \$3,000 each to help cover expenses for evangelistic series they hold on their own. Their meetings have resulted in hundreds of baptisms.

FT. MYERS DID IT LAST YEAR—AND THEY’RE DOING IT AGAIN



Gifts of love—103 boxes of food were donated and delivered by caring members last year. The number of families helped has doubled from prior years.



Grace Bassham added veggies. Members donated \$1,500.



Howard Joiner loaded boxes for delivery. Publix and Wal-Mart provided perishables.

PHOTOS: SIMON WHITTER

It will be a happier Thanksgiving for hurting families in Lee County again this year.

At Fort Myers’ Festival of Praise church service, filled and decorated food baskets are carried into the church in a special processional. A sermonette and festival music is followed by special prayer over the baskets and for the people who receive them. In the afternoon, members deliver their tokens of love. This year’s Festival is November 23 at 11 a.m. —Rita Gavin

ACN, 3ABN TRANSMITIRÁ SERIE EVANGELÍSTICA—NET 2002

Washington, D.C., la capital de los Estados Unidos, será la anfitriona del gran esfuerzo evangelístico, *La Red 2002*, iniciado por los hispanos en la División Norteamericana. El orador para este evento, que será transmitido vía satélite del 16 al 23 de noviembre, será el



Alejandro Bullón

renombrado evangelista internacional, Alejandro Bullón. Un mini concierto precederá sus mensajes cada noche.

La serie evangelística producida por la red de comunicaciones adventista ACN será transmitida por 3ABN,

ATN y ADSAT para Norte, Centro y Sur América. La mayoría de las iglesias hispanas participarán de las reuniones vía satélite y se espera tener, sólo en Norte América, unos 3,000 bautismos como resultado de este esfuerzo.

“ACN ve con satisfacción la producción de *La Red 2002*,” dice Kermit Netteburg, administrador general de ACN. “Es un paso importante en nuestro objetivo de proveer los recursos necesarios para el cumplimiento de la misión.” El conjunto de videos que comprende ocho temas costará \$49, si es ordenado antes o durante el esfuerzo y \$79 después de la serie, llamando al 1-800-ACN-1119.

“El evangelismo es tomado en serio como parte del estilo de vida de los hispanos adventistas,” dice Eradio Alonso, secretario ministerial asociado de la División Norteamericana. “Es un honor especial estar involucrado en el



PHOTOS: SPANISH LANGUAGE MINISTRIES

Así como oraron los miembros por *La Red '99* hoy también oran por *La Red 2002*.

evangelismo, porque es la comisión dada por Jesús a cada creyente.”

“Esta serie evangelística, *La Red 2002*, será vista en más de 40 congregaciones en la Asociación de la Florida,” dice Abel Paulín, vicepresidente de la Asociación de la Florida para los Ministerios en Español. “Miembros laicos e instructores bíblicos en todo el estado están estudiando con los interesados y han estado orando durante 10 meses a fin de que Dios prepare los corazones de los residentes de la Florida para recibir el evangelio.”

—Bernadine Delafield



El pastor Luis Moreno bautiza a Ulises Castillejas durante *La Red '99*, que tuvo lugar en la Academia de Forest Lake con el evangelista Alejandro Bullón. El pastor Moreno, con el apoyo de sus miembros, ministra en la iglesia hispana de Kissimmee y las compañías de Haines City, Orlando Sur y el nuevo grupo de Buena Ventura Lakes.

HORARIO DE TRANSMISIÓN PARA *LA RED 2002*

NOVEMBER 16-23

ACN—7:30-9:00 P.M. • 3ABN—8-9 P.M.

LOS SITIOS CON EQUIPO DE ACN
PUEDEN LLAMAR AL 1-800-226-1119
PARA RECIBIR AYUDA TÉCNICA.

REACHING NONADVENTIST LEADERS WITH “GIVING IS CARING” CALENDARS



LEE BENNETT

2003 calendars are now available at any Florida Adventist Book Center branch for \$5.95 each. Cardboard mailing cartons are free.

The desktop calendars are a “thank you” to donors, volunteers, political and community leaders, media, and friends. The Seventh-day Adventist Church name and logo are at the top of every page, plus a quotation that calls people’s

attention to the virtues of service, charity, kindness, and volunteerism.

The gift calendar provides 300+ positive reminders of our Church while it serves as a daily witness. Because quotes are shared with friends and associates, the evangelistic benefit reaches farther.

A RECIPIENT SAYS...

“You are always so thoughtful. I love that calendar so much. It has wonderful sayings and I often write them on the board when I teach.”

Katy Kagan, LMT, NMT; Together in Health, DeLand, Florida

—Cindy Kurtzhals

DISABILITIES MINISTRIES CREATES UNDERSTANDING

“One in five Americans lives with an impairment that limits one or more major life activities, yet, participation in all aspects of church life should not be one of them,” says Joan Bova, Florida Conference director of disabilities ministries.

“People with disabilities—whether blind, deaf, or physically impaired—bring unique gifts to the life and ministry of the Church. The disabilities ministries program promotes the full participation and contribution of all people,” said Bova.

Bova has a mobility disability caused by juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and knows first hand “how uncomfortable people can be when they encounter someone who has a disability.”

This uncomfortable feeling is one of the first barriers that dis-

abilities awareness ministries strives to help church members overcome.

“As a society, we are taught not to talk about disabilities, so there is a lack of understanding,” she said. “As someone who is disabled, as an advocate, and as a disabilities ministries leader, it is my responsibility to educate them about disability awareness.”

Disabilities ministries has been active in the Florida Conference for 12 years.

“The Port Charlotte church was the first to have a Disabilities Awareness Sabbath and, in 1995,

became our model.” Today, between 25 and 30 Florida

get the message across, including a disabilities-related sermon delivered by a disabilities ministries team member. Team members also conduct seminars designed to enlighten church members about those who have a physical or mental challenge. A special children’s story time uses custom-designed dolls which have a disability—such as a doll with a crutch, a wheelchair, or a seeing eye dog.

The impact of disabilities awareness has resulted in a number of changes in Florida Conference churches:

- the addition of an access ramp or lift to the rostrum.
- designated parking that is wheelchair accessible.
- assistive listening devices for the hearing impaired.
- shortened pews that leave enough space for a wheelchair.
- the use of a sign language interpreter.
- changes in signage. This includes the use of recessed or raised lettering and contrasting colors which makes the sign easier to read.

When people understand, Bova said, everybody wins. “People with disabilities feel included. Other church members fully and finally understand that having a disability just means that the person is different—and there’s nothing wrong with being different!”

—Donna Hatch



CINDY KURTZHALS

Joan Bova with North Miami church member Natalie Williams who wore black-out goggles to simulate being blind.

churches offer such programs. Awareness Sabbaths incorporate a number of methods to

DOCTOR SAYS—STOP PRAYING!

Carmen Djokic, Port Charlotte church member, works as an X-ray technician for Dr. Mark Davis, an orthopedic surgeon. Her Sabbath school investment project showed him the power of prayer.

Davis was a member of a medical group, then decided to set up his own practice. When he opened his practice, he wondered if he would get enough patients to

make a go of it.

“I’m praying that your practice will prosper,” Djokic told him, “and every time we get a new patient I will contribute to my Sabbath school investment fund—a dime for each of the first 10 new patients and a quarter for each one after that.”

Three months later, Djokic had \$90 for investment. Davis said, “We have more patients than we can care for!

Stop praying. Put a hold on the investment project!” Dimes and quarters added up as the doctor gained more than 360 new patients.

—R. Lynn Sauls

SABBATH SCHOOL INVESTMENT...

...is an intentional effort to dedicate projects to God’s work that allow contributions to be made for missions that are beyond a member’s regu-



Dr. Mark Davis and Carmen Djokic.

lar mission offerings. Projects can be seasonal or year-round and can include items that are grown, sewn,

built, and sold for a profit. The proceeds are contributed to Sabbath school investment for missions.

PINE HILLS BREAKS GROUND FOR EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Construction plans for the Pine Hills church school are moving forward as the church complies with county requirements.

The groundbreaking ceremony, held March

24, 2002, officially launched the building of the Beryl Wisdom Educational Center at 4955 Rose Avenue, Orlando, Florida.

This nearly \$2 million project will include classrooms,

offices, a daycare center, gymnasium, provision for health lectures, counseling, mentoring, and other community-based activities.

The Center is named after Beryl Wisdom (deceased), wife of the

founder of the church and school, the late Pastor Louis Wisdom.

Classes have been held in the church's fellowship hall since the school was established for the 1992-1993 school year.

Eight faculty and staff currently serve 95 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. They hope to enroll 200 students when the new building is completed.

—Phyllis Coombs



BARBARA SIMMONDS

Pictured left to right: Robert Glanville, a founding member of the church; Pastor Newton King; Dr. Eugene Brewer, Conference vice president for education; Evan Valencia, Conference administrative secretary; and Elsa Skeete, school principal.



SINGLES' MINISTRIES CHANGES LEADERSHIP

Melody West was elected president of Central Florida Adventist Singles' Ministries, August 10. West is a member at Forest Lake church and administrative assistant in the reimbursement department at

Adventist Health System, Winter Park.

Diane Miller served as president since 1999 and is now the group's new secretary. She is a Deltona church member and a highway design project manager for the Florida Department of Transporta-

tion (DOT), DeLand.

"We offer a healthy balance of activities and events that meet the spiritual, mental, and social needs of singles, keeping Christ as our focus and following His example of ministry," says West.

"I hope all singles will explore involvement within the singles community."

Under Miller's leadership, the Chapter grew in membership and in social and spiritual activities. Her vision was, and is, to spread the Gospel message through outreach and evangelism. Her goal: to educate the

Church family to recognize that singles' ministries is a ministry by singles for singles, not a dating service.

"Serving as president of this group takes a real commitment," says Ken Bryant,

Florida Conference family life director and liaison for singles' ministries. "It's a volunteer position and one that takes a lot of time and energy to coordinate all the activities."

—Martin Butler



MARTIN BUTLER

Melody West



TIFFANY RODRIGUEZ

Diane Miller

ANNUAL SINGLES' MINISTRIES RETREAT

December 27, 2002-January 1, 2003

Bring in the New Year

at beautiful Camp Kulaqua!

—Guest Speakers, Activities, Variety Show—

Information:

www.adventist-fl.com/calendar.html

Registration: www.campkulaqua.com

E-mail: groups@campkulaqua.com

Telephone: (386) 454-1351

Calendar of Events

Complete calendar online—<http://www.adventist-fl.com/calendar.html>
 Florida Pathfinder Events—<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/>
 Singles' Ministries Events—(407) 869-0275, or mwest@ahss.org

NOVEMBER, 2002

Singles' Ministries Fellowship Dinners.

Nov. 2. Florida Hospital. Nov. 30. Orlando Central.
 Nov. 9. Forest Lake. Dec. 7. Florida Hospital.
 Nov. 16. Kress Memorial. Dec. 14. Forest Lake.

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

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule.

Nov. 2. St. Petersburg.
 Nov. 3. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Lakeland.
 Nov. 9. West Palm Beach.
 Nov. 10. Jupiter-Tequesta, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa, Titusville.
 Nov. 16. Port Charlotte.
 Nov. 17. North Port, Venice-Nokomis, Sarasota, Palmetto, Brandon, Tampa First.
 Nov. 23. Maranatha in Miami.
 Nov. 24. Plantation, Lauderhill.
 Dec. 7. Key West.
 Dec. 8. Marathon, Islamorada, Key Largo.
 Dec. 14. Jacksonville Southpoint.
 Dec. 15. Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Mandarin, St. Augustine, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach.

GODencounters Conference—College/Young Adult Retreat.

Nov. 8-10. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Cost: \$40-\$60 depending on accommodations. Details: (407) 644-5000 x129. Registration: (386) 454-1351 or <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>

Estate Services Clinics.

Nov. 9. Live Oak. Dec. 14. University in Orlando.
 Dec. 7. Miami Springs. Feb. 1, 2003. Titusville.

Evangelistic Series. Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Deltona Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Rios.

Singles' Ministries Prayer Breakfasts.

Nov. 24, 2002; Jan. 26, 2003.
 Location varies. Call Carol Pisarek: (407) 869-1264.

Hispanic Family Camp.

Nov. 27-Dec. 1. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs.
 Details: (386) 454-1351 or <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>

DECEMBER, 2002

Adventist Book Center Holiday Sale. Dec. 8. See ad, page 16.

Singles' Ministries Christmas Dinner. Dec. 14. Roma's Italian Restaurant, Apopka. Details and directions: (407) 869-1264.

Singles' Ministries New Year's Retreat. Dec. 27-Jan. 1, 2003. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Sponsored by Florida Conference family life department. Cost: \$115-\$195 depending on accommodations and children, or \$50/day for drive-ins. Includes two meals and all activities. Details: Ken Bryant, (407) 644-5000 x123. Registration: (386) 454-1351 or <http://www.campkulaqua.com/>

JANUARY, 2003

English-language Women's Ministries Retreats. Details: (407) 644-5000 x188.

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2003. Orlando hotel location, to be announced. Guest speaker: Richard Neil, M.D., president, Rilenco Associates, Redlands, California.

Feb. 7-9, 2003. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Guest speaker: Wanda Davis, chaplain, Florida Hospital East Orlando.

Feb. 14-16, 2003. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Guest speaker: Richard Neil, M.D., president, Rilenco Associates, Redlands, California.

Feb. 21-23, 2003. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Guest speaker: JoAnn Davidson, Ph.D., associate professor of systematic theology, Andrews University Theological Seminar, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

—A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

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

ESPAÑOL—

Renovando Mi pasión en la proclamación del mensaje adventista

- Al satisfacer las necesidades de la gente

- Al compartir mi testimonio de fe

PORTUGUÊS—

Renovar Minha Paixão em Proclamar a Mensagem do Advento

- Através do satisfazer as necessidades das pessoas

- Através do compartilhar meu testemunho

FRANÇAIS—

Le Renouveau De ma passion dans la proclamation du Message Adventiste en

- Secourant ceux qui sont dans le besoin

- Témoignant pour le Seigneur

PILIPINO—

Pagpapanibago Ng Aking Pagnanais Ipahayag ang Pabalita ng Kaligtasan

- Sa pagtugon ng mga nangangailangan

- Sa aking pagsaksi

VIETNAMESE—

Làm mới lại Lòng sốt sắng truyền bá sứ

- Bằng cách đáp ứng nhu cầu của tha nhân

- Bằng cách làm chứng cho tha nhân

GUJOSLAVIAN—

Obnoviti Misionski Duh

- Zadovoljavanjem ljudskih potreba

- Objavljivanjem poslednje vesti milosti

KOREAN—

재림 기별을 선포하는 나의 열정을 새롭게 하소서

- 사람들의 필요를 채워줌으로
- 나의 삶 속에 증거들을 나눔으로



HEALTH FAIR GETS LEAD NEWS STORY

Another successful Community Health Fair at the Pine Hills church, Orlando, on August 18



These images are video captures from the WKMG-TV 11 p.m. news. Top: an interview with seminar presenter Gideon Lewis, M.D.

attracted more than 150 guests and was covered by WKMG-TV Channel 6, the local CBS affiliate. A two-minute segment on the 11 p.m. news included a comprehensive overview of services provided at the Sunday fair which included:

- health seminars
- therapeutic massage therapy

- vision and hearing testing
- beauty consultation
- blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar checks
- free health materials and vegetarian food samples
- prayer & counseling
- tasty food served by the Pathfinders

—Martin Butler



Orange County fire and rescue department paramedics were on-site to check cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

CREDIT UNION ORGANIZATION MOVING FORWARD



LEE BENNETT

Randee Reynolds, Conference treasurer

The Conference announced its decision to organize a credit union for members in Florida in the last *Florida Focus*, June–July–August 2002, page 3. To obtain necessary information for

state and federal regulators for the charter application, a survey of banking services was mailed to members who live or work in Orange and Seminole counties.

The survey was sent to 5,503 prospective members and also posted on the Conference web site. The response by mail, fax, and web site was fantastic.

Church members, who are the prospective credit union members, were asked to list the banking services they desired when the credit union opens. The top five products and services were:

1. *high interest savings*

2. *free checking*
3. *ATM/debit card*
4. *direct deposit*
5. *low interest loans*

The opening date for the credit union is expected to be in early spring of 2003.

Once the charter is granted and the credit union is established and up and running, then the State will be petitioned to expand the charter to include every member in Florida.

The credit union will be available by phone, free bank-by-mail, and e-mail.

—Randee Reynolds

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOUR COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES



YVETTE SALIBA

U.S. Congressman Ric Keller and U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao check vital signs on STAN (Standard Man), the human patient simulator, during a visit to Florida Hospital College. Impressed by the students, Chao said, "If I'm ever in the hospital, I want these people caring for me."

United States Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and U.S. Representative Ric Keller, R-Florida, District 8, visited the Florida Hospital College campus on August 7.

They toured the nursing skills laboratory where they saw a demonstration of the college's \$200,000 human patient simulator as nursing students depicted the "patient" in respiratory and

cardiac distress. Chao spoke of the nursing shortage in this country, yet was surprised to hear of the many vacancies in allied health areas as well. She was very pleased to learn of the affiliation between Florida Hospital and the College in educating future health care workers to help alleviate these shortages.

Chao promised to make health care needs a priority.

—Yvette Saliba

KIM LUCAS HAS THE GIFT OF CARING

Kim Lucas is gifted with a natural spirit of caring for others. The Sarasota church member, and daughter of Mike and Judy Lucas, is a part time Patient Care Assistant who usually works the night shift helping older individuals in their homes. Daytime finds her at the University of South Florida in Tampa, preparing for a future career in Forensic Science.

Church activities are also a part of her busy schedule. She is the children's ministries



MARYON STARKEL

Kim Lucas

coordinator, a youth class teacher, and Varsity Pathfinder director.

In August 1995, she was sent by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to teach English in Russia for two years in Nizhny-Noogorod. The city is

located eight hours east of Moscow by train.

Between classes, she held Bible studies with the students and, on Friday evenings, they met for vespers.

When Kim returned home, it wasn't long before Sarasota church members met her Russian friends who came to visit her. In fact, they've made more than one trip back to America to see their favorite English teacher—the one with the gift of caring.

—Maryon Starkel

NEWS NOTE

INVERNESS CHURCH—
The Community Services Thrift Store recently accepted two projects beyond their local community after hearing Richard O'Ffill, Conference community services director, challenge the

leaders to greater opportunities in ministering to the world field.

1. Assist in a kitchen project at Toraja View Academy in Indonesia.
2. Assist the Béthel: Eglise Haitienne des Adventistes du 7e Jour in Orlando with their building project.

—Hershel Mercer

Spanish Language Ministries

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

The mission of the Spanish language ministries office is to serve and assist Florida's Hispanic churches in fulfilling the Gospel commission.

Here are the 2001 statistics on the growth of the Hispanic work:

- 11,158 Hispanic members
- 39 churches
- 11 companies
- 3 official mission groups
- 991 members were added through baptism and profession of faith in 2001
- more than 600 members have been added as of August 31, 2002
- tithe reached an all time high of \$6,628,697 in 2001
- \$4,405,694 was collected in offerings in 2001

Statistics, as wonderful as they are, do not tell the whole story. Allow us to share with you two stories of the wonderful things the Lord is doing.

JUAN FERNÁNDEZ

Juan Fernández is a lay worker, an air conditioning technician for Florida Hospital Orlando, and a member of the Winter Park Spanish church. He always enjoys looking for the opportunities the Lord provides to share the Gospel with others.



Juan Fernández

Fernández was nominated Southern Union Conference's Soul Winning Lay Champion at the recent Hispanic Lay Festival celebrated in Los Angeles, California in July. Twenty-five precious souls were won for the Kingdom last year by this faithful servant of God.

He holds meetings,



Abel Paulín, vice president, Spanish language ministries

gives Bible studies, and personally cares for the spiritual needs of people while he acquaints them with the Word of God.

The Flores Family

Fernández' zeal for souls led him to the Flores family. For several months, he traveled more than two hours a week to study the Bible with them. Today, this family is baptized and their membership is at the Winter Park Spanish church.

Milagros García

García, a visitor from Puerto Rico, was invited to one of the evangelistic meetings held by a group meeting in Sanford. She attended—reluctantly.

As she listened to one of Fernández' messages, the Holy Spirit so impressed her heart

that she surrendered to the Lord's call. She currently attends church in Puerto Rico and is coming back to be baptized November 23 at the Winter Park Spanish church along with 13 other people.

Small group evangelism is another of Fernández' favorite methods of reaching out to others.

About 12 believers started a small group at the Seminole Meadows church in Sanford in 1999. Through weekly Bible studies, the group baptized 12 people in 2000, 18 in 2001, and nine so far this year. This group is working hard to establish a new Hispanic church in Sanford.

MIRACLE STORY IN WEST PALM BEACH

1991 was a sad year for the West Palm Beach Spanish church. Approximately one third of the active membership left the church under the leadership of one of the elders. They formed a new dissident group that eventually left the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The remaining West Palm Beach Spanish

members were somewhat discouraged and pessimistic about the prospects for their future. They were concerned about the mortgage and finances, and were very saddened to listen to the naysayers question the viability of their beloved church.

Fortunately, God had wonderful plans in store for them. "For surely I will command, And will sift the house of Israel among all nations, As grain is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground." —Amos 9:9, NKJV.

Not long after, the congregation was led by God to abandon the bitterness of this experience and to focus on Him and their mission.

They started to love back those who had left their congregation. They focused all their efforts on revival and personal and public evangelism. Small group evangelism began to take place in homes scattered throughout the city.

The wonderful results of their new attitude and strategy did not come late. Soon, the old church facilities on 10th Avenue North



Avon Park



Carol City



Ebenezer in Miami

exceeded capacity. A second service was created to accommodate worshippers.

The sanctuary was usually crowded during vespers and evangelistic meetings, too.

In 1994, about 80 members left once again—but this time, they were sent by the mother church with the mission to start what is, today, the Lake Worth Spanish church.

In 1998, compelled by the lack of space in their facilities, Pastor Juan Labrador and his congregation decided to look for a new building to meet their escalating needs.

They dreamed of buying a grand and beautiful church building located on Georgia Avenue. It was owned by the Congregational Church and had been for sale for some time. The asking price, however, was more than a million dollars—beyond what they could afford. Once again, God worked a miracle.

In February 1998, to the astonishment of Pastor Labrador; Manuel Pérez, local elder; Dimas Bermudez, church treasurer; and other members and collaborators, the pur-

chase and closing of the building of their dreams finally became a reality. Only our God could have made this possible! He is a God of the impossible, and He was evidently leading this congregation back from turmoil and division to unity and amazing growth.

The closing was followed by a period of two months of hard work in order to prepare their new facilities. In February 1999, Pastor Labrador led his joyful and grateful congregation into a beautiful and larger sanctuary which was filled to capacity.

What is going on today? We are thrilled to report that most of the members who left in 1991 have returned to the West Palm Beach Spanish church. Membership is now 315 and weekly attendance is much greater than that number. Annual tithe has quadrupled since mid-1991.

Pastor Labrador and his congregation have set an evangelism plan in action called “Church Without Walls.” It consists of small groups meeting in homes every week throughout the city for

fellowship and sharing the Good News. Members and visitors are excited about their congregation’s future.

This beautiful experience reminds us of the words of Ellen White, “There is no need to doubt, to be fearful that the work will not succeed. God is at the head of the work, and He will set everything in order. If matters need adjusting at the head of the work, God will attend to that, and work to right every wrong. Let us have faith that God is going to carry the noble ship which bears the people of God safely into port.” —*Selected Messages, Volume 2, page 391 (1892).*

NEW CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING LAND ACQUISITIONS, AND REMODELING

To the glory of God, we are also happy to report that the Avon Park, Carol City, and Poinciana churches have constructed beautiful church facilities. Hialeah Springs, Melbourne, Pinellas Park, Ebenezer, and Opa Locka have purchased church buildings. Furthermore, the Northwest Miami

church recently underwent a \$70,000 remodeling project.

About a month ago, the Pine Hills church and the Ocoee company joined forces as the Silver Star Spanish

church and purchased a 200-seat facility.

With future building plans in sight, the Sebring church and the Haines City and Orlando companies have also purchased property.



Avon Park



West Palm Beach



Silver Star in Orlando



Poinciana



Melbourne



Northwest Miami



Pinellas

FLORIDA PRISON MINISTRIES HOSTS BABY SHOWER

Inmates aren't the only ones who benefit from prison ministry programs. Children often need as much, or more, nurturing as the incarcerated parent.

A young expectant mother had been released from prison early and was given a baby shower last December at the Ocala church. Three women saw the opportunity for ministry and planned the shower: Betty Goines, Love A Mother's Baby (LAMB) coordinator; Rose Marie McDowall, Florida prison ministries regional representative; and Audrey Conner, leader of the Ocala Senior Ambassadors—a senior citizens group that avails itself to special projects.

Today, nearly a year later, Ocala member Aileen Zimmerman



PHOTOS: HERB PRITCHARD

Florida prison ministries' LAMB program gave a baby shower to a young, soon-to-be mother, pictured with her father. The woman, who had been incarcerated, might not otherwise have had the opportunity for a shower.

has remained in contact. She visits with the family and baby who was born January 5 and tries to help the mother through the difficulties of being an ex-inmate.

The young mother is

thankful for the love and hospitality of the Ocala members, and for the help that Florida prison ministries provides with its program to help babies born behind prison walls.



The mother of these two young boys is incarcerated. They and their caretaker grandmother were invited to the baby shower.

OTHER INMATE'S CHILDREN NURTURED

Prison ministries and LAMB members also invited a second family to the baby shower who had been in the LAMB program for about two and a half years. Several gifts were given as early Christmas presents to the two young boys whose mother is incarcerated.

The boys' grandmother, who is their

caretaker, has expressed her appreciation many times over the years for what is being done for the children and for showing them that there is someone who cares for and loves them.

—Frank Barton

~HOLIDAY SALE~
ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER
Sunday, December 8
10 am - 3 pm
Miami Springs & Winter Park Stores
800-765-6955

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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

JULY 28, 2002

ORGANIZED the Elim Haitian mission

group to company status, sponsored by the Bonita Springs church.

ORGANIZED the Marion Oaks Spanish company to church status.

HONORING OUR RETIREES FOR THEIR YEARS OF DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

- August, 2002:
Janet Kelly
Darlene Schmidt

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



FLORIDA CONFERENCE

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
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